



Conference of Indigenous Communities (CIC)

May 2, 2019

Bahrain Swat, Pakistan

Organizer: *Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi (IBT), Bahrain Swat*

Collaboration: *The University of Sydney, Australia*

Participants: Activists, scholars, writers of the indigenous communities of northern Pakistan (*upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan*)

Theme:

Challenges, Opportunities and Way forward

The **indigenous communities** in the world particularly in the mountainous regions of Pakistan have always been defined and described by others. Most of the research on and about these communities has been done by people from outside. *The outsiders have imposed their own views upon these people without looking deeper into the social, cultural, linguistic and political issues pertaining to these indigenous people. The outsiders have always deemed themselves true representatives of these people.* This approach we refer to as 'view from the valleys' that has marred understanding of these people and their woes. These outsiders very often impose their own biased identities on these people along with stereotyping them.

The conference is an attempt of our larger goal to present 'a view from the mountains' which means 'enabling and empowering these people to do research on their languages, histories, cultures and present themselves instead of relying on others to define them; and to deliberate on the issues and challenges they face and design strategies to meet those challenges'. It aims at deliberation on some **Action Points** which these indigenous communities can collectively undertake in order to dive deeper into the social, cultural, linguistic,

economic and political problems they have been victims of since centuries so as to gradually break the shackles they have been fettered by consciously or unconsciously.

This conference is the complementary approach of IBT which has been striving for the integration and cohesion of these indigenous communities for the larger goal of human development, dignity and prosperity of these communities.

With this aim in the backdrop the *Conference of Indigenous Communities (CIC)* invites activists, researchers, writers and leaders from these communities for a one-day long deliberation over all the cultural, social, linguistic and political issues of their communities; and consequently reach to some realistic action points to be taken collectively in order to address the issues they have been entangled with.

A similar conference was first held by IBT back in Feb 2011 in Islamabad.

Program schedule

Thematically the conference day is divided into two sessions. The **first session** is to cover the part of ***Challenges and Opportunities wherein 02 keynote speeches/presentations will be given by two experts who have been working with the indigenous people in Australia and in Pakistan.*** The keynotes are aimed at presenting a social, anthropological, political, linguistic and economic background before the participants from 20 indigenous communities in northern Pakistan. These keynotes will lead the participants to think on the problems these communities face across all sectors ***related to human development; and to prompt them to think about the potential and opportunities these communities have in all tangible, intangible and human forms.***

After the keynotes the participants/scholars of each community ***will speak on behalf of their respective communities keeping in mind the larger community of indigenous people. Each community has 5-7 minutes' time to speak.***

The **second session** will be interactive where the ***participants will think and discuss on strategies in order to address the problems and challenges discussed in the first session keeping in view the potential /opportunities these communities have; and how to create more opportunities. This will end in agreeing around some Action Point(s) so as to be worked on in future.***

The time of the day will be from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM with breaks for refreshments, lunch and prayers.

No	Timing	Sessions/Topic(s)	Speakers	Moderator/ facilitator
1	08:30 AM -- 09:00 AM	Registration of participants	All participants	Sajad Ahmad
2	09:00 AM – 09:05 AM	Tilawat	Hafeez Rahman	Aftab Ahmad
3	09:05 AM – 09:15 AM	Welcome Remarks	Zubair Torwali	Aftab Ahmad
4	09:15 AM – 09:45 AM	Keynote speech 1 <i>‘Strong language, strong culture: strong community: the Australian experience’</i>	<p><u>Prof. Jakeline Tory, PhD (ANU)</u> <i>Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, The University of Sydney, Sydney Australia</i></p> <p>Her research interests are currently focused on documenting, describing and reviving Indigenous languages. She has a new focus on the Indigenous languages of Pakistan, including Saraiki of the Punjab and Torwali of Swat. She has two Australian Research Council Discovery Projects one with Prof John Maynard on the history of Aboriginal missions and reserves in eastern Australia and the history of Aboriginal people who were not institutionalized. The other DP is about the practice of 'corroboree' by Aboriginal people in the 'assimilation period' of the mid C20 in Australia. She is interested in the use of Indigenous research methodologies and community engaged research practices. She is an Aboriginal Australian and her community is Ngarigu of the Snowy Mountains in south eastern Australia.</p>	Aftab Ahmad

