



For Better Understanding on
**China–Pakistan and
CPEC**
Gleanings from the
National & Chinese Press

July 01-15, 2023

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July 02, 2023

Business Recorder

‘China always played a concrete role for Pakistan’

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defense Mushahid Hussain Syed on Saturday said that China always played a concrete role for Pakistan.

Chinese leaders had supported Pakistan on the Kashmir issue at the forum of the United Nations, he said while talking to a private television channel.

The Chinese government had helped this country with many energy projects besides China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he added.

He said China had provided five billion dollars to stabilize Pakistan’s economy in recent years.

In reply to a question about the role of the Pakistan Army, he said Pakistan Armed forces had made unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terror and restoring peace in the troubled areas.

No one could dare to challenge the professionalism and bravery of the Pakistan Army, he said.

To a question, he said Pakistan has the full potential and resources to show progress in every field.

He said there is a dire need to make collective efforts for the speedy development of the country.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/02/5-page/966331-news.html>

Daily Times

Eid-ul-Adha celebrated in China

A large number of Pakistanis and Muslim communities in China are celebrating Eid-ul-Adha across China while a major gathering of Pakistanis started with Eid prayer in the Embassy Mosque here at Pakistan Embassy. Talking to Gwadar Pro on the occasion, Zubair Bashir said that the celebration of Eid holds great significance for the Pakistani community, even when they are residing in foreign lands. China, with its growing Pakistani population, has become a hub for the festivities of Eid. “Pakistanis living in China celebrate Eid and the unique cultural blend emerges from this cross-cultural celebration. From traditional customs to vibrant gatherings, the joyous spirit of Eid is experienced by Pakistanis in China,” Zubair Bashir added.

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that Eid is an opportune time to practice the sublime values of sacrifice, compassion, and empathy. “As we celebrate the festivity of Eid, let us remember to share our joys with the poor, the sick, and the less privileged,” he added. Ahmed Zubair also joined the celebration. He told Gwadar Pro that he is missing his home country because his friends and relatives are there, but due to the friendly atmosphere in China, he also enjoys Eid here.

“I usually go to mosque and offer prayers. After that, I sacrifice an animal together with friends. This year I’m sacrificing a goat, as it’s actually the festival of sacrifice,” Ahmed Zubair added. It is to be noted that the day of Eid ul Adha falls on the tenth day in the twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1109043/eid-ul-adha-celebrated-in-china/>

Chinese county eyeing exchange of agri products with Pakistan

Officials of Mian County, an agriculture-based county in Shaanxi Province in northwestern China, is discussing with Pakistani counterpart about the exchange of agricultural products. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the exchange will be based on the local specialties of the two sides, such as Chinese medicine and black tea and Pakistani mango and rice. Apart from the barter trade of agricultural products, the exchange of high-yield crop varieties shall also be included in the cooperation. “The cooperation is expected to start from the southern areas of Pakistan, especially Sindh”, Abdul Ghaffar Shar, a postdoc research fellow of Northwest A&F University who has been facilitating the cooperation told CEN.” For example, Sukkur or Khair pur is suitable for the cultivation of Chinese medicine, and Larkana provides fertile soil for rice”, he added.

Chinese medicine and tea industries are two pillars of agricultural development in Mian County. Once an impoverished place, the county has witnessed over 50,000 people lifted out of poverty by leveraging its agricultural resources. With over 20 Chinese medicine processing companies across the county, it is processing over 3600 tons of Chinese herbal medicine with annual sales of more than 47 million yuan. Hanzhong City where Mian County is located is one of the earliest places to plant tea in China. Over one million local people are engaged in the production, operation, and service of the tea industry.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1109042/chinese-county-eyeing-exchange-of-agri-products-with-pakistan/>

Dawn News

China to build airport in Dera Ismail Khan, claims minister

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Federal Minister of Communications Mufti Asad Mahmood has claimed China will build an airport in Dera Ismail Khan under CPEC.

Talking to media persons at his residence in Abdulkhel area here, he said the coalition government was trying to restore the international community’s trust in Pakistan as the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf had done a ‘great deal of harm’ to the country’s relations with the world community.

He claimed the loan agreement with IMF came about because of the current government’s ‘prudent policies’.

He alleged the previous PTI government had changed the original design of CPEC on the pretext of reducing the cost.

He further said during Imran Khan's government, work on Abdulkhel grid station here was stopped.

He said the relevant authorities had also started a survey of Daraban-Ramak Road, Band-Korai Road, and other such projects.

A Paharpur police official said Noor Mohammad Kundi, 58, lodged a report, stating that some accused opened fire, leaving his brother, Mada Khan Kundi, 45, killed on the spot and him injured over a land dispute.

The police said the attackers belonged to the Kharoti tribe. The police have registered a case against three accused and their accomplices.

Meanwhile, a Kulachi police official said Sher Zaman Baloch, 57, a resident of Mohalla Jattanwala, filed a report, stating that Qamar Zaman alias Qamari shot dead his brother, Gul Zaman with an AK-47 rifle over a murder enmity.

Separately, Azeem Khan, 75, filed a report with Daraban police station, saying that Samiullah and Akbar shot dead his nephew, Akhtar Munir, 40, over a trivial matter.

Also, a man was shot dead in the limits of Daraban police station. The deceased was identified as Dil Jaan.

In a separate development, the cantonment police arrested two robbers and seized Rs900,000 cash, which they had looted from a trader about a week ago, a police official said on Saturday.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1762470>

The Express Tribune

Chinese firm commits to optimizing solar PV market

Photovoltaic power may address energy shortage

SHANGHAI: China's leading solar solutions provider LONGi and three certification and testing institutions, including SGS (Shanghai), SGS (Qingdao) and Intertek, signed an agreement on strategic cooperation in Shanghai recently.

Under the deal, they will strengthen cooperation in the fields of PSI+COC certification and testing necessary for the entry of photovoltaic modules into Pakistan's market.

The institutions will carry out standardised management of module certification and testing with LONGi. The three certification and testing institutions will need to obtain written testing authorisation from LONGi before they can carry out product testing and certification.

It was agreed that the four parties would crack down on counterfeit LONGi products from the source, thus protecting the rights and interests of customers and ensuring the sustainable development of LONGi's panel business.

PV power generation, as the best choice to solve Pakistan's power shortage and optimise its energy structure to a great extent based on fossil fuels, while saving the foreign exchange required for energy imports, has vast potential for future development.

From 2012 to 2022, LONGi produced a total of 290GW of PV products, with cumulative output of clean electricity exceeding 1,148,287GWh.

According to the IEA's global power grid average emission factor, it is equivalent to avoiding 536 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

As for Pakistani market, both distributed and centralised PV products have a market segment demand. Distributed PV systems such as rooftop solar installations on residential, commercial and industrial buildings have been gaining popularity.

LONGi Solar General Manager Pakistan Ali Majid mentioned that net metering policies and incentives had been introduced to promote distributed generation and allow consumers to offset their electricity bills by exporting excess power back to the grid.

According to Pakistan's IGCEP, the cumulative installed capacity of photovoltaics will reach 12%, or 13.2GW, by 2030 and the government will continue to provide maximum support for renewable energy projects.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2424307/chinese-firm-commits-to-optimising-solar-pv-market>

The Nation

Chinese red chili contract farming opens vistas for development in Pak agri sector

KASUR-In a yard brimming with red chilies strewn everywhere on the ground under the blazing summer sun in Kasur district of Punjab province, Maryam Bibi and other women laborers were busy making each piece of chili get ample exposure to sunlight and dry up in time.

“We turn them three to four times a day so that they get dry after being soaked in the summer sun, they get fully ripe and dry in five weeks, and when we hear the sound of dried seeds rattling inside the pod, we pack them in bags and put them in storage, Bibi told Xinhua in the remote village of Jamber.

This year, Pakistani farmers and laborers are happy to get a bumper harvest of Chinese red chilies and expect to get good profits as the yield is double that of other varieties of pepper available in Pakistan.

The project is a part of a large-scale agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is currently underway after the success of the first phase focusing on infrastructure and power projects.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and is touted as a game changer for Pakistan by local experts.

Advancing cooperation in the agricultural sector, China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) and Sichuan Litong Food Group have established a company and carried out a red chili contract farming project in 2021, with model farms across Punjab.

In talks with Xinhua, Xi Jianlong, the Chinese manager from CMEC at Pakistan-China red chili contract farming, said that the Chinese variety is compatible with local soil and the overall hot climate of Punjab province conduces to the growth and nourishing of the Chinese chili variety.

He added that the cooperation benefits numerous individuals, including landowners, farmers, and laborers.

“Last year, we had created more than 2,000 jobs in Pakistan and generated an output value of approximately 770,000 U.S. dollars,” he said, adding that when the crop is harvested and dried, they directly buy it from the farmer, without involving any middlemen.

He further said that this year, they planted chili on about 750 acres of land from where about 1,500 tons of chili were harvested, and during the process of cultivation to harvest, the Chinese company not only transferred knowledge and technology to locals but also utilized the rural labor force.

Talking to Xinhua, Muhammad Ammar Asghar, an agronomist working with the CMEC, said that most of the farmers hired by the landowners are uneducated. In order to help the landowner get high yield, the Chinese company provided complete assistance and guidance to the farmers through agronomists and agriculture technicians.

“We translate scientific language into the local language and help farmers get more benefit from the advanced studies done by Chinese researchers ... We make sure that they learn the Chinese style of managing the farms and get the knowledge of the right time and quantity of using fertilizers, pesticides, and water. Initially, it is hard for them to learn, but gradually they get used to it and manage things very well,” Asghar said.

The agricultural practices in Pakistan are predominantly traditional and lacking in modern techniques. Local farmers strongly believe that the knowledge sharing from China will extend beyond the contract farming projects, leaving a broader impact as the laborers acquire valuable skills that can be utilized in various other settings.

Rao Shahab, one of the landowners who cultivated the chili with the cooperation of the Chinese, said that this year he experimented by planting chili on seven acres of land, and was so impressed by the yield that he is planning to cultivate it in a bigger area next year.

“The Chinese variety is high yielding and disease resistant. After seeing it blooming at my farm, many other farmers are also showing interest in cultivating it because it is a cash crop with a great export value, and I see Pakistan as a big producer of Chinese chili in the future,” he said.

Talking about the contribution of CPEC in transforming Pakistan’s agricultural sector, Shahab, a barrister by profession, said that Chinese cooperation is crucial for modernizing Pakistan’s agriculture and uplifting the livelihood of local farmers. “China can help Pakistan by providing high-yielding seed and transferring technology. If China establishes processing units for value-added services for Pakistani agriculture products, it will be a win-win situation for both countries,” Shahab added.

The Chinese manager said that the CMEC will not limit the project to the supply chain, but in the future they will initiate the industrialization process, generating scores of employment opportunities and giving benefits to Pakistan in terms of taxation and strengthening foreign exchange reserves.

“The future endeavors will focus on establishing a chili processing industry, emphasizing the industrial and value chains ... Our goal is to make substantial contributions to the CPEC while introducing advanced agricultural industrialization to Pakistan,” the manager said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-02/page-8/detail-0>

Tax-free zone status to enhance economic activities in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD-The declaration of Gwadar as a tax-free zone is a promising initiative that has the potential to transform the economic situation of the area significantly as tax incentives are expected to make it more attractive for foreign investment and local businesses.

Mehmood Khalid, Senior Research Economist at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), said that the initiative will prove to be a game-changer for investors, local businesses, and entrepreneurs, spurring investment and growth across the region.

He said that the tax-free zone status for Gwadar means that businesses operating in the area will be exempted from taxes such as sales tax, income tax, and customs duties, which subsequently reduce the cost of doing business in the area, making it more attractive for foreign investment, and local businesses.

Mehmood said the tax-free zone is expected to open up new markets for local sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, and tourism, potentially generating millions of dollars in earning while improving the livelihoods of the residents. “The area is well-positioned to become a major hub for trade and commerce in the region, and the declaration of a tax-free zone is expected to attract significant investment, boost economic activities and generate employment opportunities,” he continued while talking to WealthPK.

“The decision will have a profound impact on the local economy, attracting investment and creating new opportunities across the region,” he added. Furthermore, the tax-free zone will help spur economic growth by serving as a magnet for industrial and manufacturing activities. The establishment of industries in the area will create new jobs for residents of Gwadar and the surrounding areas. The development of the infrastructure required for industrial and logistic operations is expected to boost infrastructure growth, attract additional investment, and speed up the overall development of the area.

One of the critical areas expected to benefit from the declaration of Gwadar as a tax-free zone is the real estate sector. Investors are expected to flock to the area to take advantage of tax incentives, which will improve demand for residential and commercial properties.

The demand for real estate is expected to increase rapidly in response to the expansion of the port, and the construction of industrial zones, which will attract businesses seeking to establish a base in Pakistan to take advantage of its strategic location.

The change is expected to produce positive knock-on effects, benefiting both local residents and the broader Pakistani economy.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-02/page-8/detail-3>

The News

BRI: the road to progress (Part - II)

Waseem Abbas Sia

While the BRI has all the potential to become a huge success story, there are some factors that may hamper its progress. The geopolitical interpretations of the BRI fail to take into consideration the interests of the many actors involved, as evidenced by the creation and implementation of CPEC.

Within China, there is evidence that provincial authorities were crucial in laying the groundwork for what would later become the BRI's central economic corridors. They also maintain an aggressive stance by promoting their provinces to the status of major actors in the competition for federal cash and influence.

To achieve the long-term aims of integrating border spaces and promoting sustainable development in the interior, federal officials have worked to combine the existing provincial initiatives into a national policy. As the example of Pakistan demonstrates, participating countries have used a great deal of discretion in choosing projects, frequently to advance their political agendas.

The idea of a trade corridor connecting the two countries dates back well before China's BRI. In the summer of 2013, when then prime minister Nawaz Sharif met with former Chinese prime minister Li Keqiang in Beijing, the project was originally revealed. Plans for implementing the projects had a five-year time frame, and the amounts involved (between \$10 and \$20 billion) were modest in light of China's current aspirations in Pakistan.

These initiatives were recast as part of CPEC, which did not formally begin until April 2015, when Chinese President Xi Jinping was in Pakistan. The country moved its focus to power generation, with estimates rising to about \$46 billion. The two administrations then drafted a 'long-term plan', which would begin in 2017 but would not be fully implemented until 2030. The original estimate of \$48 billion increased to \$62 billion, and now Pakistani officials are talking about much greater figures.

The majority of BRI-related activity in Pakistan are CPEC projects, and its stated goals are in line with those in China's primary BRI policy documents. However, not all Sino-Pakistani infrastructure projects that can be considered as contributing to BRI objectives are included in CPEC.

However, China's direct participation in CPEC projects is not a given. Following the logic of the MERICS Belt and Road Tracker, it makes sense to include non-CPEC projects that still contribute to the overarching BRI objectives when appropriate.

Stability-minded development of China's western heartland is aided by the creation of commercial routes and demand in Pakistan. Chinese businesses are pushed forward by

domestic overcapacity. They are also enticed by Pakistan's simple access to financing and controlled bidding process. Pakistan has responded to energy problems by increasing its coal production, but Chinese manufacturers are seeing declining demand for similar products at home.

But, there are occasions when CPEC's commercial logic seems at conflict with its ultimate purpose of providing prosperity to Pakistan. Many Chinese firms have secured long-term contracts that allow them to operate roads and energy grids in exchange for fixed-priced tolls and electricity.

These price increases may cause Pakistan to fall behind regional rivals like Bangladesh.

Despite widespread interest in the concept of a transportation corridor, the majority of completed CPEC projects have included the generation of electricity. Seventy-five percent of the \$25.5 billion spent on finished projects are related to energy. This includes renewable sources like solar, hydro, and wind, but without counting nuclear, around 60 per cent of the additional MW comes from fossil-fuel fuelled capacity.

Like other projects along the BRI, Beijing's efforts are hampered by local politics and red tape. It took the provincial administration of Balochistan nearly three years to give the go-ahead to build the Gwadar power plant even though the city was experiencing power outages. In 2018, Pakistan was hit by a second consecutive balance-of-payments crisis. Imran Khan, who was prime minister at the time, sought a \$6 billion rescue from the IMF the next year.

CPEC is an ambitious venture, but the country's economic woes predate and go deeper than CPEC. Khan later asked China to modify the terms of its power deals, citing the burdensome nature of capacity payments in the face of an impending economic downturn.

