

MIRZA ASLAM BEG worked in Libya for a year (1971) before joining the Purchasing Department, University of Petroleum & Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he served for twenty-one years (1973-1994). At the start of the Gulf War (1990) he arranged the safe evacuation of the Pakistani community which had been entrapped in the war zone. He worked for one year (1995) in Dubai before returning to Pakistan. He worked as an Executive Officer at the French Consulate in Karachi (1996-2004) where he organized numerous conferences and social events. He was also the Editor of the monthly Newsletter.

In 2005, General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan, established *The Iqbal International Institute for Research, Education and Dialogue (IRED)* in Lahore. This was a new, flagship institution envisioned to become a crucible for a cutting-edge moral and intellectual development of present and future leaders of Pakistan and the Muslim world who would be seen by global society as models of true enlightenment and civilization. Soon after the process of setting up the new organization began in the Fall of 2005, Mirza Aslam Beg was appointed to oversee the project. In 2006, he became the General Manager of *IRED* and oversaw its Research, Education and Dialogue branches as well as the overall administration and project-management of the organization. He was also the Editor of the *IRED* Newsletter.

In July 2006, he organized a highly-successful international conference called *The Lahore Consultation of South Asian Muslim Scholars on the Relevance of Iqbal's Message for the "Reconstruction" of an Enlightened Muslim Society* in which a number of South Asia's progressive Muslim scholars and justice advocates from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India participated, as well as invited guests from the U.S. It was attended by the Governor of the Punjab and other dignitaries and eminent citizens of Lahore.

When *IRED* was disbanded in August 2007 by President Musharraf who was in the process of dismantling Pakistan's judicial system, Mirza Aslam Beg joined Dr. Riffat Hassan as Executive Director of *The Iqbal International Leadership Institute (IILI)* which had been set up both in Pakistan and the U.S. for the education and training of young Muslim leaders. He has collaborated with her in a number of academic as well as women-related and peace-building projects in Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, Dubai, U.K., U.S., S. Korea, Austria, Sweden, and Germany.

Mirza Aslam Beg is a staunch advocate of human rights/ women's rights, and ethical education for young Muslim leaders. He is one of the Founder members of *The Salaam Network (TSN)* set up in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2016. He has served as an office-bearer of *TSN* since its inception. He is now the Administrator who organizes and oversees all the programs and projects undertaken by *TSN*.

