Arthur Troop Scholarship 2018
REPORT

Name of Scholar: Shaukat Ali Sheikh
IPA Section: Pakistan
Course attended: ‘Understanding Terrorism’ at IBZ Gimborn

This is to confirm my participation in Seminar Program, ‘Understanding Terrorism 18/13’ that was held from 18.03.2018 to 24.03.2018 at IBZ Schloss Gimborn, Germany. The seminar was focused and contributed to strengthen my concepts about terrorism, police operations and security apparatus.

I have been a member of IPA Pakistan since 2001 and was anxious to get an Arthur Troop Scholarship (ATS). In 2017, at the International Executive Conference of IPA held in Bulgaria I was lucky enough to win one. In order to make use of my scholarship, I selected this seminar. It is indeed, a matter of pride for me, being the 2nd recipient of ATS from Pakistan/Asia.

The Seminar
The introductory session was an interactive and interesting part of the class. We shared our life history among the participants. They were all amazed to find that a police officer had come from Pakistan, a far flung south Asian country. They welcomed me warmly and I found them very friendly and supportive.

Kine Karsruad, chair of the seminar, explained the objective of the course and during 28 hours of learning we discussed various aspects of emerging terrorism, countering terrorism, role of police and importance of public support to prevent deadly attacks by the terrorists. Although it was a Nordic seminar focusing on the European states, it was relevant to my ongoing research on the role of police in countering terrorism, as well. Bianca Steinhilber from Universitat Frankurtam delivered a lecture on the core subject followed by discussion. On the 2nd day, reports from Sweden, Belgium and Germany relating to ‘Policing in Muslim Communities in Immigration Countries’ were discussed. The Seminar Chair Kine Karsrud, briefed the participants about the topic. On the 3rd day of the seminar, Lecturer Sarah Carthy from the National University of Ireland shared her understanding regarding the
violent online radicalization. We analyzed the source, the message and the target of the online radicalization.

Another interesting part of the seminar was the visit to Cologne, where we visited a mosque (masjid), met the Imam and members of the Muslim Turkish Community in Cologne. We shared the Islamic teachings on the subject and discussed the ways of online de-radicalization of the youth. On the 4th day of the seminar, we evaluated ‘The July 22 attacks in Norway’. Lecturer Erik Eriksen, presented the facts and figures, the modus operandi of terrorists followed by a discussion. Afterwards, the terrorist attacks in London and policing in the UK was discussed at length. On the last day of Seminar, Martin Turner from London Police delivered a lecture on Behavioral Detection Tactics and shared the techniques to disrupt and detect terrorism.

For me, it was a rare opportunity to have an interactive session with the 30 participants from 11 countries. My fellow scholars asked me questions regarding Pakistan and Pakistan Police. Their interest was a source of encouragement for me. I tried to answer their questions. I briefed them about Pakistan and the sacrifices and losses Pakistan is suffering since 9/11. The seminar ended with a word of thanks from the host. I thanked the seminar chair for being so kind and supportive. I said good bye to all and was happy that I had made many friends, Alannah Cooper, Ryan Mifsud Schembri, Suhaib Khursheed, Mona Markhus and Martin Turner.

I will not forget Kine Karsrud and Ulrike Neuhoff. Hopefully, I will visit Gimborn again, in 2019, to participate at the IBZ’s 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Here I must say that this experience will strengthen my scholarly work as I am enriched with new ideas and this was only possible due to the Arthur Troop Scholarship. I am highly obliged and thankful to the International Police Association and IPA Pakistan Section for giving me the opportunity. It was a lifetime opportunity to travel abroad and learn from the experiences of the seasoned police officers of Europe. The legacy of this seminar is the lifelong friendships and better understanding of terrorism.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the direct and immediate response from the Chair of the Professional Commission to every request that I have made.

Servo per Amikco,
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