



FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG



PAKISTAN OFFICE

Promoting Democracy, Peace and Social Justice



Origin, Values and Aims

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization committed to the principles and values of social democracy and the labor movement. The FES was founded in 1925 as a political legacy of Friedrich Ebert who was the first democratically elected president of Germany. Inspired by Ebert's ideals of shaping politics in the spirit of freedom, solidarity and social justice, the Foundation has continued to incorporate such ethos in its programs for political education, international cooperation as well as scholarship programs and research.

The underlying aims of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in its diverse areas are:

- strengthening democratic institutions and civil society,
- enhancing political participation and pluralism,
- striving for social justice and the respect for human rights,
- supporting an independent and competent media,
- promoting peace and non-violent conflict resolution at domestic and international level,
- contributing to international understanding and cooperation.



Friedrich Ebert



FES Headquarters, Berlin, Germany

The international network of the FES: a partner for development in over 100 countries

In the middle of the 1960s, the FES started its international cooperation programs which today link the FES with partners in more than one hundred countries all around the globe. In most of these countries the Foundation maintains its own cooperation office.



Staff at the FES-Pakistan Office

"Development Policy is the Peace Policy of the 21st Century."

- Willy Brandt, former German Chancellor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate -

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Pakistan

The FES established its office in Islamabad in 1990. However, cooperation between Pakistani organisations and the FES had already commenced during the middle of the 1980s. The FES established partnerships with institutions from diverse backgrounds and carried out projects aimed at promoting the dialogue between state institutions, political parties, civil society actors and the general public. The FES has joined hands with legislatures, national and local government institutions, public administration, trade unions, research institutes and social activists to achieve desired aims in partnership and mutual trust.



Willy Brandt

Strengthening Democratic Institutions

Recognizing that the deficit of democratic participation of people is one of the fundamental political challenges in Pakistan, the FES has set its priorities in promoting a pluralistic and participatory democracy. To achieve this objective it is important to strengthen political institutions. Hence the Foundation works with parliamentarians, ministries and political parties in carrying out national and international conferences, workshops and training courses on political, economic and social issues. The FES organises public forums for political debates and offers consultancy to governmental institutions, often with the input of experts who are invited from Germany and other EU countries.



Conference on Federalism and Provincial Autonomy, Organized by Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) and the FES.



Thousands of women participated in the Women's Conference and Rally in Multan, an annual event supported by the FES.

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity

The FES pays special attention to support women who represent half of Pakistan's population while being heavily underrepresented in politics, economy, management, education and other strategic fields at the national and local levels. Women often become the target of violence and discrimination, both domestically and at their work place. The FES cooperates with civil society organizations to address gender issues through public debates and to increase the active participation of women in all spheres of life.



Campus Radio, Peshawar University: Young journalists/students of Mass Communication learn how to produce radio programs.

Media Promotion

Freedom of expression and an independent and competent media are crucial for a functioning democracy. To enhance the professional skills of journalists and media practitioners, the FES and its partner organizations offer training programs on political, economic and social issues as well as on specific professional topics such as investigative journalism and conflict reporting.



Journalism training workshop by Pakistan Press Foundation, Uthal, Baluchistan.



Educational workshop with Baahn Beli in Nagar Parkar, Sindh: The FES programs in remote areas and villages utilize radio as an instrument to impart civic and political education among citizens.

An effective democratic regulation of the media is indispensable to prevent it from the excessive control of commercial or group interests. By holding dialogues on issues such as media regulation, media and ethics as well as on the public service function of media, the FES promotes a public discussion on media policies and encourages citizens to actively monitor and account the media sector.



Seminar on 100 Years of Radio, Karachi

Youth Programs

Through projects such as the “Youth Parliament” and the “Young Professionals’ Network (YPN)”, the FES encourages young people to play an active role in the society as multipliers and change agents.

The Young Professionals’ Network (YPN) aims at building up the capacities of talented young people from disadvantaged areas by enhancing their political understanding, civic sense and leadership capabilities. Members of the YPN are encouraged to engage in socio-political activities and to productively utilize their potentials in their communities. The YPN consists of subgroups in NWFP, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh with 12-15 members in each.



