International Hadrat Sultan Bahoo Conference
Organized By

MUSLIM Institute in collaboration with Sultan Bahoo Forum
On

20th & 21st March 2013
At
Islamabad Hotel, Melody, Islamabad
And on

28th March 2013
At

Hospitality Inn Hotel, Lahore

The research institute and think tank MUSLIM Institute in collaboration with Sultan Bahoo Forum has organized a conference, titled “International Hadrat Sultan Bahoo Conference” on Wednesday and Thursday, 20th and 21st March at the Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad and on Thursday, 28th March at Hospitality Inn Hotel, Lahore.

The brief report of the conference is given here.
Session-1 Inaugural Session

Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali (Chairman MUSLIM Institute)  
Delivering the welcoming address, Chairman MUSLIM Institute Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali said that today we need to renew our allegiance to the message of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo. His message is based on the perfection of individual which comes from a balance between knowledge of the material world as well as the realities of the inner self. The human barbarity in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the most educated societies proves that until the inner self of the individual is not purified, lasting peace in society cannot be attained. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s message gives us the solution to our social and economic challenges.

Dr. Munir Ahmad Mughal (Justice (R))  
Justice (R) Dr. Munir Ahmad Mughal said that current era is a period of competition. In this time only that ideology can prevail that sustains the needs of the material world as well as spirituality. The example of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is best for us to follow. He said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo has his own identity because a spiritual mentor is one who is perfect himself and takes his follower to the path of Allah.

Akram Zaki (Former Secy. Gen. Foreign Affairs)  
Former Secy. Gen. Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki, discussing the Western and Eastern philosophies, said that without Islam we cannot establish a peaceful society in the future. In the Sub-continent, the spread of Islam was due to Sufis and today we need to spread the Sufis’ message of peace. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s message is actually a message of peace for the entire world. He offered his congratulations to Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali and Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali and appreciated the initiative taken by them for spreading the message of our thinkers, philosophers and saints. He further said that nowadays not only Pakistan but all of the Muslim Ummah is in a
multidimensional crisis in the shape of political, spiritual and economic crisis. It is necessary for us to apply our mind to move forward and rediscover our destiny in the light of Islam.

Gohar Ayub Khan (Former Foreign Minister)

Former Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan said that lack of education is our biggest problem. Pakistan bearded most sanctions in the world but we progressed well although we started with small industry and sanctions. These sanctions became blessing for us because we started depending on our ownself.

Session-2 Hadrat Sultan Bahoo in Our Times

Prof. Dr. M. Daud Awan (Former Vice Chancellor AIOU)

Former Vice Chancellor AIOU Prof. Dr. M. Daud Awan said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo belongs to that era in which conditions of Muslims was the same as at present. He fought against social evils and brought his own views about Tariqat in light of the Quran and Hadith. Sultan Bahoo strongly condemned sectarianism and spread the message of unity among all Muslims on the basis of theOneness of God.

Chair of the Session:
Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi
(Former Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pakistan)

Prof. Jalil Aali (Renowned Scholar)

Renowned scholar Prof. Jalil Aali speaking on the occasion said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo criticized the acquisition of knowledge just for the sake of pride and material benefit. We need to understand the deeper meaning of Abyat-e-Bahoo instead of looking at its literal meaning. He further said that a Sufi works to implement Islam practically in all fields of life. Iqbal also rejected the philosophy that promotes asceticism. He said steps should be taken for the reconstruction and preservation of Sufi tombs.
**Syed Haroon Ali Gilani** (Chairman Khidmat-e-ilm Foundation)

Syed Haroon Ali Gilani, Chairman, Khidmat-e-ilm Foundation said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo was a great saint of his time. Today we have ignored the teachings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo and as a result our society faces instability. The solution to the problems of the Muslim Ummah lies in the unification of the Ummah with sectarianism its greatest impediment. The movement promotes the same notion under the leadership of Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali.

**Dr. Farid Ud Deen Khan** (Director UITS Research Centre, Bangladesh)

Dr. Farid Ud Deen Khan Director UITS Research Centre, Bangladesh said that the world is going through a critical juncture. To get rid of this tragic world order, spiritual training is very necessary. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo has led society and taught the true spirit of Islam. If Sultan Bahoo’s books are regularly read, they can play a role of a spiritual guide.

**Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi** (Former Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Pakistan)

Former Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Pakistan, Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s concept of a spiritual mentor is very different from the image prevalent today. According to him, the duty of a spiritual mentor is spiritual purification. The Concept of a pir today limits it to the benefit of this material world only. We find shortcuts instead of a struggle and hard work for success in the material as well as spiritual worlds. Today we need to distinguish real spiritual mentors from fake peers. Sufism teaches peace and brotherhood and we need to implement and adopt Islam completely.

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**Session-3 Global Impact of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo**

**Ashfaq Gondal** (Former Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information, Pakistan)

Former Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information, Pakistan, Ashfaq Gondal said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo stressed the establishment of a strong relationship with the divine and lack of...
the same results in a world wrecked by conflict that we see around us today. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo advised us to control anger, pride and vengeance by overcoming materialistic desires and evolving the inner spirit. The unrest in the world is due to uncontrolled material desires. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo advised us to follow Islam completely as it is a complete code of conduct but we see a capitalist system and interest involved in our economic system instead. Unless we leave this system that is contradictory to the orders of Allah, we cannot have peace and equality in the world.

**Prof. Hamayun Ehsan** (Principal Pakistan Law College Lahore)

Principal Pakistan Law College Lahore Prof. Hamayun Ehsan said that today need of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s teachings is not less than any period before. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo makes a link between individual and universe. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo accepted person everlasting due to his abilities. He further said today individual feels vanishing individuality due to capitalist system. It is necessary to provide individual the authority of growth to maintain his individuality. But today world is stuck in uni-direction of capitalist system.

**Dr. Gerhard H. Bowering** (Yale University, New Haven, USA)

Dr. Gerhard H. Bowering from Yale University, New Haven, USA said that Sultan Bahoo’s ayaat occupy the very center of the development of Panjabi poetry. Sultan Bahoo had created the original pattern and worldview on the foundation of which others could build. Marked by the “Hu” at the end of each stanza, Sultan Bahoo’s poetry gained a power in the hearts of people that was as omnipresent as the word of Allah, the Muslim name for God. Based on the two pillars of ‘ishq, and faqr, his Panjabi verses reflected the ideal of fanao-baqa, annihilation of self and union with the divine. It was the Panjabi Abyat that captured the soul of the Panjab three and a half centuries ago and still reverberates in it today.

**Senator Raja Zafar Ul Haq** (Chairman PML (N) & Secy. Gen. Motamar al Aalam e Islami)

Chairman PML (N) & Secy. Gen. Motamar al Aalam e Islami, Senator Raja Zafar Ul Haq said that that uniqueness of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s poetry is that a scholar as well as an illiterate is affected by it. His poetry is not limited to any school of thought but it is a human heritage. Today we see unrest in our whole society. If the poetic works of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo and Iqbal are recited at our daily gatherings, they would surely have a positive impact on all of society. The youth should especially be introduced to such constructive poetry for their character building.
Dr. Aaliya Sohail Khan, Principal Govt. Postgraduate College, Rawalpindi, said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo attained to the ultimate reality of the universe. Sufi teachings urge human beings to find the reality of Almighty Allah from within their inner selves because for them, Man is the center of the universe. The greatest crisis faced by the West is caused by an unclear vision of Man's relationship with God. The Sufi way is the way of love where the beloved is Almighty Allah.

Dr. Elbayi Magsudov from Nakhchivan State University, Azerbaijan throw light on Sufism and mysticism of Sultan Bahoo and Azeri poets over self, passion, greed, love of God, virtue, and so on. He said that today, Sufism is a strong political and philosophical-religious movement and its very well-known representative Hadrat Sultan Bahoo's light have made us gather here. His lasting works and ideas are living with us and illuminate our hearts. While humanity is facing natural disasters, as well as humanitarian problems such as hatred, national and religious discrimination, wars etc, we really need to explore the activity of great thinkers like Hadrat Sultan Bahu more carefully for getting nourished by their philosophy of love, solidarity and justice.

