
The practice of international development now uses different methods for policy engagement and influence. Today the private sector, non-government organizations and think tanks use sophisticated techniques and approaches towards dialogue, to ultimately contribute to changes in underlying rules of business for the private sector. Such a change can take various forms including changes to legislation, regulations, resource allocation and executive decisions that have direct and indirect impact on the way private sector conducts various activities.

SDPI’s own research in this area reveals that correct choice of methods in policy engagement, and public private dialogue, is critical for achievement of a level playing field for all businesses and well as for the protection of consumers. This also requires strengthening relationships with new power centres (e.g. judiciary and media), forming vertical and horizontal alliances for policy change (particularly with parliamentarians, private sector, media, and local civil society organisations), crowd-funding for policy research and outreach, and building a strong brand equity for policy change.

This session will focus on how private sector can influence the economic manifestos of mainstream political parties in Pakistan. Manifestos not only directly reflect the economic, political, social and cultural agenda of a particular party but also highlight how they perceive the contemporary problems of a nation. In Pakistan, there is hardly any political party with pre-election preparation and agenda on all policy issues ranging from social to economic, domestic to regional and regional to global.

Most segments of the private sector, particularly those represented by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Pakistan Business Council have expressed their concerns regarding lack of economic vision with in political parties’ manifestos. Equally important is their concern for not being consulted by the political parties regarding their business facilitation needs.

To fill this gap in public-private policy engagement, SDPI is hosting this consultative session and orientation on “Emerging Methods in Policy Engagements and Public Private Dialogue” with participation of private sector, to deliberate and discuss how best the desired economic reforms can be communicated to the secretariats at all mainstream political parties in Pakistan and political brass currently in power at the federal and provincial levels.

Moderator: Mr. Hammad Siddiqui, Country Director, CIPE Pakistan

Chair: MNA Rana Muhammad Afzal, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Distinguished Panelists:

- Engr. M.A. Jabbar, Member, Board of Governors, SDPI
- Mr. Majyd Aziz, Former President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Dr. Khaqan Najeeb, Director General, Economic Reforms Unit, Ministry of Finance
• Ms Sarwat Aftab, Senior Private Sector Specialist, World Bank
• Mr. Ali Khizar, Head of Research, Business Recorder, Lahore

Panel Organizers: Dr. Vaqar Ahmed and Mr. Fazal Bukhari, Sustainable Development Policy Institute