



Youth  
Economic  
Forum

Bridging the Gap Between  
Youth and Policy Makers

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## PRESS RELEASE

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2020:** A sixteen-member delegation from Youth Economic forum and Global Shapers Community met with the Ex-Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman to discuss Pakistan's geopolitics and strategies in the last decade from the perspective of the Air force.

The meeting commenced with an introduction of Mr. Sohail Aman consisting of his academic life and the trajectory of his exceptional career. Thereafter, a video consisting of the highlights of his time in the Air Force was played. Ms. Sara Javed gave the floor to Mr. Sohail Aman with the important question of the driving force in his life. While accepting the floor with thanks, he reminisced about his time as a carefree child living in Lahore until the 1971 war which caused a shift in his personality. It instilled a sense of responsibility in him at a very young age to protect his country and prevent any other such violations of sovereignty. While accrediting his parents for the values of honesty and patriotism embedded in him, he further added that some personal losses as well as outstanding instructors within the Air Force increased his dedication and focus. He pointed out that where Pakistan has achieved security and stability from war against terrorism, now it needs to focus on gaining from it in the form of prosperity for the masses. He added that in the multi-polar world of today, developing countries like Pakistan face immense pressure but the youth of today should be aware of the immense capabilities of this country. While discussing the challenges he has faced in his career, he claimed that planning for the future by taking thought-out steps in the present played a crucial part in both crisis management and overall development. He stated that mitigating future risks after setbacks like the APS attack were possible due to proactive initiatives like the development of Pakistan's Airpower Centre of Excellence, base at Bholari, restoration of Saab aircrafts and JF-17 thunder. Moreover, he added that education playing the pivotal role in every country's prosperity, has two major complementary aims; technological development aimed to enhance people's welfare and making good human beings. He stated that this was the reason of his enthusiasm regarding interaction with university students and his philanthropic endeavors in education throughout his life. While answering a National Defence University graduate Mr. Aqib's question regarding the strategy to maximize the benefit received from allying with a certain country during their crisis, Mr. Aman stated that the monetary benefit approach is not conducive to prosperity anymore since the cost paid in return is also quite high. He added that a principled stance is necessary when it comes to international relations in order to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the country. While answering a follow-up question about his opinion on why Pakistan fails to separate emotions while developing international relations, he stated that emotions can be a great driving force in the form of passion and when used sensibly, has helped overcome major challenges of this country in the past.

In response to concerns of inadequacy of the foreign policy, he said that Pakistan requires major efforts at the strategic level to communicate what it wants for an effective foreign policy. Moreover, while addressing concerns of political influences in PAF, the Ex-Air Chief Marshal assured that as a person who rose through the ranks, he can vouch for the absence of any external dominance.

Lastly, when replying to the degree of incorporation of AI in PAF operations and the level of interoperability, Mr. Aman stated that even though major strides have been made towards automation, aiming for greater technological advancement and incorporation of AI is a top priority for Pakistan Air Force.