Leadership training for YPN-Baluchistan chapter, Quetta



Youth Parliament's visit to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The Youth Parliament, organized by PILDAT and supported by the FES, is a forum for youth that emulates the National Parliament of Pakistan in terms of its functioning, rules and procedures, structures, sessions, calendar and other business. It provides young people a unique opportunity to understand parliamentary proceedings and to exchange views and concerns with important stakeholders at the national and international level. The project was launched in 2007 with the aim of enhancing democratic culture among young people and promoting the spirit of tolerance.

Social Justice

Democracy and peace cannot be achieved without ensuring social justice in the society. Trade unions are among the most concerned and important actors of civil society to strive for socio-economic justice. The FES, therefore, has a special interest in promoting workers' rights by supporting trade unions and workers organizations. The FES cooperation aims at strengthening the trade unions' capacities to effectively advocate workers' rights and at promoting unity and solidarity among the unions. Together with trade unions, labor and civil society organisations, the FES supports dialogue and advocacy on labor rights, workers' welfare, labor laws and the social impact of globalization.



Trade Union seminar in Lahore, supported by the FES.



Unions and employers are important partners for social dialogue, especially in maintaining good industrial relations and in promoting workers' rights and economic productivity. The FES supported the establishment of the “Workers and Employers Bilateral Council of Pakistan (WEBCOP)” to give the process of dialogue an institutional shape. WEBCOP is duly recognised by the government and has become a competent forum for consultation on labor and social policy.

Strengthening Local Governance

In Pakistan, devolution of power has opened new channels for citizens to participate and influence decisions at the local level. One of the features of the current local government system is the reservation of a substantial number of seats in the local government for the socially marginalized groups including women and working class. However, the quota system alone will not be fully beneficial unless councilors elected on reserved seats receive necessary skills to effectively fulfill their functions. Therefore, the FES established the “Workers and Peasant Counselors' Support Network (WPCN)” in about 35 districts of Pakistan. The WPCN provides trainings on topics of local governance and organizes public dialogue forums to establish regular interactions on local development issues. By bringing all stakeholders together, the WPCN has become a dynamic platform at the local level to enhance cooperation between local government institutions and wide sections of civil society.



The WPCN regional conference in Jehlum.



PCIA training for the FES staff in Afghanistan.

Crises Prevention and Conflict Management

The FES intends to strengthen crisis prevention and conflict transformation within its work and to integrate conflict sensitivity as a key-standard in its political cooperation programs. The FES has developed an integrated, systematic and practice-oriented approach to conflict sensitive project management. This approach includes methods and instruments such as conflict analysis, conflict sensitive project planning, conflict monitoring and Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment (PCIA). In order to benefit from past experience, the FES has also developed a practice toolkit for civil conflict transformation in socio-political cooperation.

Regional Cooperation

The FES Network in South Asia – with offices in Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - supports the regional dialogue on topics such as regional economic integration, labour migration, regional security, exchange of scholars, people-to-people contacts and bilateral relations among the countries of the region. The FES focuses on initiating dialogue and cooperation channels at the governmental and non-governmental level to build up confidence and readiness for regional cooperation.

Dialogue on Globalization

As part of the international work of the FES, “Dialogue on Globalization” contributes worldwide to the debate on globalization and global governance. It is based on the premise that – through an inclusive and responsive global policy approach – globalization can be shaped into a direction that promotes peace, democracy and social justice.

Dialogue on Globalization addresses “movers and shakers” both in developing countries and in the industrialized parts of the world. The program draws intensely on the international network of the FES and is coordinated from the FES head office in Berlin and by the FES offices in New York and Geneva.

Different publication series offer in-depth analyses on evolving trends and key questions of global governance and provide policymakers, journalists and the general public with competent background information on global issues.



Dialogue on Globalization

Papers can be downloaded at: www.fes-globalization.org

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Asia



The Asia and Pacific desk of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) runs 16 project offices in South, South East and East Asia, with 18 FES staff dispatched abroad as well as 100 local specialists and administrative staff.

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