M. Afsar Rahbeen, renowned scholar from Afghanistan said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo is among the Sufis without whom Asian literature would be incomplete. His poetic works are for listeners who listen with their hearts. The expression “Hoo” which permeates his poetry has spiritual effects on the human soul.
Renowned intellectual, poet and critic Prof. Dr. Ehsan Akbar presented a comparative paper on the concept of Faqr in the writings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo and Allama Iqbal. He said that the Messengers of God and the Holy Prophet PBUH exemplified Faqr. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo and Allama Iqbal have identified Faqr as the key to success in both worlds because sincerity of purpose is a basic formulation of Islamic teachings.

Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Rana speaking on the occasion distinguished between the nature of knowledge as one pertains to the material and the other is knowledge of the spiritual world. He argued that the dichotomy between religion and science will end one day and science will become an extension of the spiritual quest for truth. He said that Man is a drop from the ocean of spirituality that yearns to rain back down into its source.

Session-5 Pyam-e-Bahoo (Soz o Saaz)

On the evening of the first day of the Conference, a performance of classical musical was arranged, celebrating the poetic works of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo called Payam-e-Bahoo the message of Bahoo). Renowned classical singers Ustad Hamid Ali Khan, Ustad Shaukat Ali Khan and the Iranian musical band 'Nawa-i-Kuhn' presented musical renditions of the Punjabi and Persian poetry of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo in the traditional form of Sufi music.
Session-6 Intellectual Dimensions of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo

M. Ali Iftikhar (Research Associate MUSLIM Institute)
Research Associate of MUSLIM Institute M. Ali Iftikhar (UK) made a presentation on “Time as Understood by Hadrat Sultan Bahoo” and said that in a philosophical expression time exists within every living being. It is only a matter of exploration of different phenomena that may be observed. He gave the examples of the event of setting back the sun by the Holy Prophet PBUH that was only observed by him and Hazrat Ali.

Dr. Tanvir Anjum (Assistant Prof. Quaid-i-Azam University)
Assistant Prof. Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr. Tanvir Anjum presented her paper on “Bridal Metaphor in Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s poetry” and said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo used the symbol of a bride for the human soul in permanent love of Allah Allmighty. In Sufi tradition, this imagery is used to describe the spiritual experience of saints existing in submission to the love of Allah, through a parable that is one of the most intimate of experiences in common human life.

Chair of the Session:
Senator Akram Zaki
(Former Secy. Gen. Foreign Affairs of Pakistan)
Prof. Khawar Saeed Bhutta (University of the Punjab)

Prof. Khawar Saeed Bhutta from University of the Punjab said that the Sufi soul craves for true love of God. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo focused on the purification of the Heart for realizing the reality of human existence.

Dr. Dildar A. Alvi (Head of Chemistry Dept. FCU Lahore)

Dr. Dildar A. Alvi, Head of Chemistry Dept. FCU Lahore said that the spiritual mentor's world view is different from the scientific and philosophical perspective. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo had taught to recognize one's own self and to recognize God through that. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo described the world as a representation and manifestation of Allah Almighty's Self. His lesson to humanity would dissolve barriers of nationality and sectarianism.

Senator Akram Zaki (Former Secy. Gen. Foreign Affairs)

Former Secy. Gen. Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki said that the way Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali and Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali are highlighting teachings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo would surely lead to a positive impact for eradicating social evils from society. Allah Almighty said that He created Universe in six days which tells us that the real concept of time is different from our material understanding and Hadrat Sultan Bahoo described real concept of time.

Session-7 Hadrat Sultan Bahoo: A spiritual & literary master
Rana Abdul Baqi  
Renowned Writer and Columnist Rana Abdul Baqi said that Islam preached the message of equality among humans and Sufis played a crucial role in spreading this message. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo spread the fundamental principles of Islam among his students in a well-mannered and effective way. He admired the efforts of Aurengzeb to regain the true glory of Islam after Akbar set the secular tradition in place. Today, it is our basic need to raise awareness about the teachings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo.

Dr. Maria Isabel Maldonado  
Incharge Institute of Languages, University of the Punjab Lahore Dr. Maria Isabel Maldonado (Spain) said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo himself feels the effect of love. The ultimate purpose described by Hadrat Sultan Bahoo is to submit to the love of Allah entirely. According to Him, in order to be actualize the true human potential, one needs a spiritual guide to give direction to the quest.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir  
Chairman Urdu Dept. AIOU Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir said that by following the teachings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo the heart is purified. His Punjabi poetry is the reason of his popularity in world which represents the most elaborate explanation of mystic philosophy.