While the potential rewards of investing in CPEC are high, the clock is ticking and the project has only ten years to turn Pakistan into a rich regional trading centre. With an eye towards expansion and increased profits, CPEC has been approved for a number of credit lines. With a coronavirus-induced recession on the horizon, it takes more hope than ever to envision CPEC's aspirations for turning insurgency-plagued Balochistan into a hub for seaside tourism.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=215756>

July 03, 2023

Business Recorder

10 years of CPEC

PESHAWAR: Preparations for holding an international seminar on the completion of 10 years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) kicked off in the provincial capital Peshawar which would be scheduled on July 5.

The Chinese Cultural Center China Window in Peshawar is going to present papers on the usefulness of CPEC in the seminar organized in collaboration with the Higher education Commission, KP Investment board and IM Sciences.

The seminar will have four sessions in which prominent personalities from different fields of life will express their views on this great project of Pakistan-China friendship.

During the seminar to be held on July 5, awards will also be given to those Pakistani and Chinese companies who have invested a lot in CPEC projects and besides providing employment to a large number of people, have contributed to the economic development of Pakistan.

Played a prominent role, according to the organizers of China Window, this will be the first and unique seminar of its kind in Peshawar, in which the speakers will express their views on the project on the completion of ten years of CPEC, while videos of various projects will also be shown.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/03/3-page/966391-news.html>

Govt opens doors to Chinese meat enterprises

BEIJING: “There’s a lot of potential for enhancing meat exports to China,” said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor, Pakistani Embassy, while addressing a forum titled “2023 Meat Import Development & Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Port Cold Chain Economy New Growth Forum”.

He invited Chinese enterprises to participate in Pakistan’s Agri Expo (starting from August 10) in which over 300 top Pakistani agriculture and food processing firms are expected, including meat, fisheries, oil seeds, fruits, and vegetables, food processing ones. According to a Gwadar Pro’s report, Ghulam Qadir stated that the Agri Expo undoubtedly will open doors to meat enterprises, unveiling the untapped potential that the country possesses.

As businesses leverage the opportunities presented by the Expo, the future of Pakistan’s meat sector looks bright, promising sustainable economic development and increased global recognition.

In a landmark decision, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has already granted access to Pakistani boiled beef to the Chinese market, he said.

“Donkey meat is another important potential and the protocol on Donkey skin has almost been finalized by Pakistan. This is another opportunity arising. Similarly, donkey meat will be allowed to China in the next two to three months approximately,” Qadir added. He further said that the favourable climatic conditions, an abundance of grazing lands, and ample water resources contribute to the availability of high-quality feed for livestock.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/03/13-page/966492-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Thatta DSEZ will pave a new era of industrialization

To promote the value addition component in exports, generate employment, encourage the import situation, and mobilize foreign exchange for the balance of payments support, Dhabeji Special Economic Zones (DSEZ) in Thatta Sindh is another mega project designed within the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)— a core component of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In a major development last week, Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Choudhary Salik Hussain chaired the 8th meeting of the Approvals Committee which approved the establishment of eight SEZs including the DSEZ Thatta.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, "Dhabeji Special Economic Zone has been granted SEZ status after much anticipation; DSEZ will pave a new era of industrialization for Karachi and Pakistan; the groundbreaking is to be held in mid-July 2023," reads an official statement of Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC).

DSEZ will facilitate the potential investors of China and other countries to either start new enterprises or transfer their facilities to Pakistan. In 2021, a technical issue emerged regarding the awarding of the contract of Dhabeji Industrial Zone (DIZ) when a petitioner raised questions that the rules of SEZ were not followed during awarding of the contract.

SEZMC stated DIZ is not a special economic zone and later will be declared as SEZ. Now, the government has officially declared DIZ as DSEZ.

According to CPEC's official website, 1530 acres of land have been allocated to establish DSEZ which will be developed in two phases. DSEZ has been proposed to be constructed in two phases comprising 750 acres for Phase I and 780 acres for Phase II. DSEZ has easy access to Port Qasim, enabling raw material import and finished goods export without incurring major inland transportation costs and saving time. A direct access road (8km) connecting Port Qasim to Dhabeji Zone is being developed.

A dedicated cargo deck connecting the zone with ML-1 from Dhabeji Junction and a jetty connecting Port Qasim alongside the Dhabeji zone from the creek side are envisaged to facilitate export-oriented industries.

Karachi Airport (35 Km) via National Highway enables safe travel of foreign workers and management personnel, National Highway enables the transportation of goods to upcountry and Central Asian nations, utilizing the National Trade Corridor.

<https://pakobserver.net/thatta-dsez-will-pave-a-new-era-of-industrialization/>

The Nation

Punjab govt, Chinese firms to collaborate in meat export, disease control

ISLAMABAD - Chinese firms and Punjab govt have agreed to collaborate in meat export, disease control.

A Chinese delegation led by Vice President Royal Group Ms Teng Cuijin met with Secretary Livestock Punjab Masood Anwar. They discussed avenues for collaboration in the livestock sector including the export of meat to China, according to Gwadar Pro.

The Chinese delegation expressed the desire to cooperate with the Punjab government in areas including the export of meat to China, disease control, genomics, and breed improvement.

It also sought land and the required facilities for manufacturing veterinary vaccines, the Punjab Livestock Department stated on June 27.

The Secretary welcomed proposals to set up special beef and dairy economic zones. He said that proposals to collaborate with Chinese experts in controlling foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and other animal illnesses are under consideration.

Ms Teng Cuijin said that they wanted to save the livestock in Punjab from diseases along with trade cooperation.

Director of Royal Cell Biotechnology, Dr Qaisar Shahzad told Gwadar Pro that the Royal Group wanted to initially export heat-treated meat to China.

Later, after setting up a disease free animal farm, the firm will look to export fresh meat and milk to China, he said.

Dr Qaisar said that Royal Cell has already established a 70-acre farm in Sheikhpura, which can accommodate 4,500 animals.

“Presently, we have purchased 200 animals and will soon achieve our initial target of 1,000 animals,” he said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/03-Jul-2023/punjab-govt-chinese-firms-to-collaborate-in-meat-export-disease-control>

Preparations underway to hold seminar on completion of 10 years of CPEC

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<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-03/page-4/detail-3>

660 kV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line CPEC project commemorate ceremony to take place today

Islamabad-The ceremony to commemorate the energisation of the ± 660 kV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line CPEC project will take place today (Monday) at the HVDC Converter Station in Balloki and Khurram Dastgir Khan, the Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) will be the chief guest at the event.

This ceremony is part of the decade of CPEC celebrations. Pakistan’s first ± 660 kV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Project evacuates power from coal power plants located at Port Qasim, Hub and Thar. The project includes approximately 886-km of HVDC ± 660 kV transmission line, with capacity of 4,000 MW, two Converter Stations and two Grounding

Stations. Total investment for this project was \$1,658.34 million and it created 2,212 jobs in Pakistan. The state-of-the-art HVDC transmission system has helped NTDC to reduce power losses.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-03/page-8/detail-6>

July 04, 2023

Business Recorder

Dar appreciates role of Chinese FIs

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts, and specifically thanked for the cooperation of Chinese Financial Institutions with Pakistan during last few months.

He expressed these views during meeting with Pang Chunxue, Charge d Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China who called him at Finance Division. Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar warmly greeted the Charge d Affairs and appreciated the deep rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

The finance minister further informed the Charge d Affairs about the progress on the 9th review with IMF stating that Pakistan has successfully reached the staff level agreement. He also apprised the Charge d affairs about stability in the economy and how the government is making efforts to preserve this economic stability and move the economy towards growth. Additionally, he appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts, and specifically thanked for the cooperation of Chinese Financial Institutions with Pakistan during last few months.

Pang Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments about the deep-rooted friendly relations between both countries. She also appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to bring economic stability in the country despite difficult economic circumstances. She further assured the Finance Minister that the Chinese Government will continue to support Pakistan. The two sides also discussed the various avenues available for both countries to deepen bilateral relations in economic, trade, and financial sectors in order to expand the exiting cooperation to unprecedented levels.

In the end, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar expressed gratitude to Pang Chunxue, Charge d Affairs for all the support and cooperation Pakistan has always been receiving from the leadership in Beijing.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/04/1-page/966524-news.html>

Chinese delegation visits PCJCCI

LAHORE: A Chinese delegation visited Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Secretariat on Monday and discussed the importance and need of advancement in solar projects.

Mozzam Ghurki, President PCJCCI said that currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly

87% of the total. Among the 530MW cumulative generation capacity in Pakistan, 400 MW (75%) is generated from Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, the first-ever power plant capable of generating solar energy in Pakistan, owned by the Punjab government and built by one of the renowned Chinese company. Chinese companies are also major suppliers to many PV Projects in Pakistan such as Mini Solar grids in KP and ADB Access to Clean Energy Programme. He added that Pakistan Solar Energy Market is expected to record a CAGR of 2.5% from 2022 to 2027.

One of the representatives of delegation shared her views by saying that up to now, the average utilization rate of the operational solar PV plants is merely 19%, far from the over 95% utilization rate in China, representing huge opportunities to be tapped. As experienced PV plants investors in Pakistan, Chinese companies are more likely to further leverage their learning in the solar industry. They can also benefit from China's pledge to move away from coal-based energy generation and promote green energy in developing countries. She added that Chinese companies can expect a supportive government attitude to investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan and the cooperation would complement both countries' commitment to the socio-economic development of the whole region.

President PCJCCI said that in Pakistan, the insufficiency of power which leads to surging electricity tariffs and foreign exchange expenditure on imported energy is aggravating the necessity for the country to be more self-sufficient in power generation. If solar is installed on every roof, those who suffer from heat and load shedding can generate their own electricity at least all day, and if some surplus electricity is generated, they can sell it to the grid.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/04/7-page/966574-news.html>

Daily Times

BRI's 10 Years

Yasir Habib Khan

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. So far, China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents on the joint construction of the "Belt and Road" with 152 countries and 32 international organizations. Over the past ten years, central state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have actively integrated into the overall situation of China's all-around opening up to the globe. They are important participants of international communication as well as an important driving force for the diversification of international communication subjects.

On June 28, a roundtable talk on "How to better play the role of central enterprises in international communication" was held in Beijing. Experts and scholars, representatives of overseas projects of central enterprises, and media members discussed how to help central enterprises improve their international communication capabilities and better tell stories about the new Silk Road.

H.E. Hussam Al Hussein, Jordanian Ambassador to China, delivered a speech via video and congratulated the holding of the roundtable. In his speech summarizing the relations between Jordan and China, he said that the two countries share a long history of civil exchanges and

the development of friendly relations is outstanding. Under the framework of the “Belt and Road”, the two countries have carried out cooperation in various fields, including but not limited to infrastructure, economic and trade investment, science, technology, education and culture. With the deepening of cooperation between the two sides, new areas of cooperation will be opened up.

The process of central SOEs telling a story is actually a process of further clarification of the theoretical mechanism of Chinese modernization.

Fan Jianping, president of China Radio International Online, CMG, said in his speech that over the past ten years, China has worked with all relevant parties to uphold the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, adhered to the concept of openness, greenness, and integrity, and strived to achieve high standards, sustainability, and benefit for the people. Solid and fruitful achievements have been achieved. The joint construction of BRI has become a popular international public product and international cooperation platform. Whether it is a representative of a central SOE, an expert, a scholar, or a media reporter, everyone is the witness, narrator and teller of the story of the joint construction of BRI.

This round table talk set up three-panel sessions: “Participating in the 10 years of Belt and Road: ‘Representatives from China’s central state-owned enterprises tell the Chinese story of ‘Extensive consultation and Joint contribution’”; “Witnessing the 10 years of Belt and Road: Has the Chinese story of ‘Common prosperity and Shared benefits’ been well accepted by the local people of BRI member countries?”; and “Recounting the 10 years of Belt and Road: How could media and the central SOEs jointly promote the Chinese story of ‘Harmony and Win-Win’ through global communication?” Representatives from China Railway Construction Corporation(International)Ltd., China Southern Power Grid Company Limited, China Railway Group Limited., China First Highway Engineering Co., Ltd., China State Construction Engineering Corporation (Middle East)(L.L.C), and China Railway Signal&Communication Co., Ltd. shared their experience of global image building, and successful cases of BRI projects’ international communication. The guests present also delivered keynote speeches and had heated discussions on related topics, and together explored creative ways to tell Chinese stories about BRI. Wang Yiwei, a professor from the School of International Relations at the Renmin University of China, believes that the process of central SOEs telling a story is actually a process of further clarifying the theoretical mechanism of Chinese modernization. “Clarify the responsibilities and roles of central enterprises in the construction of the “Belt and Road”, so that they shall not be afraid to compete with Western companies, and only by walking with like-minded friends can they go far and steadily.”

Ding Xiaoxing, director of the Eurasian Institute of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, shared his views on how central enterprises can better tell the story of the “Belt and Road” in Central Asia. He said that it is necessary to talk about the history of friendly exchanges between China and Central Asia, letting countries along the “Belt and Road” understand China’s achievements in reform and opening up and its independent foreign policy of peace. He also talked about the development path and achievements of

Central Asian countries in the past 30 years and the story of equal interaction, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation between China and Central Asia. Josef Gregory Mahoney, a professor from East China Normal University, believes that a comprehensive collective brand strategy and communication plan should be constructed to convey positive information. As a state-owned enterprise, it needs to consider its own all-round operation strategy, and more importantly, it must actively promote the Chinese story in countries along the “Belt and Road” and establish a good image. “When you become a part of the Chinese story, the Chinese story is your story.”

Yasir Habib Khan, director of the Pakistan Institute of International Relations and Media Research and a senior journalist, said that in addition to traditional media, online media should be given more space to play. Central enterprises can work hand in hand with online media to disseminate a series of success stories achieved by central enterprises in countries along the “Belt and Road”.

In addition, Naseem Khan Achakza, Advisor to Speaker Balochistan Assembly and Executive Director of Policy Think Tank in Pakistan; Fatima Kukeyeva, Professor of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University; Aleksei Savitskii, Head of the Representative Office of Sputnik in China; Kubilay Çelik, Beijing Branch reporter of the Turkish Aydinlik Newspaper; Sami Aljabry, host and reporter of Iraqi State TV; Celia, Guatemalan vlogger and Spanish teacher of Wuhan University and Gao Fei, Colombian commentator and vlogger, also made wonderful speeches at the meeting.

The writer is a senior Journalist. He is also President of Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR).”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1109632/bris-10-years/>

Agriculture emerges as a powerful force for economic growth under CPEC

The alliance between Pakistan and China in the field of agriculture has emerged as a powerful force driving economic growth, sustainable development, and food security in both nations.

The strategic collaboration between these two neighboring countries, under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has witnessed significant advancements in recent years, transforming the agricultural landscape of Pakistan, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. Through joint initiatives, technological exchanges, and investment in key sectors, the bilateral partnership has not only addressed Pakistan’s domestic agricultural challenges but has also paved the way for future prosperity and self-sufficiency.

The agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China has witnessed remarkable developments, particularly in the cultivation of high-value crops and the introduction of advanced farming technologies. The collaboration between Chinese and Pakistani companies in producing Chinese hybrid canola and edible oil has significantly reduced Pakistan’s dependence on imported cooking oil, meeting the country’s domestic demand while bolstering its foreign exchange reserves.

The success of chili cultivation in South Punjab, Sindh and other provinces has opened new avenues for export to China, with substantial growth in agricultural exports expected in the coming years. The establishment of the CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Centre (ACC) and the signing of agreements between educational institutions for agricultural training programs further demonstrate the commitment of both nations to fostering long-term cooperation in the agricultural sector.

With the establishment of the China-Pakistan Green Corridor (CPGC) under CPEC, the focus on agricultural environment and food security has taken center stage. The utilization of advanced agricultural technologies, such as maize-soybean strip intercropping, has demonstrated economic benefits by increasing crop yields and improving resource efficiency. The agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China has yielded remarkable results. In 2022 alone, Pakistan's agricultural sector experienced a commendable growth rate of 4.4%, surpassing both the set target of 3.5% and the previous year's growth of 3.48%.

