Russian researcher says CPEC ‘game-changer for the region’

By Haseeb Raffi

KARACHI: In an attempt to initiate a much-needed debate on the country’s economic fluctuations, the Institute of Business Management (IBM) organized a one-day international conference titled “The state of Pakistan’s economy: issues and challenges in the 21st century”. Present were academics, economists as well as those who have closely worked on policy formation, and the promi

erratic growth”.

erratic growth in crop production, cotton growth was particularly hit hard. “There were negative growth rates in 2012-13 and 2013-14, turnaround in 2014-15, and a steep decline in 2015-16. The decline is mainly attributable to the use of genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds.”

Her criticism of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) was based on international researches. One such was by French scientist Gilles-Eric Seralini which yielded results in which “female rodents fed GMOS for 24 months developed tumors, while male rodents suffered from liver damage and kidney problems among others.”

Prof Wizarat also delved into the CPEC debate and offered several suggestions to make the project a greater success. “Personnel to serve should be vetted thoroughly to ensure that foreign nationals and Pakistani nationals with close links to foreign governments are not selected,” she said.

“Honest Pakistani nationals should be selected to serve the authority with technical skills.”

Former ambassador Syed Hasan Javed said that Pakistan was witnessing an era of transformation as there is more construction going on in Pakistan at this moment than in the whole of Europe”. Referring to CPEC as a means to an end, Mr. Javed argued that it would allow Pakistan’s economy to take off.

“China in 1980 was in many respects 25 years behind Pakistan. Today it is definitely 25 years ahead. The good thing is it still remembers its old friend and is willing to help.”

However, some audience members raised questions about the extent to which Pakistan would benefit from CPEC, and whether the benefits were mostly imagined by the country’s analysts and the public.

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