Dr. Gholam Reza Aavani  
Renowned Philosopher of Iran Dr. Gholam Reza Aavani said that there are two types of threats confronting the contemporary Muslim world. He laid a great stress on intellectual threats rather than military ones. He stressed the need to take a holistic view of religion without depriving it of its spiritual dimensions which would otherwise make religion a ritualistic formality. He said that it is the dire need of the day that the work of our religious scholars should be to awaken humanity spiritually. He further elaborated that saints are performing a necessary function of calling creation towards God on earth and their ultimate goal is the guidance for humanity towards the eternal peace found with God.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan  
Former Prime Minister AJK Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the international conference is a big step forward based on passion for knowledge. He said that Sufism is independent of sectarianism and the solution of today's sectarian violence is present in Sufi teachings because Sufism focuses on the practical dimensions of harmony and universal fraternity. He further said that there is thirst and frustration in modern western societies which is due to lack of spirituality.
Dr. Sughra Saddaf (Director, Punjab Institute of Language Art and Culture, Lahore) said that in today’s world Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s teachings can ensure our progress. She said that Islam was spread by Sufis by becoming examples for others to follow. Otherwise, science and technology would be most effective to spread an ideology. Dr. Maria Sultan (Director General SASSI) said that commitment to oneself, commitment to God and commitment to his creation is required on the Sufi path. Passion for knowledge can lead us towards the reality. She further said that Sultan Bahoo’s teachings are exactly according to Islam.

Waleed Iqbal Advocate (Leader PTI) said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo is the first poet who reconstructed Islamic spirituality by his poetry. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo gave preference to spirituality in all matters of life and the same is the message of Iqbal.

Mufti Muneeb ur Rehman (Chairman Ruyat-e-Halal Committee) said that the west wants to promote its own form of lifeless Sufism but what is required of us for the revival of spirituality is a Sufism of energy and effort. Sufism is the solution of Muslim Ummah’s issues. Today’s conference will be an important step forward.
Session-9 Concluding Session, 2nd Day

Presided by:
Hadrat Sultan Muhammad Ali  
(Founding Father MUSLIM Institute)

Chief Guest:  
Faisal Karim Khan Kundi  
(Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan)

Faisal Karim Khan Kundi (Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan)  
Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Faisal Karim Khan Kundi said that we must improve Pakistan’s image in the community of nations and this is only possible if we promote the Sufi teachings of peace and harmony. This conference will send a very positive image of Pakistan all over the world. MUSLIM Institute has achieved a great deal in a short period which cannot be appreciated enough.

Hadrat Sultan Muhammad Ali (Founding father MUSLIM institute)  
Founding father MUSLIM institute Hadrat Sultan Muhammad Ali in his Presidential address said that denial of religion is the primary cause of restlessness prevalent in society. The academic discourse on religion that has become an issue of much consideration in international literary circles will ultimately rest on the religion of the Holy Messenger PBUH. Man’s separation from his spiritual dimension and religion has caused him to treat humanity as cannon fodder. All philosophers and Sufis in the
history of Islam founded themselves upon their spirituality because religious inspiration remains inadequate without the experiential dimensions of spirituality. In no way do the teachings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo allow for stagnation and suspension in any part of human life.

Session-10 An Overview of Bahoo Shanasi
Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Azhar (President Hajweri Chair, Punjab University, Lahore)

Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Azhar, President Hajweri Chair, Punjab University, Lahore said that the solution of diverse & complicated problems faced by our young generation is only to follow the teachings of Sufis. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo has declared the Heart to be the center of Man and taught how to cultivate Allah’s love in it. He said that Quaid-i-Azam was aware of Hindus and he guided Muslims to be aware of their conspiracies. He discussed the importance of Dar-ul-Arqam in Islam and highlighted its need in today’s world.

Alhaj M. Nawaz Qadri (Nazim-e-Ala Islahee Jamaat & Aalmi Tanzeem Ul Arifeen)

Alhaj M. Nawaz Qadri said that human self is the focus of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s teachings. In his 140 books, he has given importance to awakening the inner reality of all human beings. To awaken one’s inner self, Zikr that is the remembrance of Allah, is necessary and only then can we have our inner selves dominate our materialistic thoughts & needs.