6	09:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Keynote speech 2 <i>'Voicing Subalternity'</i>	<p><u>Aziz Ali Dad</u></p> <p>Aziz Ali Dad did MSc in Philosophy of Social Sciences from London School of Economics and Political Science, UK. He has written extensively about philosophy, culture and literature in general and history and culture of Gilgit Baltistan in particular.</p> <p>He published research articles in national and international journals. He is a regular columnist of The News International. Aziz has been research fellow in Modern Oriental Institute Berlin, Germany. Recently he has completed research fellowship of Asian Leadership Fellow Program at International House of Japan in Tokyo.</p> <p>He has honour of presenting papers and talks at national and international conferences. He delivers lectures about Gilgit Baltistan in Free University Berlin, Modern Oriental Institute Berlin and Bonn University in Germany, and Universities in Japan.</p>	Aftab Ahmad
7	10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Questions/Answers	All participants will ask the keynote speakers	Aftab Ahmad
8	11:00AM— 11:20AM	Tea	All participants	
9	11:20 AM – 01:00 PM	In this session the participants will speak on behalf of their respective communities keeping in mind the larger community of indigenous people.	Balti, Bateri, Burushaski, Dameli, Gawarbat, Gawri, Gojri, Kalasha, Kalkoti, Kandol Shahi/Kashmiri, Khowar, Kohistani, Mankiyali, Palula, Oshojo, Shina, Torwali, Wakhi, Yidgha	

		Each community has 5-7 minutes' time to speak.		
10	01:00 PM – 02:00PM	Prayers and lunch	All participants	
11	02:00 PM---03:00 PM	Session 09 (Cont.)	All participants: Balti, Bateri, Burushaski, Dameli, Gawarbat, Gawri, Gojri, Kalasha, Kalkoti, Kandol Shahi/Kashmiri, Khowar, Kohistani, Mankiyali, Palula, Oshojo, Shina, Torwali, Wakhi, Yidgha	Mujahid Torwali
12	03:00 PM – 03:30 PM	Tea		
13	03:30 PM – 06:00PM	Way forward and conclusion	This session will be more interactive where all of us will decide a course for Future Actions in order to meet the Challenges using the Opportunities explored and discussed in the second and first sessions	Zubair Torwali
14	07:00 PM – 10:00PM	Sideline meetings (optional)	This is up to you the various scholars of the communities to meet and discuss anything they want.	

Participants

No	Name	Community	Brief introduction
1	Abdullah	Gawarbat	Abdullah is a language activist, teacher and writer. He belongs to the Gawar community living in south Chitral and borders with Afghanistan.
2	Abdul Baqi	Bateri	Abdul Baqi is a high school teacher. He belongs to the Bateri community living in Kohistan. He is an educator and an activist on culture and language.
3	Aftab Ahmad	Torwali	Aftab Ahmad is the Co-founder of Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi (IBT). He is also Acumen Pakistan Fellow for 2018. Aftab has been involved in research on languages, education,