This achievement is a testament to the effectiveness of the initiatives implemented under CPEC and the Green Corridor in particular. The surge in agricultural exports to China reflects a staggering year-on-year increase. With expectations of agricultural exports surpassing a record high in 2023, it is evident that the agricultural cooperation between these two nations has bolstered trade relations and presented new opportunities for Pakistan to establish itself as a key player in the global agricultural market.

In addition to the impressive growth rates and increased agricultural exports, there are other significant numbers that underscore the impact of the agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. One noteworthy aspect is the cultivation of dried chilli, which has witnessed substantial progress. This not only signifies the expansion of chilli cultivation in Pakistan but also highlights the potential for exporting this sought-after commodity to China.

The successful implementation of the maize-soybean strip intercropping technology at 65 demonstration sites in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has yielded impressive results. The intercropped fields have achieved maize and soybean production of 8,490 kg and 889 kg per hectare, respectively, surpassing the yields of solely cropped maize and soybeans. This innovative technique demonstrates the effectiveness of knowledge and technology transfer from China to Pakistan, resulting in increased productivity and economic benefits for farmers.

Many agro-based innovative Chinese companies involved in production and support for bee farming, honey production, sorghum, sesame and peanuts in various regions of Pakistan has made substantial contribution in diversifying these crops and their production. The ongoing efforts to strengthen ties reflect a long-term commitment to advancing agricultural practices, technology transfer, and market access. As the collaboration deepens, it is essential to prioritize sustainable farming practices, resource management, and the adoption of modern technologies to ensure long-term productivity and environmental conservation. By fostering innovation, knowledge exchange, and market diversification, the agricultural sector in Pakistan is poised to become a driver of economic growth, food security, and rural development, while further cementing the bilateral ties between Pakistan and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1109673/agriculture-emerges-as-a-powerful-force-for-economic-growth-under-cpec/>

Chinese enterprise supports digital ticketing system in Pakistan

Chinese enterprise will continue to support digital ticketing system in Pakistan to facilitate the passengers.

The passenger ticketing system of the RABTA project of the Ministry of Railways, Pakistan was successfully launched last month.

The first two trains running with the system were 107UP and 108DN of the Islamabad Express. Passengers commuting between Islamabad and Lahore can easily book tickets through the system and also can choose appropriate train numbers and seats on the website, Gwadar Pro reported.

In 2021, Chinese technology company Easyway Innovation Co., Ltd won the bid for the RABTA project of Pakistan Railways. The company will continue its 12-year operational service to provide Pakistan Railways with a comprehensive and modern information system covering passenger tickets, freight, baggage, and train tracking upon the completion of the RABTA project.

The RABTA ticket section is to build a nationwide ticket and travel platform across Pakistan, offering services including itinerary planning, ticket purchase, and taking in-station services, to continue to provide passengers with full itinerary information services.

In the offline part, manual sales of paper pre-fabricated tickets will be eliminated nationwide, and all commercially operated stations will open electronic ticketing systems and install passenger self-service devices. In the online section, the types and quality of services including the complete itinerary of passengers, such as online booking and refunding, as well as hotels, catering, tourism, and vehicle rental, will be comprehensively improved.

The opening of follow-up lines and train numbers in the system is currently in progress. It is anticipated that by the end of this year, the passenger ticketing system will cover all stations and trains in Pakistan while the luggage system and train tracking system will also be operational.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1109743/chinese-enterprise-supports-digital-ticketing-system-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar's 1.2 MGD water plant completed: GPA

In order to provide clean water to residents of Gwadar, 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant has finally been completed as per schedule. Formal inauguration is all set to be executed by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif during his likely visit to Gwadar after Eid Holidays. Talking to Gwadar Pro, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) project director Dawood Baloch said water desalination plant has been done and dusted with a grant of Rs. 2 billion from China in collaboration with Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), National Engineering Services Pakistan and China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC).

Along with completion of Civil, mechanical and electrical work, Central room of 1.2 MGD desalination water plant is now up and running, he informed. Almost 90 percent manpower and human resource, he said, have been hired from local market of Gwadar and Balochistan. On a query, he said that all related equipment and apparatus have been installed in befitting manner to keep desalination water plant functional with full capacity.

Alongside construction of 1.2 MGD desalination plant, an around 1 kilo meter long water supply line from plant site to Gwadar city's main water supply network has also been laid down, he added Completion of 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant, spreading over approximately one acre land area, reflects China's support for poor people of Gwadar desperately longing for clean water over the last many years.

Besides drinkable water being supplied to people of Gwadar through water reservoirs, 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant project will be another source of clean water that will help meet the water demand of the Gwadar city and Gwadar port. Initially 0.5 MGD Water Desalination Plant project was inked with the conduction of feasibility and survey by government of Pakistan and China. Later having revisited the current demand of water, the government approved the 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant for Gwadar.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadars-1-2-mgd-water-plant-completed-gpa/>

The Express Tribune

China major investor in solar projects

Delegate says average utilisation of solar plants merely 19% in Pakistan

LAHORE: Chinese companies are major investors in Pakistan's renewable energy projects as out of foreign investment of \$144 million in solar PV plants, \$125 million is coming from China, constituting nearly 87% of total capital, said Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki.

He was speaking during the visit of a Chinese delegation to the PCJCCI Secretariat on Monday where the importance and need for advancement in solar projects were discussed.

Of the cumulative production capacity of 530MW, 400MW (75%) was being generated by the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, the first-ever power project capable of generating solar energy in Pakistan, owned by the Punjab government and built by a renowned Chinese company, Ghurki said.

Chinese companies are also major suppliers to many solar PV projects such as mini-solar grids in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and the ADB's Access to Clean Energy Programme.

"Pakistan's solar energy market is expected to record a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 2.5% from 2022 to 2027," he projected.

The PCJCCI president said that the insufficiency of power, which led to surging tariffs and foreign exchange expenditure on imported energy, was underlining the necessity for Pakistan to be more self-sufficient in power generation.

“If solar panels are installed on every roof, those who suffer from heat and load-shedding can generate their own electricity at least all day, and if some surplus electricity is generated, they can sell it to the grid.”

A member of the Chinese delegation, while sharing her views, said that up to now average utilisation rate of the operational solar PV plants was merely 19%, far from the over 95% utilisation rate in China, representing huge opportunities that needed to be tapped.

As experienced PV plant investors in Pakistan, Chinese companies were likely to further leverage their learning in the solar industry, she stressed.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2424633/china-major-investor-in-solar-projects>

The Nation

Chinese Cultural Centre to hold seminar tomorrow

PESHAWAR - An international seminar on the completion of 10 years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be held here on July 5 under the auspices of Chinese Cultural Centre China Window.

Papers on the usefulness of CPEC will be presented in the seminar, being organised in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Investment Board and IM Sciences.

The seminar will have four sessions in which prominent personalities from different fields of life will express their views on the mega project of Pakistan- China friendship.

During the seminar, awards will also be given to the Pakistani and Chinese companies who have invested a lot in the CPEC projects, besides providing employment to a large number of people.

According to the organisers of China Window, it would be the first and unique seminar of its kind in Peshawar, in which the speakers would express their views on CPEC on the completion of its 10 years, besides showing of videos of its various projects.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-04/page-3/detail-1>

Chinese charge d'affaires assures Pakistan of economic support

Imran Ali Kundi

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday thanked Chinese Financial Institutions for their cooperation with Pakistan during the last few months.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Monday thanked Ms Pang Chunxue, the Charge d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, for the timely support of the financial institutions of China to Pakistan. On the same day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also recalled that ahead of the deal with the IMF, China provided roll-overs of five billion dollars to Pakistan. He said China has always helped Pakistan in difficult times and our nation will not forget this latest support from the Chinese friends. Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar warmly greeted the Charge d’Affaires and appreciated the deep rooted historical

bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. The finance minister further informed the Charge d’Affaires about the progress on the 9th review with the IMF, stating that Pakistan has successfully reached the staff level agreement.

He also appraised the Charge d’Affaires about stability in the economy and how the government is making efforts to preserve this economic stability and move the economy towards growth. Additionally, he appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts, and specifically thanked for the cooperation of Chinese Financial Institutions with Pakistan during the last few months. Ms Pang Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments about the deep-rooted friendly relations between both countries. She also appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to bring economic stability in the country despite difficult economic circumstances. She further assured the finance minister that the Chinese government will continue to support Pakistan. The two sides also discussed the various avenues available for both countries to deepen bilateral relations in economic, trade, and financial sectors in order to expand the existing cooperation to unprecedented levels. In the end, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar expressed gratitude to Ms Pang Chunxue, Charge d’Affaires for all the support and cooperation Pakistan has always been receiving from the leadership in Beijing.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-04/page-8/detail-6>

The News

Chinese companies help in improving social sector

Islamabad: Chinese companies have enhanced their role in social development of Pakistan, while addressing the country’s economic and development issues.

The companies are an integral part of CPEC. They are the torch bearer of this flagship project of BRI. They are not only helping Pakistan overcome its infrastructure problems but also investing in social development, skills, and environmental protection in Pakistan. All Chinese companies are investing in social development, but only a few have been selected for discussion, a report carried by Gwadar Pro. The Chinese companies not only helped to create thousands of jobs but also invested in building the capacity of hundreds of engineers and staff members.

According to available data, Huaneng Shandong Rui Group, which built the Sahiwal coal power invested in 622 employees for building their capacity and sharpen their skills. Further segregation of data shows that 245 engineers were trained following the need for required skills at plants. Port Qasim also contributed to building the capacity of engineers and staff members. Data shows that 2,600 employees benefited from the capacity-building and skill development opportunities offered by the Port Qasim plant. It trained 600 engineers and 2,000 general staff members.

It is a huge number, especially in the engineering category. It will help Pakistan; as Pakistan has a shortage of qualified and trained engineers. These companies also assisted Pakistan during floods and COVID-19. Second, the Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) is another Chinese company, which is investing in social development. The major contribution of COPHC is in the sectors of education, waste management, environmental

protection, and the provision of food. COPHC joined hands with the Chinese government to establish a good quality school in one of the most backward areas of the country.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=216445>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک 10 سالہ جشن

شاہراہ ریشم کی تاریخ صدیوں پر محیط ہے۔ یہاں سے اقوام عالم کے تجارتی قافلے گزرتے رہے ہیں اور مشرق و مغرب کا ملاپ دیکھنے میں آیا ہے۔ درحقیقت شاہراہ ریشم پہاڑوں کے درمیان سے گزرنے والا ایک کچا پکارا ستہ تھا مگر چینی کارکنوں نے سینکڑوں جانوں کی قربانیاں دے کر اس تاریخی راستے کو پختہ کیا اور اسے ہر موسم میں ڈرائیونگ اور سفر کے قابل بنایا۔ پاکستان خاص طور پر اپنے چین جیسے گہرے دوست کا شکر گزار ہے۔

وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان ہم الیائی رشتے استوار ہیں۔ پاکستان کی ہر حکومت نے چین کو اپنی خارجہ پالیسی میں اولین ترجیح دی۔ حالیہ برسوں میں صدر زرداری نے اپنی حکومت کے دوران چین کے ان گنت سفر کیے۔ وزیراعظم نواز شریف نے قوم کے مستقبل کے خوابوں کو نئی تعبیر بخشی اور چین کے ساتھ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے نام سے عظیم منصوبوں کا آغاز کیا گیا۔

پنجاب کے وزیر اعلیٰ کے طور پر میاں محمد شہباز شریف نے چینی سرمایہ کاری کے لیے جاں گسل اور سر توڑ جدوجہد کی جس کی وجہ سے پاکستان نے چین کے تعاون سے سی پیک کے منصوبوں کا مکمل بھر میں جال بچھا دیا۔ نئی شاہراہیں تعمیر کی گئیں۔ بجلی کے درجنوں پلانٹ لگے۔ گوادر کی بندرگاہ کو ترقی دینے کے لیے خصوصی منصوبہ بندی کی گئی۔

بد قسمتی سے پچھلے دس برسوں کے دوران عمران حکومت نے سی پیک کے منصوبوں کو چار سال تک منجمد رکھا۔ میری ذاتی معلومات کے مطابق عمران خان نے سی پیک اتھارٹی کے سربراہ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل عاصم سلیم باجوہ کو امریکی دباؤ پر گھر بھیجا۔ یوں سی پیک کے چار قیمتی سال ضائع ہو گئے۔ کہنے کو سی پیک کا ایک عشرہ مکمل ہو چکا ہے مگر عمران خان کی بیڈگورنس کی وجہ سے ہم آج اس تاریخی سنہری عشرے کی حقیقی خوشیاں منانے سے قاصر ہیں۔ یہ امر غنیمت ہے کہ عمران خان کی حکومت کے خاتمے پر میاں شہباز شریف ہی اقتدار میں آئے اور انھوں نے آتے ہی سی پیک کے عظیم منصوبے میں اسز نو انقلابی روح پھونک دی جس کی وجہ سے آج ہم بھی خطے کی اقوام عالم میں سراونچا کر کے سی پیک عظیم راہداری منصوبے کا دس سالہ جشن منانے کے قابل ہوئے ہیں۔

آج موجودہ حکومت نے سی پیک کا 10 سالہ جشن منانے کا باقاعدہ آغاز کر دیا ہے۔ ان دس سالہ تقریبات جشن کا آغاز وزارت منصوبہ بندی میں ایک شاندار تقریب سے کیا گیا۔ اس افتتاحی تقریب میں وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی و ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال، سیکرٹری وزارت منصوبہ بندی سید ظفر علی شاہ، چیف اکانومسٹ، ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر سی پیک ڈاکٹر ندیم جاوید، پاکستان میں چینی ناظم الامور پیپنگ چنکسو، پاکستان میں کام کرنے والے بزنس مین حضرات اور مختلف وزارتوں کے اعلیٰ حکام نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔

تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ آج کا دن ان کے لیے انتہائی خوشی کا دن ہے کہ جو سفر 2013ء میں شروع ہوا تھا، اس کے 10 سال آج مکمل ہو گئے ہیں۔ بہت سے نشیب و فراز آئے لیکن حکومت وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کے دژن کے مطابق ان منصوبوں کو آگے لے کر چل رہی ہے۔ موجودہ حکومت نے آتے ہی ڈیڑھ سال میں سی پیک کے درجنوں منصوبوں کو مکمل کر لیا ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ سال اپریل میں حکومت کے اقتدار میں آنے کے بعد سی پیک کو بحال کیا گیا ہے جو کہ پچھلی حکومت نے روک دیے تھے جبکہ گوادر میں بجلی، انفراسٹرکچر، پانی اور دیگر کئی منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں جو کہ سنگ بنیاد کے لیے تیار ہیں اور وزیراعظم جلد ان منصوبوں کا افتتاح کریں گے۔

وفاقی وزیر کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سابقہ حکومت نے سی پیک منصوبوں کو تباہ کیا جس کے نتیجے میں پاکستان کو مشکلات کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستانی عوام سی پیک کو کامیاب بنانے میں چینوں کے تعاون اور قربانیوں کو کبھی فراموش نہیں کر سکتے۔

وفاقی وزیر مواصلات احسن اقبال نے 2013ء سے شروع ہونے والے سی پیک کے اس پورے سفر کے دوران سی پیک پر عمل درآمد کے لیے چینی حکام، مزدوروں کے تعاون کو بھی سراہا۔ وفاقی وزیر نے سابقہ حکومت کو تنقید کا نشانہ بناتے ہوئے کہا کہ اگر سی پیک منصوبے چھ ماہ کے ریکارڈ وقت میں مکمل ہو سکتے ہیں تو پچھلی حکومت نے چار سال کی مدت میں کیوں ان منصوبوں کو روک رکھا۔

تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے پاکستان میں چینی ناظم الامور پیگ چنکسو نے چین پاکستان تعلقات کی گہری تاریخی جڑیں، ٹھوس عوامی حمایت اور مضبوط عملی ضرورتوں پر روشنی ڈالی۔ ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ صدر شی جن پنگ کی مضبوط قیادت میں چین چینی جدیدیت کے عمل کو ثابت قدمی سے آگے بڑھا رہا ہے جبکہ چین کی جدیدیت میں نئی کامیابیوں کے ساتھ پاکستان سمیت کئی ممالک کی ترقی کے نئے مواقع فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ دونوں اطراف کی مشترکہ کوششوں کے ساتھ ساتھ سی پیک نے صنعت، زراعت، آئی ٹی، آفات سے بچاؤ اور مختلف شعبوں کا احاطہ کرتے ہوئے نتیجہ خیز نتائج حاصل کیے ہیں جس نے پاکستان کی اقتصادی اور سماجی ترقی کو فروغ دینے، پاکستان کے بنیادی ڈھانچے کو اپ گریڈ کرنے، پاکستانی عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کو بہتر بنانے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ واضح رہے کہ اب تک 8020 میگا واٹ کی کل نصب صلاحیت کے ساتھ 13 پاور جزییشن پراجیکٹس اور 4000 میگا واٹ کی انخلاء کی صلاحیت کے ساتھ ایک ایچ ڈی ڈی سی ٹرانسمیشن لائن نے اپنا تجارتی آپریشن مکمل کر لیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-04/page-5/detail-7>

چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا: خرم دستگیر

لاہور، اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹر + نامہ نگار + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وفاقی وزیر خرم دستگیر نے ہیڈ بلوکی میں سی پیک کی تقریب سے خطاب میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان چین دوستی ہر گزرتے دن کے ساتھ مضبوط ہو رہی ہے۔ نواز شریف دور میں سی پیک پر کام شروع ہوا چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا۔ سی پیک پر 10 سال پہلے کام شروع ہوا چین اس وقت پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا ہوا ہے۔ کوئی اور ملک ساتھ دینے کو تیار نہیں تھا۔ سی پیک فلیگ شپ پروجیکٹ، کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ نے 3.64 بلین کلو واٹ گھنٹے، مجموعی بجلی کی پیداوار کے ساتھ محفوظ آپریشن کا ایک سال 29 جون کو مکمل کر لیا ہے۔ اس پروجیکٹ نے اپنی پہلی ساگرہ تقریباً 1.59 ملین ٹن معیاری کے تحت پہلا سب (BRI) کونسلے کی بچت اور 3.98 ملین ٹن کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ کے اخراج کی کمی کے ساتھ منائی ہے۔ کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو سے بڑا بین بجلی کی سرمایہ کاری اور تعمیراتی منصوبہ ہے۔ گزشتہ سال کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ نے بجلی کی پیداوار میں صفر حادثات اور صفر نقصانات کا اپنا ہدف حاصل کیا ہے۔ 17 جون کو کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ نے پبلک اوپن ڈے کا انعقاد کیا اور اس موقع پر پاکستان سینٹ کی دفاعی کمیٹی کے ایک وفد نے پلانٹ کا دورہ کیا۔ دورے کے دوران مندو بین نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کی ایک کامیاب مثال کے طور پر کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کی تعریف کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-04/page-10/detail-2>

July 05, 2023

Daily Times

China assures Naqvi of support to get halal meat certification for Punjab

Punjab CM Mohsin Naqvi offered to facilitate meat exports from Punjab to China, and the Consul General assured cooperation in issuing Halal Meat Certification for Punjab. Recognizing China's expertise in modern cattle farming, it was agreed to leverage their

experience in this domain. The Chinese Consulate in Lahore will arrange the teaching of the Chinese language to the jawans of the Special Protection Unit (SPU). The caretaker CM expressed his appreciation for China's collaboration in agriculture, livestock, IT, and other sectors.

Zhao Shiren commended CM Mohsin Naqvi's vision for the promotion of agriculture and information technology, noting that the China National Cotton Association was cooperating with APTMA to promote cotton in the country. The meeting was attended by Provincial Ministers Amir Mir and SM Tanveer, chief secretary, IG police, Chairman P&D, Addl Chief Secretary (Home), secretaries of agriculture, irrigation, and information departments, CEO PBIT, and others. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a lengthy three-hour visit to Jinnah Hospital today. Expressing deep dismay over the deteriorating condition of the hospital, he immediately ordered the replacement of the medical superintendent and sought a reply from the principal of Jinnah Hospital within three days. Taking strict notice of the absence of a senior professor at Jinnah Hospital, Mohsin Naqvi promptly ordered an inquiry.

Furthermore, the contract of the parking lot contractor was revoked due to overcharging, and the contract has been reassigned to Lahore Parking Company. Patients voiced their concerns directly to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, citing issues such as peeling paint on the walls and ceilings, water accumulation in the basement, unavailability of free medications and medical tests, and the presence of bed bugs and cockroaches on the floors and beds.

The CM emphasized the need for a comprehensive plan to improve the hospital's conditions. He inspected various departments, including the Outpatient Department (OPD), Emergency, Surgical Ward, Angiography Room, CCU, Private Rooms, Dialysis Unit, Urology Ward, Orthopedic Ward, Free Medicine Counter, and Health Card Counter. He also visited the basement and instructed the necessary steps to address the water accumulation issue.

Mohsin Naqvi expressed satisfaction with the treatment facilities provided at the Sheikh Ijaz Ahmad Dialysis Unit, established in collaboration with businessman Gauhar Ijaz. Patients at the dialysis unit also appreciated the quality of medical care. Mohsin Naqvi visited the burn unit and directed to increase the number of beds. The shelter home and 'mehman khana' set up Gohar Ijaz were also inspected by the CM and feedback on the quality of food was collected from attendants who praised the food's quality. Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi expressed deep regret over the current state of Jinnah Hospital and emphasized the urgent need for immediate action to provide necessary treatment and facilities. He urged that patients should be able to obtain medications and undergo tests within the hospital itself. He assured that he would visit Jinnah Hospital again soon.

Earlier, Mohsin Naqvi inspected the construction site of the trauma center situated in front of Jinnah Hospital, reviewing the ongoing construction activities. He directed the allocation of 150 beds for a cardiac center and 100 beds for the trauma center.

Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Dr Javed Akram, CS, secretaries of finance, C&W & health departments, commissioner Lahore, DGPR and others were also present.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) to inspect the old emergency ward and gave directions for its prompt restoration. He

emphasized the significance of reactivating the old emergency, as it would provide additional beds for patients in need.

In addition, Mohsin Naqvi personally evaluated the facilities available for heart patients, inquired about the well-being of patients in the emergency ward, and showed a keen interest in the provision of bypass and primary angiography services. Patients and their attendants expressed their contentment with the facilities provided at the PIC.

During his visit, the CM also took note of the cleanliness arrangements within the PIC premises and reviewed the records of the patients. Mohsin Naqvi stated that his purpose in visiting hospitals is to ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare services. He acknowledged the improvement in the treatment facilities at the PIC, praising the dedicated efforts of doctors, nurses, and paramedics who tirelessly serve the patients. He considered serving humanity during times of suffering as an honorable act of worship.

Provincial Ministers Amir Mir and Mansoor Qadir, along with the Chairman of the PIC, Dr Farqad, were present during the visit, accompanying the chief minister.

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the tracking system and e-Challan app for the Punjab Highway Patrolling Police. This system will help in identifying stolen vehicles that have fake number plates.

During a meeting with officials from the Highway Patrolling Police and Punjab Safe Cities Authority, the CM appreciated the efforts of the IG police and his team in introducing this tracking system and app.

The CM directed the Punjab Highway Patrolling Police to carry out their responsibilities with utmost dedication. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive road safety plan and ordered strict legal action against motorcyclists who fail to comply with helmet regulations. He stressed the importance of cracking down on unlicensed vehicles and motorcyclists throughout Punjab and taking all necessary steps to ensure road safety.

The IG police and DG Rescue 1122 briefed about the key features of the tracking system, app and road safety.

Provincial Minister for Information and Local Government Amir Mir, chief secretary, addl chief secretary, chairman P&D, ACS (Home), secretaries of law, information, transport, Addl IG & DIG (Punjab Highway Patrolling Police), CCPO Lahore, DIG (Ops), DIG (Traffic), CTO Lahore, chairman PITB and others were also present.

Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren called on caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office to discuss ways to enhance cooperation. The focus of their discussion centered on the fields of agriculture, livestock, and information technology, with both expressing their commitment to further promote bilateral ties. They agreed to strengthen collaboration in various areas, with China offering its support by providing high-quality cotton and rice seeds to Punjab. Chinese experts will also be involved in cotton research and mechanization efforts. Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has ordered an investigation into an incident of an incorrect operation leading to the amputation of a girl's arm at a private hospital in Bahawalnagar.

Following his order, an inquiry committee has been formed under Chairman CM's Inspection Team to identify those responsible for negligence for taking legal action against them. The committee will include a member of CMIT and two representatives from the Punjab Healthcare Commission. The committee will present a report to the CM within three days.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110025/china-assures-naqvi-of-support-to-get-halal-meat-certification-for-punjab/>

Xi urges SCO to protect regional peace, ensure 'common security'

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday stressed for efforts to better synergize high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with various countries' development strategies and regional cooperation initiatives.

Addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit via video link, he called on members of the SCO family to follow the right direction and enhance their solidarity and mutual trust.

He stressed for strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and fostering closer people-to-people ties.

President Xi said that the harmonious development of diverse civilizations was the vision shared by the people in the region. While calling upon members of SCO to safeguard regional peace and ensure common security, he said that China was willing to work with all parties to implement the Global Security Initiative, adhere to dialogue and consultation to resolve differences, promote political settlement of international and regional issues and jointly build a shelter for regional security.

President Xi also called for advancing pragmatic cooperation to speed up economic recovery and said that China was willing to work with all parties to implement the Global Development Initiative and adhere to the correct direction of economic globalization.

He urged efforts to oppose protectionism, unilateral sanctions and using national security as a tool for economic coercion, reject attempts to "build walls", decouple or disrupt industrial and supply chains, and strive to make a bigger "pie" of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Efforts should be made to promote synergies between the Belt and Road Initiative and development strategies of various countries, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, accelerate the construction of port infrastructure and regional international logistics corridors and ensure the stability and smoothness of regional industrial chains and supply chains, Xi said.

Noting harmonious development of diverse civilizations is the vision of the people of countries in the region, President Xi said China welcomed all parties to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, promote the coexistence of different civilizations and strengthen people-to-people bonds.

He said that the trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation was unstoppable and underlined the need for SCO countries to strengthen strategic communication and collaboration, advocate dialogue to address differences and promote cooperation to avoid

competition. President Xi also called for respecting each other's core interests and firmly supporting each other in achieving development and revitalization.

President Xi said we must rise to the call of our times, keep in mind our founding mission, and stay in unity and coordination to bring more certainty and positive energy to world peace and development. To this end, I wish to make the following proposals:

First, we should keep to the right direction and enhance solidarity and mutual trust. Since its founding over 20 years ago, the SCO has withstood the test of the changing international landscape, and kept moving in the right direction of promoting solidarity, mutual trust, development and cooperation. We have accumulated valuable experience, and achieved hard-won development gains. Facts have shown that as long as we bear in mind the larger picture, shoulder our responsibilities and remain undisturbed by all sorts of distractions, we will be able to protect and promote the security and development interests of our member states. Second, we should maintain regional peace and safeguard common security. Sustaining peace and security in this region is our common responsibility. China stands ready to work with all sides to implement the Global Security Initiative, promote the settlement of international disputes through dialogue and consultation, and encourage political settlement of international and regional hotspots, so as to forge a solid security shield in our region.

Third, we should focus on practical cooperation and expedite economic recovery. Promoting economic growth is a common task for all countries in the region. China stands ready to work with all sides to implement the Global Development Initiative, keep to the right direction of economic globalization, oppose protectionism, unilateral sanctions and the overstretching of national security, and reject the moves of setting up barriers, decoupling and severing supply chains. We should make the pie of win-win cooperation bigger, and ensure that more development gains will be shared more fairly by people across the world.

Fourth, we should strengthen exchanges and mutual learning and forge closer bonds between our peoples. All nations in the region aspire to see harmonious development of different civilizations. We welcome all sides to work together to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, promote inclusiveness and coexistence among all civilizations, and increase mutual understanding and friendship among all nations. Fifth, we should practice multilateralism and improve global governance. All countries in the region pursue fairness and justice. We should advocate the common values of humanity, uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law, and oppose hegemonism and power politics. We should make global governance more just and equitable, and advance modernization of the entire humanity through collective efforts to promote equal rights, equal opportunities and fair rules for all. We should support more SCO engagements with observer states, dialogue partners and other regional and international organizations such as the UN, and jointly promote world peace, drive global development and safeguard the international order.

The Chinese people are rallied behind the Communist Party of China to pursue Chinese modernization. It is the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development. With these main attributes, it has created a new form of human

advancement. China hopes to share new development opportunities with SCO members and all countries around the world through its achievements in modernization, and together make the world a better place.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110075/xi-urges-sco-to-protect-regional-peace-ensure-common-security-2/>

Pakistan's copper products exports to China cross \$485 million

In the first five months of 2023, Pakistan's copper products exports to China have crossed \$485 million. This noteworthy trade between the two nations highlights the growing demand for copper products in China and Pakistan's ability to meet this demand.

Speaking to Gwadar Pro, the trade and investment counsellor of the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir, said that the Pakistani government is eager to increase exports of copper and related products to China.

He added that copper exports to China have increased in recent years and he hopes that refined products of copper will increase the value of exports from Pakistan to China. He added that one of the biggest players in China's copper industry, Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC), operates in Pakistan and plays a very important role in the development of Saindak copper mines since 1995. "From January to May 2023, refined copper products in raw form, community code (74031900) generated \$201.098 million in sales, compared to \$244.62 million last year during the same period," he said. Similarly, unrefined copper, copper anodes for electrolytic refining, community code (74020000) reached \$167.21 million from January to May 2023, while it was \$134.32 million in the same period in 2022," Pakistani sources said. Muhammad Imran, an international trade expert, told Gwadar Pro that increasing economic ties between the two countries further underscore their commitment to promoting mutually beneficial trade relations. "Pakistan needs technology because mining and processing copper requires cutting-edge technology and expertise that Chinese companies have, and we need these things to improve our capabilities and export to the world," he added. He added that China was promoting imports from Pakistan and offering a preferential tariff rate of zero percent. Similarly, he said, Pakistan with large copper reserves can take advantage of mining these reserves with the help of Chinese expertise.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110200/pakistans-copper-products-exports-to-china-cross-485-million/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC Phase-II and China's Foreign Relations Law

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase-II has been initiated in the country in which the Chinese companies are not only helping Pakistan overcome its infrastructure problems but also investing in social development, skills and environmental protection in Pakistan. The Chinese companies not only helped create thousands of jobs but also invested in building the capacity of hundreds of engineers and staff members.

Most recently the Chinese Third Meeting of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress promulgated the new foreign relations law, empowering its political leadership and policy makers to mitigate emerging socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic spillover repercussions of the US and the West integrated and coordinated coercive measures against China. Thus it is a legal necessity to take all possible necessary countermeasures against these unjust sanctions and administrative actions being faced by its macro-economy, multinational companies and people alike. It lays the groundwork for further strengthening the longstanding friendship and strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

It is indeed a giant step towards promoting the rule of law domestically and in foreign affairs comprehensively and to strengthen legislation in the field of foreign affairs. It shows China's strong commitment to build a new model of international relations through following the UN core laws and basic charter and promote the spirit of mutual respect, equality and dignity for all nations. It is a legal cover/shield opposing designs of hegemony and imperialism in the world.

Moreover, the enforcement of this new law holds immense significance for Pakistan and China as it provides a comprehensive solid legal framework to further enhance bilateral relations, promote mutual interests and foster regional stability. This law offers a comprehensive future outlook on China-Pakistan relations, highlighting its potential to bolster cooperation in various fields and propel the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights. Therefore it would further expedite the speed and pace of the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

The world has become further complex and complicated and its canvass has also been blurred and bullied. The changing parameters of peace, progress, prosperity, cooperation and win-win propositions need drastic changes in the existing law of foreign affairs and the Chinese new foreign law is approved and implemented to streamline and systemize these modalities to safeguard its vested interests. The essence of this law is humanity and harmonious approach which should be jointly protected and promoted.

Unfortunately, the junta of hegemonic forces and activities of bullying against the weak through their conspiratorial schemes and obsessions of playing zero-sum games have already de-shaped spheres of cooperation in the world. The widening trust deficits in global peace, development, security and governance have worsened and human society is facing unprecedented challenges which should be rectified with rule of law in the world. Therefore, China's new foreign law is a right step in the right direction.

