WAPOR
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH
asia pacific

Lifetime Achievement Award 2019

Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani

Dr Ijaz Shafi Gilani is the founder and Chairman of Gallup Pakistan. He belongs to that rare generation of Pollsters which actually got a chance to work with Dr. George Gallup.

Dr Gilani holds a PhD in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and established the Pakistan Institute of Public Opinion, the Pakistani affiliate of the Gallup International Association in 1980. He pioneered public opinion polling in Pakistan and conducted its first exit poll in the country. Over the decades he received widespread international appreciation for providing research support for projects conducted by academic institutions including the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, ILO and UNIDO.

He is also an Honorary Senior Fellow at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and Honorary Dean of the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, IIU Islamabad. Dr. Gilani has served as Co-Chair of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team at the Institute of Strategic Studies (1984-1993) and as an advisor to the Prime Minister and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Committee for Research and Analysis (1991-1993). In addition to this, he has also been the Project Director of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (1979-1981). He's also the author of countless research studies and the book "Voice Of The People: Public Opinion In Pakistan".

His list of achievements is endless. But what makes Dr. Gilani so special and among his peers is his humility and never-ending desire to learn from other's experiences. Everyone in the WAPOR Family would agree that if there was a poll for the softest-spoken genius in the field of Public Opinion Research, Dr. Gilani's name would literally get to the top. It is probably his effortlessly affable and transparent-to-the-core personality that has allowed him to navigate his research efforts in one of the most challenging regions of the world.

The very fact that he decided to return to Pakistan in order to implement what he learnt at MIT exhibited his desire to contribute back to an acutely challenging environment, which only proved his intent to serve going beyond his personal gains. Through his pioneering work in public opinion research he has actually witnessed and chronicled the historic datelines of Middle East & South Asia. More remarkable is the fact that he worked through the most

unstable and challenging times in our memory, which not only impacted the Middle East and South Asian region, but beyond these borders in terms of peace and stability.

Over almost half a century, he has been witnessing the transition of an entire geo-strategic region which has been so marred in conflict and disasters, which has tested all possible institutions to their nerves literally. To have created an institution dedicated to public opinion research in this level of instability and to sustain it the most challenging economic times and crises, is nothing less of a miracle.

It is our privilege and honour to bestow the WAPOR Asia Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 to Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, not just for his unparalleled achievements in the field of public opinion research, but also for being a truly remarkable friend, guide and philosopher for so many working in this field.