			lexicography, documentation and promotion for the last ten years. He has authored a number of books in Torwali. Aftab Ahmad has also authored the trilingual dictionary: Torwali-Urdu-English that has 10,000 Torwali headwords. He has been part of the process of designing curriculum for Torwali MTB-MLE Schools, has also supervised these schools and has spearheaded female adult literacy programs in MTB-MLE. He has written multiple course books for children in their native languages. Currently he manages various programs at IBT.
4	Ali Qurban	Wakhi	Ali Qurban is from Passu Gojal in Gilgit Baltistan. He worked as an employee of Aga Khan Development Network and with Karakoram International University as an educator, mentor, trainer, report, and researcher. He did research with foreign students on folk tales, songs, local history, languages, culture and tradition etc. He is a poet of Wakhi and Urdu. Currently he is vice president of Passu Development Organization involving in numerous social development.
5	Amir Haider	Shina	Amir Haider has his BS in Linguistics and literature from Karakoram International University. Currently he is doing my MS in Linguistics at the Foundation University. He is an advocate for language and cultural rights for the languages of northern Pakistan and has been working for the documentation and revitalization of Shina language. Currently he is training coordinator at Forum for Language Initiatives and arranges trainings in language documentation, lexicography, orthography, MTB-MLE curriculum, teacher training, project management, superior training, phonetics and phonology et al across Pakistan especially for the indigenous communities of northern Pakistan
6	Arifullah	Gawar	Arifullah is a PhD in Islamic Studies and belongs to the Gawar community in southern Chitral. He also works for the education and uplift of his community. He is currently based in Islamabad where he teaches at a college as professor.
7	Asmatullah	Dameli	Asmat Ullah Dameli is the President Damel Welfare Society. He is a researcher, writer and social activist. He has written two books in Dameli and another one is forthcoming. He represents the Dameli community on various national forums. He motivates the Dameli youth for the social development and welfare of the community. He is also a local political leader.

8	Atta Hussain	Khowar	Mr. Atta Hussain is lecturer at Agha Khan High Secondary School. He is also General Secretary of MIER. He is a writer and poet of Urdu and Khowar languages. He is also a known social worker of Chitral.
9	Att Ur Rahman	Mankiali	Teacher and language activist in Mankiyali language. He belongs to Danna Mansehra.
10	Aziz Ali Dad	Shina	<p>Aziz Ali Dad did MSc in Philosophy of Social Sciences from London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.</p> <p>He has written extensively about philosophy, culture and literature in general and history and culture of Gilgit Baltistan in particular.</p> <p>He published research articles in national and international journals. He is a regular columnist of The News International.</p> <p>Aziz has been research fellow in Modern Oriental Institute Berlin, Germany. Recently he has completed research fellowship of Asian Leadership Fellow Program at International House of Japan in Tokyo.</p> <p>He has honour of presenting papers and talks at national and international conferences. He delivers lectures about Gilgit Baltistan in Free University Berlin, Modern Oriental Institute Berlin and Bonn University in Germany, and Universities in Japan.</p>
11	Dawlat Wali Baig	Wakhi	<p>DW Baig is a folk singer, musician, composer and producer. Working in the field of music for over 20 years, he has had a chance to collaborate and work with folk artists from various languages communities- Wakhi, Shina, Brushaski, Domaki, Khowar, Balti, Torwali, Sindhi, Balochi, Hindko, Pashtu and Dari.</p> <p>He heads a cultural platform IPPAC which is working for the preservation and promotion of mountain arts and culture. He also worked with IBT as lead monitor and trainer in its project Pakistan Mountain Folk Music School Integration Program in Gilgit Baltistan.</p> <p>He did MSc in Mass Communications and specialized in Film Making. I have also produced video documentaries for various national and international organisations like WFP, UNAIDS, World Bank, GIZ, SPO, Lok Virsa etc on various thematic areas</p>

