

## FACETS OF PAKISTAN by Engr. Wajahat Rehan

Engr. Wajahat Rehan is among a remarkable generation of Pakistani women, who, through their own grit and determination, were determined to break professional barriers. Graduating as a civil engineer, a profession almost entirely dominated by men, she earned her Engineering degree from the highly acclaimed NED University during the 1970s. Working in different prestigious engineering firms for over two decades as a report writer and an environmental engineer, she contributed to her chosen field with commitment and passion.

With her background of professional excellence in the engineering field, and after researching and compiling data for several years, she has assembled a remarkable book which provides the reader with detailed insights into Pakistan, a task that has hardly been attempted before. The book is a rich anthology of facts, figures and statistics related to Pakistan's economy, demography and socio-political structure.

The publication is a labour of love spanning several years, by Engr. Wajahat Rehan. The book can be considered an environmental almanac combined with encyclopedia style information on all provinces and territories of Pakistan. Like an encyclopedia, the book provides details on climate, flora and fauna, average temperatures, as well as short descriptions of languages and customs including political history. Like an almanac, the book provides statistical data meticulously drawn from government archives, census and other reports which relate to the population composition, major industries, and social infrastructure (like the number of educational and health facilities). The publication contains a large number of special and rare maps showing Pakistan's topography, irrigation systems, rivers and roads, all of which provide a rare glimpse into Pakistan's infrastructure and its limitless potential for future advancement.

For the first time, basic demographic, topographical and economic data, as well as geo-political data has been compiled in an easy to access format. The publication is rich with a host of basic data and factual information that includes Pakistan's social structure, along with all-encompassing data about its geography, flora and fauna and its economy. This is a rare effort in the pursuit of reinforcing the image of Pakistan as a thriving nation of immense geo-political significance, one that abounds with diverse offerings for the world.

The scholarly survey is in the shape of a multi-volume publication that provides statistics and data organized by administrative units, moving from biggest (country) to smallest (district/ taluka). Each volume, then, has chapters with details about Pakistan, the province, and then each district's geographical details (includes coordinates, and geographical borders), brief political history, governmental structure, topography (including a list of rivers and forests), description of soils, major industry as well as the country's economic infrastructure, among other data.

The inclusion of extensive information and data on the environment and bio-diversity of Pakistan in the book will be a remarkable knowledge base for those working on strategies for the protection of the planet's resources. This information becomes vital and of an ever greater value in the light of the threat from global warming and climate change impact on the region.

The book is valuable as a compilation of much needed comprehensive information about Pakistan in an easy-to-access format. Undoubtedly, it will prove to be an excellent reference book in the libraries of academic institutions, government and public sector organizations as well as the corporate sector. The addition of the online publication in the form of an e-book along with a searchable CD Rom will provide the means for large scale dissemination of this remarkable compendium.

I am deeply impressed by the breadth and depth of the compilation and the profound devotion with which Engr. Rehan has carried out this exacting task. During the challenging times that are being faced by the nation, it is works such as this that appear as beacons to further a sympathetic image of Pakistan through the portrayal of its diversity and its unique position in the comity of nations.



Yasmeen Lari *SI, HI, Fukuoka Prize Laureate*

CEO, Heritage Foundation of Pakistan

Architect, Architectural Historian, Heritage Conservator, Humanitarian Aid Worker