

World Affairs

Call for Papers for a Special Issue

Special Issue Working Title:

**The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for
Prosperity: Implications for Participating Countries
and the World**

Guest Edited by

Prof. Dr. Badar Alam Iqbal

Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence [SIR] 2004-05 at Claflin, USA,
2016-17 at Kentucky State University, and
Turkish Centre for Asia-Pacific Studies [TCAPS], Ankara, Turkey

badar.iqbal@fulbrightmail.org

**I am inviting papers for the above special issue for potential
publication in *World Affairs* journal, published by the Policy Studies
Organization**

Context of the Proposed Special Issue on the IPEF

The global history of economic integration was strongly impacted by the 2022 QUAD leaders' summit in Tokyo. The meeting accompanied the US launch of a new economic forum, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which came into force in February 2024. This non-traditional trade agreement coordinates 14 member countries across the four economic pillars of trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy.

Among the major questions posed by the IPEF for scholars and public policy makers is whether the IPEF will really accomplish the economic coordination it was created for, or if it lacks durability and longevity. There are two key arguments for initiating the IPEF. First, it is intended to strengthen the existing economic partnership among the participating states. Second, it is intended to help counter China's increasing economic and political power on the global stage. The major issues to be addressed are enhancing resilience; increasing the degree of sustainability; promoting inclusive economic growth; raising business opportunities; and the promotion of fairness and competitiveness among the countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

On the flip side, there is a concern that, as it is not a free trade agreement, the IPEF does not include lower trade tariffs, has explicitly excluded US market access across all four pillars, and may therefore have limited scope, poor durability, and lacks the incentives for Indo-Pacific countries to make costly reforms. These are disturbing issues to be scrutinized as trade is always part of any economic framework. The joining of India as part of the IPEF is of paramount importance in the region, since India opted out from both mega trade deals (TPP and RCEP). This is a difficult and challenging path for India for coping with the economic and political pressures of the US-led IPEF. Will it just turn out to be a marriage of convenience between India and the US-led IPEF?

Why a Special Issue?

The issues mentioned above need to be investigated in light of the functioning of the IPEF and associated opportunities and challenges. There is a timely need to undertake in-depth, intensive and extensive studies by academics, policy makers, and subject experts. The proposed special issue invites submissions from experts—both academic and practitioner—who are directly and indirectly related to the relevant regions across the globe.

Special Issue Potential Topics

Prospective contributors to the special issue should submit proposed topics, considering—but not limited to—the following questions, to the Guest Editor, Dr. Badar Alam Iqbal, at badar.iqbal@fulbrightmail.org

Background/overview

Note: These questions should be addressed in conjunction with subsequent topics rather than being a standalone piece.

1. What is IPEF and why was it created?
2. What are the aims, scope, and objectives of IPEF?
3. How does the IPEF work?

Opportunities and Challenges

4. What are the promises/opportunities and challenges for participating countries and for cooperation among the member countries? How can they tap into those opportunities?
5. What are future scenarios for the IPEF?

Implications

6. What are the implications for IPEF members' bilateral economic relations with China?
7. What are options before China and how has China responded to the IPEF?
8. What are the limitations of the IPEF in managing China?

India-related IPEF Topics

The following topics can apply to other participating countries as well.

9. How far has India implemented the IPEF and what are the expected outcomes for India?
10. What role India has India to play moving forward?

The Way Forward

11. What are the qualitative and quantitative effects for member countries and non-member countries?

Word Limit: 8,000- 10000 words (inclusive of abstract and endnotes)

Projected Time Frame for the Special Issue

- **December 31, 2024:** Last date for submission of papers to the Guest Editor at badar.iqbal@fulbrightmail.org
- **Jan 2024—March 2025:** Guest Editor assessment of papers, Guest Editor revision requirements, author revisions completed
- **April—May 2025:** Formal submission of all special issue articles to *World Affairs*
- **May—June 2025:** *World Affairs* double-blind peer review
- **June—August 2025:** Author revisions and Guest Editor editing
- **September 2025:** Final publication decisions made by *World Affairs*
- **Late 2025:** Publication of successful articles in late 2025

Please send your proposed abstracts, finished articles, further queries, or requests for clarification to the Guest Editor, Prof. Dr. **Badar Alam Iqbal**, at badar.iqbal@fulbrightmail.org OR biqbal@daad-alumni.de