12	Ehsan Ali Danish	Balti	Ehsan Ali Danish belongs to Sarmik Baltistan and speaks Balti language. He has written 10 books covering poetry, translations, Safar Nama etc. In recognition of his achievements, the Baltistan University has honored him with title of Ambassador in Literary field. He has visited and hosted various programs in Pakistan and Iran. He has achieved Award for the poet from GB & Azad Kashmir; and has translated poetry of Allama Iqbal in Balti Language upon request from Academy Letter Islamabad.
13	Fakhruddin Akhundzada	Khowar	Fakhruddin is the current Executive Director of Forum for Language Initiatives. He is language and culture documentation expert and has helped the language communities of northern Pakistan in documenting their mother tongues. He is author and co-author of books and research papers regarding language and cultures of northern Pakistan.
14	Farid Ahmad Raza	Khowar	Farid Ahmad Raza is the Chief Executive of MIER and organization working on language promotion and Culture documentation in Chitral. He is a writer and Editor in Chief Khowar Nama, a journal for Khowar Language. He published volume 12 of the papers. He has completed many small and big projects in the field with collaboration of government and non-government organizations. He has facilitated workshops on Orthography development, semantic domain workshops for different communities. He has also worked with the Kalasha community on language documentation.
15	Farman Ali	Wakhi	Hailing from Hunza Gilgit Baltistan Farman Ali, working for Dawn and Chief Editor of The High Asia Herald and Baam-e-Dunya. Previously worked as News Editor of Dawn, Islamabad, City Editor of The Express Tribune, Islamabad. He is also a social and political activist. He speaks Wakhi as his mother language. His current job is to art and cultural events and art exhibitions for Dawn.
16	Fazal Hadi	Torwali	Fazal Hadi is a development practitioner and finance expert worked with leading national and international organizations. He has been working on different segments of finance and economics to minimize the risk and improve the social and economic benefits for the neglected communities of northern Pakistan. He has also published different research articles in different international research journals. He has been working with IBT since 2012 and recently joined Forum for Language Initiatives as Project Coordinator for the MLE-upgradation project carried out by FLI.

17	Feroz Shah	Gojri	Community leader and social activist
18	Gul Muhammad	Indus Kohistani	Gul Muhammad is an educationist, researcher, writer, leader, social activist and development practitioner. He is a native resident of District Kohistan lower, KP, Pakistan. He has 11 years of practical working experience with different organizations with a wide range of responsibilities under different positions. Currently he leads a local organization, "Initiative for People in Need (IPN)" as its executive director having its focus on education with priority to mother tongue based multilingual education (MTB-MLE). His book "Indus Kohistani conversation" is in editing process and will soon be published.
19	Guliyar	Kalasha	Guliyar is an artist. She makes Kalash dresses for the Kalash festivals.
20	Hafeez Rahman	Indus Kohistani	Hafeez Ur Rehman is from Upper Kohistan (Indus Kohistan), He is a social activist and his main focus is education to the children of Kohistan. He has been working on Education for the last 10 years. He is CEO of Kohistan Valley, a regional organization working on the issues of Kohistan for last one year. He has worked with Alif Ailaan and is the 1st person in the history of Kohistan who established a College in Kohistan in 2009 when there was no College in Kohistan.
21	Hayat Muhammad Kalami	Gawri	Hayat Mohammad Kalami is Journalist/Columnist. He works for Gawri Community Development Program (GCDP) and is currently media Media Specialist at GCDP Kalam
22	Hayat Muhammad	Damili	Hayat Muhammad works with Radio Pakistan. He was posted in Chitral. He is a community activist from Damili community there. He is coordinator of Dameli Welfare Society.
23	Hayat Muhammad	Oshojo	Community leader and social activist.
24	Hazarat Bilal	Gawri	Hazarat Bilal is a teacher by profession and works as a medical practitioner as part time. He is interested in the history, culture and human geography of the Dir Kohistan in upper Dir district. He has written a book about the culture, languages and history of Dir Kohistan.
25	Iman Habib	Anthropologist	Iman Habib has an MA in Anthropology of Development and Social Transformation; her research area centres around marginality/connectivity, dynamics of memory and belonging