Obviously, both countries have mutual interest in regional stability, development, socio-economic prosperity and greater regional connectivity. The law reiterates China's commitment to upholding the One-China principle, recognizing Pakistan's unwavering support for China's core interests and territorial integrity. This mutual understanding and respect serve as the bedrock for deepening cooperation and fostering trust between the two countries which would further enhance the activities of CPEC Phase-II in the country.

It inevitably provides a strong guarantee for the rule of law to promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with the Chinese path to modernization. It is the first step towards plugging in flaws in the existing laws.

Unfortunately, China has been confronting with frequent interference in its domestic affairs, unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction by certain western hegemonic countries using legal means which encourages China to establish a comprehensive defence system and effective blocking mechanism through the shield of the rule of law in foreign affairs.

Hopefully the new law will safeguard its national sovereignty, security, and development vested interests and remove all barriers, capacity building deficiencies and insufficient institutional supply through newly promulgated and implemented new foreign law.

Additionally, it is a complete overhaul of the existing laws through new principles, balance/allocation of power, objectives, tasks, systems and guarantees for the development of foreign relations. Hopefully it will provide strong legal guarantees for the comprehensive promotion of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese characteristics.

It stands for just international law and global order. It will further enhance China's role in global governance. It will showcase distinctive Chinese characteristics of shared community development, peace, harmony, stability, bio-diversity, climate change and global development initiative, global security initiative and global civilizational initiatives at international stage. In summary, the newly promulgated and implemented Foreign Relations Law will introduce more legislation in the field of foreign affairs in the future, and further enhance China's ability to defend national and people's interests through the rule of law will continue to improve.

The CPEC, a flagship project under the BRI, has already brought substantial benefits to various sectors of the economy, boosting infrastructure development, energy cooperation and trade facilitation. Hopefully, the new law will be beneficial for the CPEC Phase-II finalizing more attractive mutually agreed proposals/projects, attracting more investment, promoting industrial cooperation and accelerating regional connectivity.

It enshrines China's basic right to impose countermeasures against actions that it deems a threat. It legitimatizes China's right to take corresponding countermeasures and restrictive measures against acts that violate international law and norms and that endanger China's sovereignty, security and development interests. It further strengthens its diplomatic struggle against sanctions, anti-intervention and long-arm jurisdiction and enriches the legal toolbox to safeguard national interest.

Last but not the least, it has a human face with a harmonious mind-set and legal shield to legally cope with the western illegal unilateralism, imperialism, hegemonic bloc mentality and exploitative socio-economic measures against China and developing countries alike.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-phase-ii-and-chinas-foreign-relations-law/>

Chinese Global Civilization Initiatives for Sustainable Development

Dr. Muhammad Shakeel Ahmad

“Countries need to uphold the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations and let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcends clashes and inclusiveness transcends any sense of superiority.” This is a philosophically-loaded statement given by Xi Jinping, proposing the Global Civilization Initiative at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting.

The Global Civilization Initiative, introduced by China’s President Xi Jinping, advocates for respecting the diversity of civilizations, highlighting common values, emphasizing the importance of cultural inheritance and innovation and promoting international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. The initiative aims to foster unity in diversity by integrating different cultures and heritages. It aligns with the idea that sustainable development involves the interconnectedness of cultural heritage, tourism, livelihood and overall societal progress.

The concept of the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) for sustainable development has gained significant attention in recent years, with China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) being notable examples. These initiatives aim to promote harmonious coexistence, mutual benefit and the integration of diverse cultures and heritages as crucial elements of sustainable development.

China’s BRI, often referred to as the biggest development project of the 21st century, encompasses various sectors of the economy. It emphasizes the principle of harmonious coexistence and mutual benefit with the goal of fostering cooperation and development among participating countries. The BRI recognizes the importance of cultural diversity and heritage as integral components of global civilization initiatives.

In addition to China’s initiatives, there have been other global civilizational initiatives throughout history. The Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia, Japan’s efforts in reshaping global heritage policy in the 1990s, the Nara Convention of 1994 focusing on cultural preservation, and the Silk Road project exemplify endeavors to connect the past, present and future through culture and heritage. These initiatives recognize the interlinkage between cultural heritage, tourism, livelihood and sustainable development.

The context of these initiatives is grounded in a civilizational perspective. President Xi Jinping’s announcement of the Global Civilization Initiative underscores the importance of international cooperation and reflects the tradition of leaders promoting concepts that offer appealing rhetoric while ultimately benefiting their own countries. The GCI asserts that peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom are universal aspirations. It emphasizes the need for countries to appreciate the diverse values of different civilizations and avoid imposing their ideologies or values on others, fostering ideological confrontation. China’s vision for building a shared future for mankind demonstrates their commitment to seeking common ground and reserving differences, promoting progress on a global scale.

The Global Civilization Initiative aligns closely with the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. The protection and preservation of cultural heritage are crucial in

achieving these goals. By recognizing the significance of cultural diversity and promoting international cooperation and exchanges, these initiatives contribute to sustainable development efforts worldwide.

Global Civilizational Initiatives (GCI) represent a new approach to international cooperation that is influenced by socialism with Chinese characteristics. In this analysis, we will examine how GCI aligns with certain principles associated with socialism and how it aims to counter the dominance of capitalist forces in global affairs. Furthermore, we will explore the notion that GCI promotes plurality, diversity and dignity among nations, thereby challenging the imposition of ideas and the exploitation of communities and resources.

The GCI framework emphasizes the idea that “common aspirations” are relative and should not be imposed on others. This approach is consistent with the principles of socialism which prioritize equality and reject the imposition of one set of values or models on diverse societies. By acknowledging the relativity of aspirations, GCI encourages mutual respect and cooperation among nations fostering an environment that promotes inclusivity and diversity.

One of the key motivations behind GCI is to counter the rising tide of capitalism and challenge the domination of a few ideas over many others. Capitalist forces often promote their interests and ideologies, leading to the exploitation of communities and their resources. GCI seeks to provide an alternative platform that champions equitable development, social justice and sustainable practices, countering the perceived negative consequences of unbridled capitalism.

GCI initiatives aim to pave the way towards a more pluralistic and diverse global landscape. By advocating for the rejection of imposed values and models, GCI supports the right of nations to determine their development paths based on their unique historical, cultural and socio-economic circumstances. This commitment to self-determination and respect for diversity ultimately contributes to the preservation and enhancement of human dignity on a global scale.

Imposing ideas on others can be seen as a form of intellectual and cultural colonization which often leads to the exploitation of communities and their resources. GCI’s rejection of such imposition aligns with the principles of socialism which condemn the exploitation of labour and resources for the benefit of a few. By promoting equitable cooperation and shared benefits, GCI seeks to mitigate the power imbalances that perpetuate exploitation and foster a more just and inclusive world order.

Global Civilizational Initiatives (GCI) reflect certain elements of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the 21st century. By advocating for relative common aspirations, challenging capitalist forces, promoting plurality and diversity and opposing the imposition of ideas, GCI aims to counteract the dominance of a few over many and promote a more equitable and inclusive global society. By emphasizing cooperation and respect for diverse development paths, GCI seeks to create a world that upholds the dignity and well-being of all human beings.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative and GCI play a vital role in promoting sustainable development. By emphasizing the integration of diverse cultures, respecting heritage and

boosting international cooperation, these initiatives contribute to a shared future for humanity. Through their alignment with the sustainable development goals, the Global Civilization Initiative can help achieve a more inclusive, harmonious and prosperous world.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-global-civilization-initiatives-for-sustainable-development/>

The Nation

Bilateral coop soars as first post-Covid parliamentary team goes to China

ISLAMABAD - The first post-Covid parliamentary delegation is likely to reach China today (Wednesday) to renew the commitment of both Pakistan and China to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation.

Under the leadership of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute will spearhead a prominent delegation of seven parliamentarians on a momentous journey to China, the first parliamentary delegation to visit China after the Covid crisis.

The significance of this visit cannot be overstated, as it underscores the commitment of both Pakistan and China to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation, according to a press release. It said his highly anticipated visit aims to foster robust parliamentary exchanges between Pakistan and China, while further deepening the mutual understanding and cooperation between the two nations. According to Senator Mushahid, the delegation, representing six political parties from all four provinces, is visiting China with a three-pronged purpose: to reaffirm Pakistan parliament's commitment to promoting Pakistan-China friendship as the pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy, to learn from the Chinese experience of development and modernisation with a view to imbibing lessons that can take CPEC forward in the new phase; and to exchange views with Chinese friends and counterparts on the rapidly changing situation in Pakistan's neighbourhood so that Pakistan and China can tackle common challenges collectively.

The parliamentarians include Mahesh Kumar Mallani, MNA and Minister of State for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination; Mohsin Dawar, MNA, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; Muhammad Abubakar, MNA, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs; Ghous Bux Khan Maher, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan; Dr Nisar Ahmad Cheema, Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Science and Technology, National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination; and Senator Sana Jamali, Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Power, National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Science and Technology, and Water Resources.

During their stay in China, the delegation will partake in a series of high-level meetings with senior officials of China's Foreign Ministry, the International Department of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee, deputies to the National People's Congress, and members of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and media and think-tanks for first-hand understanding of whole-process people's democracy. These discussions will delve into vital matters of mutual interest, charting a course for deeper collaboration in

several areas. Moreover, the delegation will also visit China Foreign Affairs University and Beijing Foreign Studies University, National Museum of China, and will meet business leaders and media personnel.

With a schedule packed with high-level meetings, visits to prestigious institutions, and interactions with business leaders and media personnel, this momentous journey promises to deepen collaboration and pave the way for a prosperous future of bilateral cooperation. The bonds between Pakistan and China are set to grow even stronger as this delegation embarks on this important endeavour of Parliamentary Diplomacy, said the press release further.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-05/page-3/detail-1>

Security wall of Gwadar Free Zone North 90pc completed

Gwadar - The construction of an eight-kilometer long security wall around the Gwadar Free Zone North (Phase II) is 90 percent completed, a landmark security project to secure the north and south sides of the Gwadar Free Zone North, which covers over 2,221 acres of land.

The 14-foot high security cement wall starts from the Gwadar Fish Harbour and ends at Koh-e-Mehdi, a famous mountain in Gwadar, approximately five kilometers from Gwadar Port.

The wall runs alongside the six-lane Eastbay Expressway. The ground-breaking ceremony for Gwadar Free Zone North Phase (II) was performed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on July 5, 2021, Gwadar Pro reported.

In addition to the security wall, Gwadar Free Zone North Phase (II) will be equipped with all necessary services, including telecom cabling, sewerage pipes, power transmission lines, road networks, and potable water supply lines.

The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) is responsible for providing these services up to the entrance of Gwadar Free Zone North. Inside the premises, China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) will execute the development.

After the completion of the security wall, two under-construction factories, “Agvon” and “Hang Geng,” are expected to commence their formal operations. Agvon is building a state-of-the-art Fertilizer Processing Plant on a ten-acre plot. Similarly, Hang Geng is constructing a pharmaceutical factory that will produce medicine from animal skins on its allocated ten acres of land.

Another company, Essatex Industries, has also entered into an agreement and been allocated one acre of land. Additionally, a yet unnamed company aspires to secure a 7.5 square kilometres allocation out of the total 9.3 square kilometres of Gwadar Free Zone Phase II.

Other companies that have signed lease agreements in Gwadar Free Zone North (Phase II) include Bari Textile, Addicon (an advanced engineering and construction company), HDL (Interland developer), and Concept Icon. Blue Moon, Trade Universal, and Idrees Steel have also inked agreements.

Gwadar Free Zone Phase II is designed to cater to the unique needs of manufacturing, trading, and service industries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-05/page-3/detail-10>

China, Pakistan jointly explore new path of silage harvesting, processing

BEIJING - China and Pakistan will step up efforts to jointly explore a new path of silage harvesting and processing in Pakistan, as the two sides agreed on a meeting held last Wednesday to promote the joint research and outcome commercialization of small and medium-sized silage harvesting equipment in mountainous and hilly areas of China and Pakistan.

At the meeting that took place in Lanzhou, China, it was announced that China will help Pakistan in the livestock sector by establishing a test and demonstration base, donating agricultural machinery and equipment worth 1.5 million yuan, and training a professional team for the R&D and design of silage harvesting and processing machinery and a group of technicians for the operation, use and maintenance of the machinery for Pakistan.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the project, undertaken by Gansu Academy of Mechanical Sciences Co., Ltd., aims to enhance the mechanized operation, efficiency and economic benefits of Pakistan's agricultural production, and the export competitiveness of its silage. Since the project was launched in 2018, the team has been studying the key technologies suitable for Pakistan in terms of silage harvesting and processing, sealing reliability of wrap film, mechanical properties of wrap film and shearing characteristics of corn.

So far, four kinds of harvesting and processing equipment suitable for silage production under different conditions in mountainous and plain areas of Pakistan were developed, namely, silage harvesting equipment, mounted silage harvester, efficient silage processing machinery, and silage strapping press baler. According to the requirements of silage production, two production lines were designed respectively for small-scale silage production in mountainous and hilly areas and large-scale silage production in plain areas.

“Mechanization in agriculture farm reduces cost by enabling efficient use of inputs including water, seeds, pesticides and fertilizers. It also reduces spoilage and harvest losses”, said Muhammad Ismail, ecosystem specialist at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an intergovernmental knowledge and learning center.

Following the meeting, Pakistani experts visited the agricultural machinery and equipment production base of Gansu Academy of Mechanical Sciences Co., Ltd., where the agricultural machinery and equipment to be demonstrated and promoted in Pakistan were displayed and introduced.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-05/page-8/detail-4>

The News

SCO summit

Pakistan has sent out a clear message during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address at the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS), virtually hosted by India: terrorism and extremism, whether committed by individuals, societies, or states, must be fought with full vigour and conviction. Responding to a veiled reference to Pakistan by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- who had said in his address that the SCO should join

hands to fight terrorism and not hesitate to condemn countries that supported terror -- PM Shehbaz in his address also advised that terrorism should not be used for diplomatic point-scoring and instead should be condemned "in clear and unambiguous terms". Pakistan has been facing a dire terror challenge for the past many years and has risen to it with bravery and resolve -- and also lost soldiers and civilians in the process -- which is why being alluded to as a terror-sponsoring state is not something that should be taken quietly.

This is especially important as only a few weeks back the US and India had in a joint statement during Modi's visit to America also stressed on "Pakistan to take immediate action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for launching terrorist attacks". Pakistan had rightly called out this one-sided and unwarranted targeting, particularly in light of an India reeling under Modi and the BJP's assault on fundamental rights and freedoms. There is little hope that PM Shehbaz's advice during the SCO summit that "religious minorities should never be demonised in the pursuit of domestic, political agendas" will be noted by India. But perhaps the US can ponder over this as it wines and dines Modi in a quest to counter China in the region.

Pakistan in the meanwhile has been unequivocally positive about its ties with China -- as it should be. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took the SCO address also as an opportunity to reinforce just how much Pakistan sees CPEC as a "game changer" for the entire region. Pakistan's Foreign Office has said that the prime minister's participation "illustrates the high importance that Pakistan attaches to the SCO, as an important forum for regional security and prosperity, and enhanced engagement with the region". The SCO, like the European Union, has the potential for a lot of multilateral actions between its Eurasian member states. Unlike Saarc, which has not had much success due to the hostilities between India and Pakistan, the SCO can still get many issues sorted because of China and Russia. Given our economy, it is important for Pakistan to look for regional cooperation, trade and connectivity to boost its exports. The SCO meet's New Delhi Declaration is a succinct agenda on what member-states are looking at: responding to global and regional security challenges and threats through political and diplomatic means on a multilateral basis; early settlement of the situation in Afghanistan (something Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also urged in his address, calling on stakeholders to continue their support to prevent a humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country); consolidating an open, transparent, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system; opposing unilateral protectionist behavior and trade restrictions that violate WTO principles; and cooperating across various domains such as politics, security, trade, economy, finance, investment and culture. There is little doubt that Pakistan at the moment needs to keep all avenues for trade, bilateral cooperation, as well as security cooperation open -- while also maintaining its dignity and sovereignty in the face of a belligerent regime in Delhi.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=216635>

July 06, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistan tells India to join CPEC, not create hurdles

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Wednesday asked neighbouring India to take benefit of the mega project instead of creating obstacles in its way.