Presided by:
Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali (Chairman MUSLIM Institute)

Prof. Dr. Sultan Altaf Ali (Research and Publications, Hadrat Sultan Bahoo Council)

Prof. Dr. Sultan Altaf Ali, President Research and Publications, Hadrat Sultan Bahoo Council appreciated the efforts of ‘MUSLIM Institute’ in promoting the teachings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo. He said that Pakistan was founded on the ideology of the kalima and the same is its purpose. He further said that Hadrat Sultan Bahoo rejected all philosophies including Aristotle and Plato that were contradictory to the Islamic Sharia and promoted implementation of Islam completely. Two important aspects of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s teachings are humanity and wajdaan. We have to follow the way of the Holy Prophet PBUH to solve our problems and issues such as sectarianism and other differences as propounded in the message of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo.

Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali (Chairman MUSLIM Institute)

Chairman MUSLIM Institute, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, making an introductory presentation about MUSLIM Institute, said that the Institute is working on different dimensions to provide solutions to problems and challenges faced by us in the modern world through independent and unbiased research and discussion. He said that today mankind has created problems for itself and space weapons point out how much danger humanity faces from itself. The conference aims to find solutions to our spiritual, social, moral, economic and other problems faced in our daily life in the light of teachings of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo. Answering the questions of youngsters, he said that we should use social media to present our real identity and promote a positive image instead of using it only for entertainment purposes.
Session-11 Concluding Session of Conference

Justice (R) Dr. Javaid Iqbal (Former Chief Justice of Lahore High Court)

Former Chief Justice of Lahore High Court Justice (R) Dr. Javaid Iqbal said that Pakistan was founded in the name of Islam with no room for sectarianism here. A spiritual republic should be established here. The solution to our problems lies in acting on the teachings of the Sufis. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo adopted the Sharia in its entirety and advocated a balance in beliefs with both Sharia and mysticism. Love is the foundation of Iqbal’s philosophy and this is the message of the Sufis as well. We must have departments for comparative religions in our universities to learn about other religions as well as to get ourselves better acquainted with the Spirit of Islam.

Senator Akram Zaki (Former Secy. Gen. Foreign Affairs)

Former Secy. Gen. Foreign Affairs, Senator Akram Zaki said that the followers of the Lord of the Universe and his Messenger, the Mercy to the Universe, consider it their duty to protect other human beings and their possessions regardless of what religion they belong to. The human soul has a relationship with Allah Almighty which must be preserved and its importance realized. This relationship builds true relationships among all humans and this is the teaching of Sufi Saints which can guarantee peace in the world.

Presided by: Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali (Founding Father of MUSLIM Institute)

Chief Guest: Justice (R) Dr. Javaid Iqbal (Former Chief Justice of Lahore High Court)
Senator S. M. Zafar

Senator S. M. Zafar said that the United Nations is the remnant of the failed attempt to unite the peoples of the world. The complete anecdote of tolerance, respect and love for humanity is found in the message of Hadrat Sultan Bahoo. He gained fame because there is no distinction between his practices and teachings. Quaid-e-Azam also did not have a difference between his actions and words, which is why his sayings had such effect even when people couldn't understand the language. The message of Islam began with “Read” and the solution to our problems lies in creating an education friendly society. Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s teachings are very expansive and if we are to get something out of it, we must promote education.

Hadrat Sultan Muhammad Ali (Founding Father of MUSLIM Institute)

Founding Father of MUSLIM Institute, Hadrat Sultan Muhammad Ali, in his Presidential address said that most of the work on Hadrat Sultan Bahoo is limited to analysis of his poetry while very little work has been carried out on over 140 of his works of prose. Just as Iqbal’s philosophy cannot be fully understood without his Persian poetry and only from his Urdu works, Hadrat Sultan Bahoo’s Persian writings are also essential to understanding his philosophy. His message for humanity makes him stand out in the world of religion. The word Hu is not just a rhyme but a complete system that takes those following it to success.
Among representatives of all sections of society, the conference was attended by renowned analysts, professors and students of various universities, parliamentarians from the Provincial and National Assemblies, foreign diplomats, members of various research organizations and a large number of journalists and academics.

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