			at the Pak-Afghan borderland, and mythology and love story. She believes in pursuing innovative points of insight to the identities of historically marginalised communities.
26	Imran Khan Azad	Gawri	Imran Khan Azad is a social media and social activist. He hails from Kalkot, in upper Dir district. His interest is in Dardic history, culture and community empowerment.
27	Imran Shah	Burushaski	Anthropologist and researcher on wild life especially birds of Karakoram, Himalaya and Hindu Kush.
28	Javed Iqbal Torwali	Torwali	Javed Iqbal Torwali is a folklorist of the Torwali language. He a modern poet in Torwali. Currently he works as Indigenous Literature Officer at IBT where he collects the old folk songs, stories and legends.
29	Javid Iqbal Javid	Khowar	Mr. Javid Iqbal Javid has a master degree in mass communication. Presently he is working with Radio Pakistan Chitral as a program producer. He has a good skill in editing material and voice editing. He is working with Khowar Nama as an Editor, a journal for Khowar Language.
30	Karam Dad	Gojri	Karam Dad is a community leader and social activist. He hails from upper Swat.
31	Khawaja Rahman	Kandol Shahi/Kashmiri	Prof Dr. Khawaja Rehman has been doing research on indigenous languages of northern Pakistan including Azad Kashmir since 2002. He has documented Kundal Shahi, a severely endangered language spoken in AJK. He has published his over 12 research in different international journal and academic publishers including Russian Academy of Sciences, Brill Academics, British Council, Foundation for Endangered Languages, London; SIL International, etc. Dr. Khawaja has also presented his research findings in fifteen International conferences. He has successfully completed four research projects as a principal investigator while in 3 projects as a team member in language documentation projects. He is currently working as Director General known as Director Public Instruction (DPI) Education Colleges.
32	Lal Rahman	Oshojo	Community leader and social activist.
33	Luke Rahmat	Kalasha	Luke Rehmat (born Rustam Shah) belongs to the Kalasha community of Pakistan living in valley Mumuret on the boarder of Pakistan with Afghanistan. Luke is working on number of initiatives. He is actively working as a Social Entrepreneur and Founder/CEO of Kalash People's

			<p>Development Network, Kalasha Academy for Computer Sciences, Ishpata News Network. He also works for a number of other national organizations in District Chitral. Luke also worked as District Network Coordinator of Alif Ailaan, and District Coordinator KHUDI PAKISTAN</p> <p>He is also working with a local support organization (Ayun and Valleys Development Programme (AVDP) as Language and Culture Development Officer. He recently joined state media Pakistan Television News, PTV News/World as a correspondent for Kalash/Chitral.</p>
34	Muatabar Shah	Indus Kohistani	<p>Mutabar Shah Rashid is working as Assistant District Education Officer (ADEO) (M) Establishment primary at the district education office (DEO) male in Kohistan. He belongs to Kandia, Upper Kohistan. He also works on Indus Kohistani Language, Culture and History. In 2007 he wrote and published a book " Guldasty e Kohistani". He also wrote a "Qaida" in Kohistani for Text book board Peshawar and wrote many stories for Indus Kohistani زبان اسکول.</p>
35	Mujahid Torwali	Torwali	<p>Mujahid has done his Masters in International Relations and History from University of Malakand. Recently he is working as a government school teacher in Swat. Mujahid Torwali has been working with IBT for the last 9 years. He does research and train teachers. He has also written the Torwali-Urdu-English Bol Chal book under IBT's project "Preservation and Promotion of Torwali Language and Culture. Mujahid writes blogs and articles for various newspapers in Pakistan since 2011. Mujahid Torwali is the fellow of University Of Massachusetts USA</p>
36	Mumtaz Hussain	Khowar	<p>Prof. Mumtaz Hussain is from Mastuj, District Chitral and speaks Khowar language. He teaches and manages the Government College Chitral as its Principal. He has his master in Pakistan Studies and has been carrying research on the languages, history and cultures Chitral and rest of Northern Pakistan. He also manages an online portal for the history, culture and languages of north Pakistan. (www.mahraka.com)</p>
37	Qazi Israr Uddin	Palula	<p>Qazi is a community leader of Palula who fights for the rights of his community. He is also associated with the Palula Community Welfare Organization.</p>
38	Rahim Sabir	Torwali	<p>Rahim Sabir is a Torwali poet, singer, writer and teacher. He has been working with IBT for the last 10 years and carrying research on curriculum, language development and folklore.</p>