Highlighting the significance of project, he said Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the whole region would also benefit from it. "CPEC is a beautiful plan to connect not only regions and areas but also people's hearts," he said in a statement issued by the PM Office. The prime minister vowed to double the pace of the development as it was not only for improving roads, rail, sea ports and air routes, but it would also help health, education and skill development areas, besides masses' participation in the process.

Terming it a game changer for the whole region, the prime minister said CPEC would have a positive impacts on the people's living standards in the region.

PM Shehbaz congratulated the leadership and the people of Pakistan and China on 10 years completion of CPEC, which was a new chapter of the evergreen and trusted strategic cooperative partnership between the two iron brothers.

He said the project was a tremendous example of great Chinese leader Xi Jinping and PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif's vision of "development for all".

"The Belt and Road initiative is the manifestation of Chinese President Xi's vision of peace, friendship, and economic partnership." He regretted that during the four years of previous government, hurdles were created in the way of the project, besides levelling baseless allegations against a great friend like China.

"The enemies of CPEC are against peace, development and prosperity in Pakistan and the region, as they do not want to eradicate poverty from the country," he added.

CPEC, he said, also initiated a new era of mutual partnership between Pakistan and China, and fortified their bilateral relationships. PM Shehbaz said CPEC encompassed multiple projects ranging from provision of water to education, and technical and skilled-based training. With the construction of nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs), new technology would be transferred to Pakistan, which would ultimately help increase local production, he said. The prime minister also highlighted the impacts of the project on the effectiveness of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and early warning system for natural disasters as they were parts of CPEC.

Similarly, he said, the agriculture related projects had also been included in CPEC to ensure food security. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion dollar projects. Addressing a ceremony here to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC, the prime minister said the mega project helped Pakistan progress in the region and the world.

PM Sharif said the country ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, including coal-fired power plants, the Orange Line mass transit project, and road infrastructure. “The CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China,” he said. Sharif recalled that in July 2013, then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Beijing, where he signed an agreement pledging to develop a long-term plan for the CPEC.

“On July 5, 2013, we witnessed the memorable signing ceremony of CPEC, where President Xi Jinping and PM Nawaz Sharif inked the milestone accord,” he said. Terming CPEC a “very transparent” project, the prime minister said the Chinese government and companies made investments of \$25.4 billion investment in various projects.

He said thousands of Chinese workers along with their Pakistani counterparts worked day and night to create a history of commitment and exuberance of goodwill between the two sides. He commended President Xi for his unstinted support of the CPEC for the well-being of the people of Pakistan. He also highlighted the dedication of Pakistan Muslim League leader Nawaz Sharif and his team including Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers, saying their great job would be remembered for all times to come.

Sharif expressed confidence that CPEC would make a big kickstart in various areas including agriculture, Special Economic Zones, Information Technology, and exploration of mineral resources. He regretted that the previous government created misconceptions about the project which resulted in its slow implementation. The prime minister thanked President Xi and the Chinese government for supporting Pakistan especially when it awaited the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He hoped that the agreement would be given final approval during IMF’s board meeting on July 12. Following the IMF deal, he said, Pakistan was secure after averting default and termed it an opportunity for the country to progress. “We need to work hard and save the poor people from inflation. Affluent need to play a role in this regard,” he said.

He pledged to fulfill the conditions of the IMF which were earlier violated by the previous government. He also acknowledged the financial support by China including the rollover of its loans and mentioned the backing by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Islamic Development Fund in helping Pakistan overcome its financial crisis. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Chinese Charge d’Affaires Pang Chunxue were present.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110670/pakistan-tells-india-to-join-cpec-not-create-hurdles/>

HEC, China Window arrange seminar to mark ten years of CPEC, BRI

Higher Education Commission (HEC) and China Window on Wednesday organized an international seminar titled “Decade of CPEC and BRI” to mark the ten-year completion of the project.

The event among others was attended by international delegates, investors, stakeholders, businessmen and people from a cross-section of society. Speaking on the occasion, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali paid tributes to Amjad Aziz Malik for organizing the event and said that we should analyze the factors that made China one of the growing economy of the world.

He said that we must revisit our policies and planning that negatively impacted the country's progress and development. "We must work in cohesion to lead the country on the way of progress", he said and added that "political parties of the country should also work to attain the goal of progress and prosperity".

KP Governor said that the business community should devise a comprehensive plan to benefit from CPEC and tap the potential of our talented youngsters for promoting business activities. He said that we must venture into new fields of emerging technologies and explore the opportunities in existing global scenarios. The seminar was also addressed by the caretaker information minister, Barrister Feroz Jamal Kakakhel who highlighted the importance of CPEC for Pakistan and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110423/hec-china-window-arrange-seminar-to-mark-ten-years-of-cpec-bri/>

Progress on CPEC restored within year: minister

Federal Minister Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said here on Wednesday that progress on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been put back at a position wherefrom the project would become a game-changer for regional development.

Addressing a ceremony here to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC, the minister said that unfortunately the project was scandalized by the previous regime and was totally ignored.

He said, even the investors left Pakistan which caused huge damaged to the game-changer CPEC project, the minister said adding that the incumbent government made efforts during the past one year and got the project back to rhythm.

"For last one year, we tried our best to get CPEC back to rhythm and gain investors' confidence," he said.

The minister said that \$29 billion projects under CPEC have either been completed or are nearing completion adding that next target was to promote industrial cooperation to open up new opportunities for Pakistan.

He said, CPEC was not given proper attention after 2018 and the projects that were left by the previous region during past four years were accorded priority during past one year by the incumbent government.

He said, the issues related to water and power at Gawarar port were resolved during the past one year to address the grievances of people.

He said, as envisaged, by 2030, CPEC would help bring revolution in agriculture, industry, technology sectors, create new opportunities for country's youth and get a deserving place for Pakistan in the region.

He recalled that ten years before, a MoU was signed in Beijing to strengthen economic relations between the two countries and help make Pakistan geo-economic hub by leveraging its geographical location and become centre for trade, commerce, manufacturing and agriculture centre.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110591/progress-on-cpec-restored-within-year-minister/>

Dunya News

Work in progress to expand CPEC as Pakistan eyes much-needed investment

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) – Both Islamabad and Beijing are eager to expand the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for albeit different reasons – the former in desperate need of foreign investment and the latter eyeing expansion in its geopolitical influence.

But the other nations – from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Central Asian Republics – too are showing interest. For the landlocked countries of Central Asia, it's an opportunity to minimise their dependence on Russia and seek other avenues.

On the other hand, the two rich Gulf states are aiming to slash the share of petro carbons in their GDP by not only by attracting foreign investment in their countries but also by investing in others. Thus by diversifying their economies in this manner, they are also enhancing the international clout and standing.

So this convergence of interests is making the CPEC an attractive deal for everyone and hence we have seen the existing players – China and Pakistan – working on third-party participation in the venture.

It is a not a surprise given the fact that the reports about billions of dollars in investment from Saudi Arabia and the UAE are no more a secret.

Last week, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had even advised India to take advantage of the prospects provided by the CPEC that is based open the very idea of regional connectivity – the very basic rule for any regional blocs, be it political or economic in its nature. The European Union is the best example in this regard.

The latest reports suggest that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has given its input for third-party participation in CPEC – which didn't have much progress and got much or less stalled since 2018 for a combination of internal and external reasons – after the Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination drafted the modalities on this subject.

In this scenario, there are two important events are coming up for Pakistan – the next meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) is scheduled in China on August 11 and the IMF's Executive Board will meet on July 12 in Washington for considering approval of \$3 billion under the Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) programme.

Pakistan really wants to see success in both cases as its economic revival depends upon dollar inflow which in turn is a product of the confidence of international players have in the country's political and economic system.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/738289-Work-in-progress-to-expand-CPEC-as-Pakistan-eyes-much-needed-investment>

The Nation

Pak-China friendship has overcome all challenges: Minister

Peshawar - Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, the Caretaker Minister for Information, Auqaf, Religious and Minority Affairs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressed the unwavering strength of the friendship between Pakistan and China, stating that it has successfully overcome all challenges. Speaking at a global seminar commemorating the 10-year milestone of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Kakakhel highlighted the significance of these projects for Pakistan's economic and social development.

He noted that the Silk Route was the precursor to the transformative CPEC project, which has seen the establishment of six major projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Kakakhel acknowledged delays in CPEC projects under the previous regime and called for collective efforts to remove obstacles and ensure their smooth progress. Stressing the importance of separating political issues from national development projects, he urged leaders to serve as a positive reflection of their nation.

Kakakhel also highlighted the need for a robust policy for overseas Pakistanis, which he had worked on during his tenure as a federal minister. He emphasized the necessity of sincerity in advancing the country and expressed concern over the erosion of culture and traditions in recent years. Additionally, he underscored the significance of providing the younger generation with the best education and environment to foster sustainable development.

The seminar, attended by delegates from China, investors, CPEC officials, students, and various professionals, emphasized the indispensable role of CPEC and the BRI in Pakistan's progress. Overall, Kakakhel's speech showcased the enduring Pakistan-China friendship, the potential of CPEC, and the importance of collaborative efforts for the nation's development.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Jul-2023/pak-china-friendship-has-overcome-all-challenges-minister>

Ahsan to visit China from 8th

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD-Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal is set to embark on a four-day official visit to China from July 8 to attend special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting to be held on July 11 to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative, Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday reviewed progress over the special 12th JCC to be held on July 11. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Ministry of Planning & Development Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Chief Economist

of Pakistan, who is also Executive Director of the CPEC, Dr Nadeem Javaid and representatives from all the relevant ministries and divisions were also present.

The meeting was told that CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity. Under the 10-year celebrations, several events are being conducted by the CPEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Planning Ministry which include international conference, academic sessions, cultural shows and others across the country. The upcoming visit of the planning minister will underscore the importance of Pakistan and China's relationship and their commitment to further strengthening their strategic partnership. During the visit, the planning minister will hold meetings with key Chinese officials. It is noted that since the government came into power in April last year, CPEC has been revived which remained halted by the previous govt. Several projects of power, infrastructure, water and others have been completed in Gwadar which are ready for the ground breaking.

While chairing the meeting to review progress over the special 12th JCC, the planning minister directed the relevant stakeholders to finalize the arrangements of the event. The minister also asked the relevant ministries to share their pending issues so that it can be taken up with Chinese authorities during the visit. The 12th JCC is a special event aimed to commemorate the decade of CPEC celebrations, said the planning minister, while appreciating the contribution of Chinese officials, workers to execute the CPEC during this whole journey which started from 2013 and still continues.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-06/page-9/detail-0>

Chinese company intends to establish state-of-the-art dairy farm in Punjab

LAHORE - As agriculture and livestock will remain among the targeted sectors during the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Royal Group of China intends to establish a state-of-the-art dairy farm in Punjab.

In this regard, a meeting between officials of Royal Group of China and Livestock and Dairy Department Punjab was held here on Tuesday, according to Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT)'s statement. The Secretary Livestock presided over the meeting aimed at establishing a cutting-edge dairy farm consisting of 500 animals in collaboration with Royal Group, reads the PBIT's statement, adding that the Livestock and Dairy Development Department expressed its full support in facilitating the export of dairy products in compliance with international standards.

PBIT pledged to assist Royal Group in finding local partners for joint ventures, particularly in the production of value-added dairy products. PBIT is also committed to supporting the export of dairy and meat products to China. "These endeavors represent a significant stride towards creating opportunities to initiate exports to China," according to the statement. According to Gwadar Pro, last year, a delegation of Royal Group comprising management and top scientists visited Pakistan to set up a buffalo embryo development facility in Lahore. As per the plan, the facility will use the highest quality of buffaloes and 50% of the

production of embryos will be used to meet local requirements while the rest will be exported to China.

Besides Buffalo Embryos Laboratory Project, Royal Group also plans for Buffalo Milk Deep Processing (milk powder, cheese, fresh milk, etc.). If materialized, the project will not only enhance the quality of buffaloes in Pakistan but also create thousands of jobs for the locals.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-06/page-9/detail-1>

The News

China asks Pakistan to get ML-1 financing in yuan

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: China has asked Pakistan to secure the financing of the multibillion-dollar Mainline-1 (ML-1) project in 100 percent Chinese currency RMB.

Earlier, Pakistan had floated the option to divide the financing of ML-1 on the basis of 50:50 percent in US dollars and Chinese RMB. However, China flatly refused to accommodate this demand and asked for the financing of ML-1 only in Chinese currency. Despite hectic efforts, the financing agreement of ML-1 could not be finalised in the last several years.

“Pakistan and China may move forward on this project in the upcoming Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting in China on July 11, 2023,” top official sources confirmed while talking to The News here on Wednesday.

China wants 100 percent financing of ML-1 in the RMB, streamlining of tracks and full control over the route and operation of ML-1 after its construction for a certain period.

The sources also said that the minutes of the last 11th JCC meeting held between Pakistan and China could not be signed. They have been pending due to non-confirmation of the safety and security sections.

Similarly, a project of Digital Terrestrial Multimedia Broadcast (DTMB) being developed by the Chinese side on a grant-in-aid basis at Murree, Cherat and Kala Shah Kaku is pending. The company had applied for NOC for access to these sites which is pending since December 2022. Due to the non-availability of NOC, technical teams could not visit the areas to carry out installation, commissioning and integration activities.

When contacted, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said: “It is an extraordinary JCC to celebrate the decade of CPEC. It will review the progress of the past ten years. We will have a discussion with Chinese NDRC and other departments separately.”

According to the official announcement, Ahsan Iqbal is set to embark on a four-day official visit to China from July 8 to attend the special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

On Wednesday, the planning minister reviewed progress over the special 12th JCC. It was attended by the Planning Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Chief Economist of Pakistan, who is

also Executive Director of CPEC, Dr Nadeem Javaid and representatives from all the relevant ministries and divisions.

It may be noted that since the government came into power in April last year, CPEC, which remained suspended by the previous government, has been revived. Several projects of power, infrastructure, water and others have been completed in Gwadar, which are ready for groundbreaking.

The 12th JCC is a special event aimed to commemorate the decade of CPEC celebrations, said the planning minister, while appreciating the contribution of Chinese officials and workers to CPEC during this whole journey, which started in 2013 and still continues.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=217291>

Express News

کیا سی پیک پاکستان کے لیے قرض کا جال ہے؟

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) صدر شی جن پنگ کے 1.4 ٹریلین ڈالر کے بیٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹو کے تحت اربوں ڈالر کے فلیگ شپ منصوبے کو شروع ہوئے: کراچی 10 سال ہو چکے ہیں۔ کیا سی پیک پاکستان کے لیے قرض کا جال ہے؟

یہ بہت بڑا پروگرام ہے، مارشل پلان سے بھی 11 گنا بڑا جس نے یورپ کو دوسری جنگ عظیم کے کھنڈرات سے دوبارہ تعمیر کیا، اس کا مقصد نئی سڑکوں، تیز رفتار ریل، پاور پلانٹس، پائپ لائنوں، بندر گاہوں اور ہوائی اڈوں کے ذریعے سلک روڈ کو بحال کرنا ہے۔

سی پیک ایشیا، یورپ، مشرق وسطیٰ اور شمالی افریقہ کے 60 ممالک کے ساتھ تجارت کو فروغ دینے کے لیے ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن روائٹ کا بھی اہم ذریعہ ہے۔ یہ ایک بار مکمل ہونے کے بعد دنیا کی نصف سے زیادہ آبادی کا احاطہ کر سکتا ہے اور 21 ٹریلین ڈالر سے زیادہ کی جی ڈی پی پیدا کر سکتا ہے۔

امریکی تجزیہ کاروں کو خدشہ ہے یہ ممکنہ طور پر عالمی جغرافیائی سیاست کے ساتھ ساتھ جیو اکنامکس کو بھی متاثر کر سکتا ہے اور امریکہ کو چیلنج کر سکتا ہے۔ ان خدشات نے مغربی میڈیا میں بحث چھیڑ دی ہے جس میں تجزیہ کاروں نے بی آر آئی یعنی سی پیک کو ایک قرض کے جال کے طور پر پیش کرنے کی کوشش کی جو ان کے بقول شکاری قرضے کے ذریعے ترقی پذیر ممالک کو غیر پائیدار قرضوں میں پھنساتا ہے۔

پاکستانی حکام کی جانب سے اس منصوبے کو گیم چینجر کے طور پر بیان کیا گیا جس کے بارے میں ان کا خیال تھا کہ یہ توانائی کے ایک پرانے بحران کو ختم کرے گا، پرانے ڈھانچے کی بحالی، صنعتی پارکس قائم کرے گا اور گوادر پورٹ کے ذریعے چین کے لیے ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ کے امکانات کو کھول دے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2507044/6/>

July 07, 2023

Daily Times

Chinese company adds visitors' attraction to picnic spot in Hala

Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Co. (PMLTC) has funded the installation of a retired F-7 fighter jet to enhance the appeal of the Mehran Paradise picnic point in Hala town, Matiari district, Sindh. This was announced by Syed Gulfam Kazmi, Chairman of the Civil Society Sindh (Hala), an organisation dedicated to improving tourist facilities at the famous picnic spot on the banks of the River Indus, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. PMLTC, owned by a

Chinese electric power company, constructed Pakistan's first High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line between Matiari and Lahore. Kazmi informed Gwadar Pro that PMLTC contributed Rs900,000 to the installation of the retired fighter jet, which was donated by the Pakistan Air Force.

He also stated that Chinese officials from PMLTC are expected to visit Mehran Paradise and announce further support for improving facilities at this popular recreational spot. As a token of appreciation for their support, the Civil Society presented a shield to a Pakistani official from PMLTC. The China-made F-7 fighter jets, a symbol of China-Pakistan defense cooperation, have long served in the Pakistan Air Force.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110914/chinese-company-adds-visitors-attraction-to-picnic-spot-in-hala/>

China-Pakistan EV Forum to accelerate industry cooperation

China-Pakistan EV Forum has decided to accelerate industry cooperation, China Economic Net reported on Thursday. "The New Energy Vehicle sector is one of the most promising areas of China-Pakistan cooperation. Chinese businesses are invited to invest in Pakistan's new energy vehicle industry to benefit from a large and growing market, as well as the incentives provided by the government," said Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai.

The China-Pakistan Electric Vehicle Industry Technology Service Cooperation Forum, hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and the ICT Belt and Road Union, took place on July 5. Deputy Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Nawab Ali Rahoojo, moderated the session.

To mark the 10th anniversary of CPEC, the CPEC Industry Chain Cooperation Platform was simultaneously launched.

The platform aims to build a comprehensive service system covering key industrial cooperation areas like new energy, intelligent manufacturing, and the digital economy between China and Pakistan.

Its main goal is to address information asymmetry, enhance international integrity, and promote practical cooperation to aid the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in reaching a higher level of development.

In her opening remarks, Zhao Baige, Vice Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Republic of China, noted that new energy vehicle technology has become an essential track for the fourth industrial revolution.

She stated that the growth of the new energy vehicle industry requires supportive policies and production. Zhao shared that China has been the world's largest producer and seller of new energy vehicles for eight consecutive years, with sales increasing over a thousand-fold from less than 6,000 in 2011 to 6.887 million in 2022.

After over a decade of development, China has established policy systems to support the rapid development of new energy vehicles in areas like development planning, consumption

subsidies, hedging policies, research investment, government procurement, and standard formulation.

Usman Ali, Manager (Policy), Engineering Development Board (EDB), Ministry of Industries & Production, Pakistan, presented on the incentives for electric vehicles in Pakistan under the Auto Industry Development & Export Policy (AIDEP). He stated that the policy includes incentives for electric vehicles such as 2-3 wheelers, cars, SUVs, buses, trucks, etc.

To promote EV manufacturing in Pakistan, the import of charging infrastructure attracts a 0% custom duty, and there is a 1% custom duty on EV-specific parts. The government also subsidizes registration fees for electric vehicles in all provinces.

Usman noted that Chinese brands such as Chery, MG, BAIC, DFSK, Chang'an, GWM, FAW, Foton, and others are already operating in Pakistan and are popular among the masses. China is leading the development of key technologies for electric vehicles, and Pakistan welcomes the investment of Chinese electric vehicle enterprises, as well as accelerating the roll-out of China-Pakistan new energy vehicle industry cooperation.

Nearly 100 representatives from China and Pakistan's new energy, technology, and transportation industries, industrial chain parts and components manufacturers' associations, and leading design and manufacturing enterprises, participated in the forum through on-site and video connections.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110901/china-pakistan-ev-forum-to-accelerate-industry-cooperation/>

Third parties welcome to benefit from CPEC opportunities: FO

Pakistan on Thursday reiterated that being an important node in cross regional connectivity, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was an inclusive and open platform for interested third parties to benefit from investment opportunities in its priority areas like industry, agriculture, IT, science and technology, and oil and gas sectors. The Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in her weekly press briefing, said that both Pakistan and China remained committed to continued expansion and development of CPEC to promote win-win connectivity, development and mutual prosperity.

“We will continue to push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner, promoting cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, health, and science and technology,” she remarked.

She said Pakistan and China were celebrating the 10th anniversary of CPEC which was an important pillar of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with China. The spokesperson recounted that the people of Pakistan had witnessed the remarkable achievements and fruits of high-quality development stimulated by CPEC since its inauguration in 2013.

“Under the first phase of CPEC, China invested around US\$ 25.4 billion in Pakistan, primarily in energy and transport infrastructure sectors. CPEC projects have added: 8000 MWs of energy to the national grid; 510 km of highways; 932 km of road networks; and 820

km of Optical Fiber Line. It has also created about 200,000 jobs in Pakistan,” she highlighted. Coming to the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said the people were prevented from participating in the Eid festivities as the occupation authorities barred the Eid prayers at the historic Jamia Mosque and the Central Eidgah in Srinagar. The head cleric of the Jamia Masjid and prominent Kashmiri leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, remains under arbitrary house arrest since August 2019.

“For over 200 Fridays, he has not been able to address the Friday congregations from the Jamia Masjid’s pulpit. We urge the Indian authorities to set Mirwaiz Umar Farooq free and bring an end to the restrictions imposed on Kashmiris that prevent them from freely practicing their religion.”

She told the media that the seventh martyrdom anniversary of iconic Kashmiri youth leader Burhan Muzaffar Wani would be observed on July 8.

“While paying homage to him as the voice of the indigenous freedom movement of the Kashmiri people, we once again urge the Government of India to bring an end to extra-judicial killings and desist from indiscriminate use of force against the Kashmiri people,” the spokesperson demanded.

Highlighting the diplomatic activities took place during the previous week, the spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch mentioned Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif’s participation in virtual meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State on July 4. In his remarks, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to the ‘Shanghai spirit’ and presented Pakistan’s vision for connectivity and regional cooperation as a vehicle for peace and prosperity. He stressed the need for collective action against terrorism, extremism, and separatism.

She also apprised the media of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari’s visit to Japan on July 1-4 where he held bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and called on Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan is currently in Türkiye for an official visit. On Wednesday, he led the Pakistan delegation at the sixth round of the Pakistan-Türkiye Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) in Ankara, the spokesperson added. During the visit, the two sides extensively discussed the entire range of bilateral cooperation covering political relations, trade, connectivity, defence, education, culture, and people-to-people contacts.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1110929/third-parties-welcome-to-benefit-from-cpec-opportunities-fo/>

CPEC signature project in China-Pakistan cooperation in new era: Wang Wenbin

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a signature project in cooperation between China and Pakistan in the new era and a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping a decade ago, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said on Thursday.

“CPEC is a signature project in China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era and a pilot project in the Belt and Road cooperation. This year marks its 10th anniversary,” he said during his

regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while addressing a ceremony to mark a decade of the signing of the CPEC framework, said that the CPEC has been playing a pivotal role in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape and the mega project helped Pakistan progress in the region and beyond.

The spokesperson said that with the CPEC as the center, the two sides have established a cooperation framework with ports and transportation infrastructure, energy and industry. The project has been flourishing and generated a large amount of direct investment, created many jobs and brought highways and power generation and transmission infrastructure to Pakistan and contributing to the country's development and regional connectivity, he added. Wang Wenbin said the two countries are also cooperating in agriculture, science, technology, information technology and social wellbeing.

“Going forward, we will continue to work for the high-quality development of CPEC and contribute to China Pakistan and regional development,” he added. It may be mentioned here that CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development and regional connectivity. Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1111049/cpec-signature-project-in-china-pakistan-cooperation-in-new-era-wang-wenbin/>

Pakistan Observer

MARITIME SECURITY OF CPEC

The importance of maritime trade has always been vital throughout history because the majority of the world trade passes through maritime routes. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Commonly just Maritime Silk Road or MSR, is the sea route part of the Belt and Road Initiative which is a Chinese strategic initiative to increase investment and foster collaboration across the historic Silk Road. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an extension to the proposed Silk Road. The MSR will look at smoother connectivity for trade and economy especially for energy security. It is a proven fact that maritime security is connected with the economic development of any state. Whenever politico-economic stakes are higher in any project the challenges will also be higher in proportion. Likewise, the maritime component of CPEC and Gwadar Port also faces a number of challenges and threats, not only due to local and regional environment but also owing to Chinese connection.

Gwadar Port is the pearl of the CPEC, which enjoys a unique geo-strategic location. On one hand, it is located astride the strategic Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf through which traverse the global maritime highways. On the other hand, it is also a stepping-stone for the energy-rich region of Central Asian Republics, to gain access to sea. Thus, Gwadar has the potential to become future hub with its dual role as a transshipment as well as a transit port. Now it is up to us to create essential facilities and infrastructure as well as ensure its maritime security so as to fully benefit from this tremendous economic activity.

For Pakistan, over 90% of our trade by volume is carried out via the sea. The quantum of this trade is likely to increase once the Chinese transit trade start coming through CPEC/Gwadar Port. CPEC is likely to provide further impetus for the development of our maritime sectors such as enhanced shipping and port activities, ancillary services, financial institutions, shipbuilding, ship repair, fisheries, coastal tourism, etc. Such a boom can lead to creation of business opportunities and employment prospects.

The unfriendly forces, however, would endeavour to disrupt the functioning of CPEC and Gwadar Port for which Pakistan will have to continue to maintain its guard. To this end, we need consistent long-term policies, enabling environment and diligent implementation of a well-thought-out plan including all important factor of maritime security.

There are numerous challenges that are faced by the maritime component of CPEC including Gwadar port. We already know that US and India are in strategic partnership to contain Chinese presence in the Indian ocean. So in pursuance of their strategy any initiative involving China will be viewed with apprehension. These challenges automatically put CPEC, particularly its maritime component under stress. Being a potential competitor to regional ports, the CPEC route and Gwadar Port project also face some challenges even from the neighboring friendly countries. These neighboring countries perceive Gwadar as a potential competitor to their well-established ports of Chahbahar, Sohar, Dukumand even Dubai, due to which, Gwadar faces unreceptive treatment from these countries. To further add the current security situation in and around Afghanistan restricts its transit potential to central Asian states.

The sea and the maritime environment provide ideal platform for nefarious elements for their movements for illegal activities like human, narcotics, and weapons smuggling, etc. At the same time, it provides easy access to launch any terrorist or sabotage activity across the littoral seas. The incident of USS Cole in the past is a case in point. Hiring of illegal services of such elements by the actors who intend to sabotage the success of CPEC and maritime activity across Gwadar Port cannot be ruled out.

The success of the CPEC and the Gwadar Port project is linked to the safe and secure maritime environment in our areas of interest. Pakistan Navy, which has been entrusted with this responsibility, has already adopted suitable strategies to deal with the potential challenges to the maritime component of CPEC including Gwadar Port to safeguard it against asymmetric threats. The deployment of naval assets will be commensurate to assessment of potential threats and increase in trade and associated activities on the port. An important strand of seaward defence and security is keeping maritime area of interest under continuous surveillance and monitoring that can help mitigate threats from non-state actors and help generate a timely and well-coordinated response.

Some of the recommended measures at national level would include enhancement of the capacity of Pakistan navy and other maritime security forces i.e. PMSA, promote Collaborative maritime security arrangements to ensure secure oceans and free flow of trade and undertake measures that can lead to sustainable and peaceful use of seas to foster prosperity in the region.

– The writer is a retired Commodore of Pakistan Navy and currently working with National Institute of Maritime Affairs as Director, Karachi; views expressed are his own.

<https://pakobserver.net/maritime-security-of-cpec/>

CPEC- 10 YEARS OF CHALLENGES, GROWTH, AND OPPORTUNITIES

2023 marks the 10th year of the Belt and Road initiative and its flagship project China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC). This landmark has been achieved at a time when countries across the world are facing difficulties to recover from the vulnerabilities of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change, unemployment, and depleting resources. However, despite these challenges and headwinds, trade between China and Pakistan has witnessed an increase with the new areas being explored especially in Agri-based products where sesame seed export surged by 50% on a year-on-year basis in 2022, seafood export grew by 40% in 2022 and Pakistan's rice exports to China crossed the historical figure of one million tons. Overall, Pakistan's export to China rose by over 35% from 2013 to 2022.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative in the past 10 years, 147 countries, accounting for two-thirds of the world's population and 40 percent of global GDP have signed on to projects or indicated an interest in doing so and China's investment in these countries has surpassed US\$ 50 billion and Chinese Companies have set up 56 economic cooperation zones in over 20 countries, generating billions of US dollar of tax revenue and over 400,000 jobs. Similarly, Under China Pakistan Economic Corridor numerous road networks have been established creating rural-urban synergy and the SEZs on these road links are finding new means to attract investments, especially in the post-COVID-19 scenario. In Pakistan, the CPEC initiative has created over 100,000 opportunities for employment, 6000 MW of electricity with over 800 Kms of transmission lines, and over 510 KMs roads creating rural-urban synergy and regional connectivity. It has helped Pakistan develop its Blue economy through Gwadar port and its connectivity with the hinterland through the western route and the rest of the world through the upcoming Gwadar airport which is being constructed with a Chinese grant of \$230 million and will be completed this year. The connectivity through optical fiber and through transmission lines is also helping Pakistan achieve the development targets for having an endogenous mechanism for sustainable economic growth. The CPEC projects are helping create favorable conditions for development, and broadening extensive consultation for the harmonizing policy with the view of "seeking a common ground".

Overall, The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the true manifestation of regional connectivity with the vision of improving people's lives by facilitating inclusive development and enabling mutual prosperity; thereby creating new markets, scaling up supply chains, removing bottlenecks for holistic development, ensuring energy security and creating millions of jobs for people in the region. Moving forward, Pakistan is trying to further improve the economic connections between the two nations and looks to Chinese FDI and industrial help for a road toward stability.

To benefit from all this, and moving forward in CPEC 2.0, Pakistan needs to prepare well as conventional wisdom may not come into play and novel ideas led by technology may help

address these challenges to attract investment flow. Importantly, Pakistan also has to accelerate SEZs development and attract investments in agriculture, Blue economy and technology including carrying out targeted reforms designed on economic rationale rather than political agendas to improve the business climate through the ongoing regulatory reform and to raise awareness of existing investment opportunities, remove bottlenecks, overcome negative perceptions and reduce information gaps while also focusing on existing investors and their concerns, especially in the energy sector. We also need to explore the opportunities in the CPEC long-term plan for supporting Pakistan's economic stability for which understanding the preconditions for investment is imperative including a strong rule of law to address major systemic disparities more effectively, as the absence of any of these critical aspects can hinder investment and enhancing the capacity of all stakeholders to provide Ease of doing business based on principles of good governance and absolute harmony are critical. A strong government role will also be required to closely monitor risks and initiate stimulus packages and improve productivity across connectivity and trade-related sectors. It is imperative that our vocational training centers and academic institutions are able to provide efficient and skilled manpower required to shoulder the task of transforming Pakistan into the future industrial and trans-shipment hub of the region for which the role of CPEC is becoming vital.

– The writer is a Projects Management specialist and is an Associate Professor at Bahria University and a Research Fellow at various institutions. He has served as a diplomat in China and has been a former CEO of KPBoIT & Project Director of the CPEC project at MoPDR. He can be reached at hdb4049@gmail.com

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-10-years-of-challenges-growth-and-opportunities/>

The Express Tribune

‘China-Pak have potential to cooperate in NEV sector’

Envoy encourages Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's growing NEV sector

SHANGHAI: Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai, Hussain Haider emphasised the immense potential for China-Pakistan cooperation in the New Energy Vehicle (NEV) sector. Speaking at the China-Pakistan Electric Vehicle Industry Technology Service Cooperation Forum on July 5, Haider invited Chinese businesses to invest in Pakistan's NEV industry, citing the country's large and expanding market, as well as the government's incentives.