			He has also written the Koo Koo Baacha, a book of Torwali folktales with Urdu and English translation under IBT's project "Preservation and Promotion of the Torwali Language and Culture".
39	Rahmat Ali	Yidgha	Rahmat Ali is a lawyer by profession and currently works as advocate High Court. He has an interest in the community uplift of Yidgha. He has been doing research on the language Yidgha.
40	Razwal Kohistani	Shina	Razwal Kohistani is among pioneering researchers on Shina language. He has written many books in and on Shina and have worked with linguists, ethnographers and anthropologists. He hails from Palas Kohistan and currently based in Islamabad. He has also worked with WWF-Pakistan for decades.
41	Sadaf Habib		Sadaf Habib graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a major in Biology, Fall 2014, and completed a Masters degree in Ethnomusicology (Mmus Ethno) at the School of Oriental and African Studies, SOAS, UK, in 2018. Her interest in ethnomusicology is based on her love and appreciation of traditional music and art forms combined with her commitment to social change. She has had continued exposure to diverse theoretical and practice-based forms of music, instrumental training and dance; earliest exposure began with piano and ballet; at the undergraduate level her academic courses included study of music in North India and Pakistan, and classes in piano, tabla and sitar.
42	Sajad Ahmad	Torwali	Sajad Ahmad has been working with IBT for the last eight years. The purpose of his job is to give education to children in their mother language "Torwali". Apart from this he also works on gender equality and child protection. He educates women about their rights and also increases women's access to skills and jobs. Recently he joined Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) as community mobilizer.
43	Shakil Ahmad	Shina	Shakil Ahmad Shakil has been working on Shina language for the last few decades. He has written a number of books on Shina orthography, grammar and folklore. He has also worked with Karakoram International University as a researcher. He is one of the finest scholars in Gilgit Baltistan.
44	Sher Nawab Kalami	Gawri	Sher Nawab Kalami is a social activist, community leader, local political leader. He has interest in the development of the indigenous communities especially Gawri.

45	Suleman Mankiyali	Mankiyali	Suleman is a language activist and community leader in the Mankiyali community in Danna, Mansehra. He is also a teacher at the government school.
46	Zahid Khan Kohistani	Kalkoti	Zahid Khan Kohistani is a dentist from Kalkot upper Dir district. His interest is in the history, culture and development of the area known as Dir Kohistan in upper Dir district.
47	Zaman Sagar	Gawri	Muhammad Zaman Sagar is working as a Senior Advocacy Officer for Forum of Languages Initiatives (FLI) and Executive Director of Gawri Community Development Program. He is language and education activist, researcher and field linguistic. He has written many books in Gawri and other languages. He is trainer in mother tongue based multilingual education, curriculum development and also a trainer of Community-based language development approach.
48	Zarkina	Kalasha	Zarkina is a local guide and activist. She helps the Kalash families in education, Kalash culture and traditions.
49	Zubair Torwali	Torwali	Zubair Torwali is the founder and current CEO of Idara Baraye Taleem-o-Taraqi (Institute for Education and Development) in Pakistan. IBT works for the rights and development of marginalized linguistic communities in northern Pakistan. He is a member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, a Fellow of Japan's 2013 Asian Leadership Fellow Program, a Fellow of Lead Pakistan; and Acumen Pakistan Fellow for 2017. He was shortlisted for the International Bremen Peace Award 2015, and previously won the Human Rights Watch's award '2012 Hellman/ Hammett Grant for "Commitment to Freedom of Expression". Zubair is also a researcher and author. He publishes books in English and Torwali. He has been contributing articles, papers and blogs for various international and national journals, magazines and newspapers.