The forum, hosted by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and the ICT Belt and Road Union, coincided with the launch of the CPEC Industry Chain Cooperation Platform, which aims to establish a comprehensive service system encompassing key areas of industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan, including new energy, intelligent manufacturing, and the digital economy.

The platform seeks to bridge information gaps, enhance international integrity, and promote practical collaboration to elevate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to new heights of development.

During her opening remarks, Zhao Baige, Vice Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Republic of China, highlighted the significance of NEV technology in the fourth industrial revolution. She emphasised that the growth of the NEV industry relies on supportive policies and robust production systems. China, being the world's largest producer and seller of NEVs for eight consecutive years, has implemented comprehensive policy systems to facilitate their rapid development, including planning, subsidies, research investment, and standard formulation.

Usman Ali, Manager (Policy) at the Engineering Development Board (EDB), Ministry of Industries & Production, Pakistan, discussed the incentives for EVs in Pakistan under the Auto Industry Development & Export Policy (AIDEP). To promote EV manufacturing, Pakistan offers a 0% customs duty on charging infrastructure imports and a 1% customs duty on EV-specific parts. Additionally, the government subsidises registration fees for EVs in all provinces.

The forum saw participation from nearly 100 representatives from China and Pakistan's NEV, technology, and transportation industries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2425070/china-pak-have-potential-to-cooperate-in-nev-sector>

The News

Modalities prepared for third-party participation in CPEC projects

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Amid Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer to India to get benefit from the CPEC, Pakistan and China have prepared draft modalities for third-party participation in CPEC projects.

Multibillion-dollar investment is expected from the Gulf countries into CPEC-related projects, especially into much-awaited Special Economic Zones (SEZs). But, despite the much-trumpeted CPEC, only 35 percent work has been achieved in Rashakai SEZs, while all other zones are yet to be completed.

Keeping in view the interests of Gulf countries, Central Asian Republics (CARs) and removing apprehension of the US and Western allies about CPEC projects, Islamabad and Beijing are discussing a broader framework for seeking international cooperation.

"The draft modalities for third-party participation in CPEC under the Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination have been devised, and inputs from all stakeholders is being sought by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," top official sources told The News on Thursday.

The CPEC got slowed down in the last five years owing to lingering geopolitics and financial constraints being faced by Islamabad. There is a dire need for in-depth policy prescriptions to steer the country out of the crisis mode.

Now, the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) is scheduled to meet in China on August 11. On the other hand, the IMF's Executive Board will also meet on July 12 this month in

Washington for considering approval of \$3 billion under the Standby Arrangement (SBA) programme for nine months.

The Board of Investment will have to speed up work on development of Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rashakai, Bostan and Dhabeji SEZs. The Gwadar Port Authority and Ministry of Maritime Affairs are also required to focus on the Gwadar Free Zone. Pakistan is also constructing two quarantine centres with Chinese grants in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Sindh for checking foot and mouth disease (FMD) before shipment of slaughtered animals' meats to China. Pakistani authorities expect such facilities would become operational within the next few months to exploit huge potential of meat exports to China.

Consultation process with the provinces is underway. Rough estimates suggest in the aftermath of quarantine facilities for checking FMD, the livestock and meat exports to China and other countries might bring billions of dollars.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=217501>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک اقتصادی، بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی، علاقائی روابط کیلئے اہم: احسن اقبال

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے 10 سال مکمل ہونے پر منعقد ہونے والے 12 ویں مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کے خصوصی اجلاس میں شرکت کریں گے۔ احسن اقبال 8 جولائی بروز ہفتہ کو چین کے چار روزہ سرکاری دورے پر روانہ ہوں گے۔ اعلامیے کے مطابق جے سی سی کا اجلاس 11 جولائی کو شیڈول ہے۔ یہ سال سی پیک کے لیے ایک اہم سنگ میل ہے کیونکہ یہ اقتصادی ترقی، بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی، اور علاقائی روابط کو فروغ دینے میں متاثر کن کامیابیوں کی دہائی کا جشن منا رہا ہے۔ 10 سالہ ساگرہ کے سلیل میں سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ ملک بھر میں مختلف تقریبات منعقد کرنے کے لیے منصوبہ بندی کی وزارت کے ساتھ تعاون کر رہا ہے۔ ان میں بین الاقوامی کانفرنسیں، تعلیمی سیشنز، ثقافتی شوز اور دیگر تقریبات شامل ہیں۔ دریں اثناء وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال نے گزشتہ روز یونیورسٹی آف ایجوکیشن کے مرکزی کیمپس ٹاؤن شپ، لاہور کی ترقی کیلئے ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن آف پاکستان پراجیکٹ کے تحت 1114 ملین روپے کی لاگت سے تعمیر ہونے والے اکیڈمک بلاک، سٹوڈنٹس سروس سنٹر، سٹوڈنٹس ہاسٹل، ہیلتھ اینڈ ڈے کیئر سنٹر اور پیچلر فیکلٹی ہاسٹل کا باقاعدہ افتتاح کر دیا۔ ان سہولیات سے نہ صرف ہزاروں طلبہ و طالبات بلکہ جامعہ کے اساتذہ و اسٹاف بھی استفادہ کریں گے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے جدید ترین سہولیات سے مزین سارٹ کلاس روم اور سنٹرل لائبریری کا بھی دورہ کیا۔ اس موقع پر ایک شاندار افتتاحی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا، جس کی صدارت یونیورسٹی آف ایجوکیشن، لاہور کے وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر طلعت نصیر پاشا (ہلال امتیاز، ستارہ امتیاز) نے کی۔ تقریب میں معروف علمی و سماجی شخصیات کے علاوہ جامعہ کے پروفیسر چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد ارشد، سینڈیکٹ ممبرز، اساتذہ، اسٹاف اور طلبہ و طالبات کی کثیر تعداد موجود تھی۔ پراجیکٹ کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ بلاشبہ علم ہی وہ خزانہ ہے، جس کے حصول کا نتیجہ سماجی، اخلاقی اور معاشی ترقی کی صورت میں رونما ہوتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-07/page-6/detail-0>

July 08, 2023

Daily Times

CPEC to promote growth, social prosperity: minister

Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the government was promoting China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC) to attain sustainable economic growth and social prosperity as envisaged by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the country.

Addressing a seminar on CPEC, organized by the Bahria University Islamabad, the minister said that CPEC was a mega-development project, which included developmental projects related to basic infrastructure, energy generation, Gwadar Port development and industrial cooperation. The minister said that the project which was started 10 years ago on July 5, 2013 which provided employment opportunities to millions of people across the country, besides speeding up the pace of development in various sectors of national economy.

The CPEC has made significant progress due to the vision of the leadership of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said adding that Gwadar, energy, infrastructure and industrial development projects were agreed upon during the visit of the Chinese President. He said that 11 working groups were established in the context of CPEC projects, adding that there were key achievements in the construction and development of Gwadar port, adding that the port was fully functional, Gwadar airport, hospital, sea water potable plant and other projects have also been built.

The minister said that the projects which were completed under CPEC were contributing in economic development and employment creation and played a key role in improving the lives of the people. He said that the One Belt One Road initiative promoted economic and maritime cooperation in the world. The first memorandum of cooperation of CPEC was signed on July 5, 2013, which was the story of Pakistan's development, he said adding that the previous government threw away this opportunity for development.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan had made a revolution in industrial development in the 60s, but later geographical and social inequality hindered the phase of development. He said that the competition in innovation, research and creativity was vital for sustainable economic growth and development. Despite the challenges, the government has successfully completed the CPEC projects within a year, he said and further acknowledged the valuable partnership between Pakistan and China which has enabled the successful implementation of CPEC projects and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation to maintain this momentum.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1111519/cpec-to-promote-growth-social-prosperity-minister/>

Chinese enterprises invited to invest in Pakistan's NEV industry

Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Hussain Haider has invited Chinese businesses and enterprises to invest in Pakistan's New Energy Vehicle (NEV) industry, which was one of the

most promising areas of bilateral cooperation, and to take benefits from a large and growing market and the incentives provided by the government.

Welcoming the participants at China-Pakistan New Energy Vehicle (Electric Vehicle) Industry Cooperation Seminar in Shanghai, he highlighted the importance of bilateral cooperation in the NEV sector. As part of the celebrations of the Decade of the CPEC and the efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation under BRI and CPEC, the Mission, in coordination with ICT Belt & Road Union Shanghai, organized the seminar.

During the seminar, the experts and representatives of companies in the NEV industry and government officials shared their insights on China's systematic advantages in EV and potential and opportunities for bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in view of its large market and key needs. Over 100 representatives from China and Pakistan in the new energy, technology, and transportation industries, industrial chain parts, manufacturers' associations, and leading design and manufacturing enterprises, participated in the forum through on-site and video connections.

China Economic Net (CEN) adds: In her opening remarks, Zhao Baige, Vice Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Republic of China, noted that new energy vehicle technology has become an essential track for the fourth industrial revolution. She stated that the growth of the new energy vehicle industry requires supportive policies and production. Zhao shared that China has been the world's largest producer and seller of new energy vehicles for eight consecutive years, with sales increasing over a thousand-fold from less than 6,000 in 2011 to 6.887 million in 2022.

After over a decade of development, China has established policy systems to support the rapid development of new energy vehicles in areas like development planning, consumption subsidies, hedging policies, research investment, government procurement, and standard formulation.

Usman Ali, Manager (Policy), Engineering Development Board (EDB), Ministry of Industries & Production, Pakistan, presented on the incentives for electric vehicles in Pakistan under the Auto Industry Development & Export Policy (AIDEP). He stated that the policy includes incentives for electric vehicles such as 2-3 wheelers, cars, SUVs, buses, trucks, etc. To promote EV manufacturing in Pakistan, the import of charging infrastructure attracts a 0% customs duty, and there is a 1% custom duty on EV-specific parts. The government also subsidizes registration fees for electric vehicles in all provinces.

Usman noted that Chinese brands such as Chery, MG, BAIC, DFSK, Chang'an, GWM, FAW, Foton, and others are already operating in Pakistan and are popular among the masses. China is leading the development of key technologies for electric vehicles, and Pakistan welcomes the investment of Chinese electric vehicle enterprises, as well as accelerating the roll-out of China-Pakistan new energy vehicle industry cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1111521/chinese-enterprises-invited-to-invest-in-pakistans-nev-industry/>

Pakistani brands attract visitors at Western China International Fair

A wide array of made-in-Pakistan products such as carpets, shawls and high-end jade handicrafts attracted visitors at the 19th Western China International Fair held in Chengdu, China from Jun 29 to Jul 3. Muhammad Kamil, a Pakistani exhibitor, is not new to the fair. During the five-day fair, he was impressed by the incessant flow of visitors lingering at his booth. Post-pandemic, the dynamism is all back. Visitors are showing a growing interest in products from Pakistan, especially the crafts made of jade and stone, he told China Economic Net (CEN). This year, I have witnessed and participated in several fairs and expos held in China. They have enabled more Pakistani products to be available to Chinese consumers, he added. The 36-square-kilometre Pakistan Pavilion is part of the Belt and Road International Cooperation Pavilion that was been set up to celebrate the 10th anniversary of BRI. As the first national-level major exhibition held in western China this year, the fair attracts the participation of more than 3,500 enterprises from 56 countries and regions, as well as over 60,000 honoured guests and merchants online and offline. A total of 700,000 people visited the fair either physically or virtually.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1111520/pakistani-brands-attract-visitors-at-western-china-international-fair/>

Dawn News

Ten years of CPEC

ISLAMABAD and Beijing are celebrating a decade of CPEC this month. Indeed, this decade has seen China become the biggest source of investment, loans and grants for, and the largest trading partner of, Pakistan. Islamabad has so far received \$25.4bn in direct Chinese investment in various transport, energy, and infrastructure schemes under the flagship connectivity and investment corridor project, part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. The CPEC-related investments are in addition to the huge loans and currency swap arrangement of CN¥30bn that Beijing has provided to Islamabad over the last 10 years to support its flagging economy, ease pressure on its weakening debt repayment capacity and reduce its dependence on dollars for trade to protect its forex reserves. The role played by China to help Islamabad avert a sovereign default was publicly acknowledged by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif the day after the IMF gave its initial nod to the new short-term \$3bn funding programme.

However, the CPEC initiative has not been without challenges and controversies. While the opacity around the award of contracts to Chinese firms without any competition, tax incentives given to them and high returns guaranteed for power generation projects under CPEC raised many an eyebrow in the media and business circles in the country, doubts raised by certain foreign elements led some to see the project as a debt trap. Most controversies around the transport and infrastructure initiative have receded with time, but concerns at the lack of transparency in the way the investment schemes are approved still linger. It was because of such concerns that we have not seen much development — greater bilateral cooperation in the industrial and agricultural sectors — in CPEC's second phase in the last five years.

The 10-year celebrations afford both countries an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved so far and chalk out the way forward for greater economic connectivity. Pakistan must tweak its outdated industrial and agricultural policies to attract Chinese investment and technology. This is of enormous importance for Pakistan, as it urgently needs to boost its productivity to increase its exports and bridge the widening trade gap, which is the main cause of its balance-of-payments crisis. We also need to close the trade deficit of around \$20bn with Beijing. That is not possible without quickly completing the special economic zones to convince Chinese firms to relocate their manufacturing facilities here for export back home and elsewhere in the world. Likewise, we need Chinese experience and technology for boosting our agricultural output in order to curtail rural poverty and create exportable surplus. At the same time, we should enhance our efforts to link Afghanistan and the Central Asian states and, if and when possible, India and other South Asian economies with this trade route to fully exploit CPEC's true potential.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1763530#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%20and%20Beijing%20are%20celebrating,largest%20trading%20partner%20of%2C%20Pakistan.>

Pakistan Observer

Govt to extend all possible support to Chinese investors to facilitate their investment in Pakistan: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned for the early formulation of a comprehensive policy to do away with the smuggling of tyres and spare parts.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Service Long March Tyres and Chaoyang Long March Tyres led by their Chairman Li Qingwen, also instructed the relevant authorities to take effective measures to curb the smuggling of tyres.

He told the delegation that being a time-tested friend, China always supported Pakistan like a brother in every hour of need.

He also assured the delegation that the government would extend all possible support to the Chinese investors to facilitate their investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister appreciated the delegation for their company's investment through a joint venture with Pakistan's renowned tyre manufacturing company.

The prime minister was told that tyres being manufactured by the plant established by Chinese investment were also being exported to the international market.

It was told that within a short span of a year, the company's tyres have created their space in the world markets.

The prime minister was told that the company would enhance tyres manufacturing to boost its exports to \$200 million annually.

The prime minister instructed the authorities to extend all-out support to the Chinese investors to uplift the tyre industry in Pakistan.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Pasha and other relevant officers attended the meeting.

<https://pakobserver.net/govt-to-extend-all-possible-support-to-chinese-investors-to-facilitate-their-investment-in-pakistan-pm/>

The Nation

China's Huazhong Agriculture University to collaborate with UAF

ISLAMABAD - The University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, and Huazhong Agriculture University in China's Hubei province will promote mutual cooperation to increase agricultural productivity by using innovative modern approaches.

For this purpose, the two universities will collaborate on ICT, drone technology, animal breeding, and modern technology for cotton, soybeans, and citrus fruits in the planned Pak-China Agricultural Technology Park at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

The objective is to achieve the goals of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

The statement was made by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan after a meeting with a delegation from Huazhong Agriculture University, China. The UAF provided an update on the meeting.

The VC mentioned that technology park to be established at the UAF would be a milestone in agricultural development in Pakistan. It would not only ensure an increase in production but also introduce new innovations, including value addition and precision approaches.

Earlier, the head of the Chinese delegation, Wu Yuelang, stated that a delegation led by UAF VC Dr Iqrar had visited Huazhong Agriculture University the previous month to identify areas for mutual collaboration.

Wu emphasised that the 9-member delegation from Huazhong Agriculture University, Hubei, represented a continuation of reciprocal mutual interest. He also mentioned that they had conducted a series of meetings with Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahu to explore ways to promote cooperation for agricultural growth and development.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-08/page-4/detail-0>

July 09, 2023

Daily Times

PTI scandalised CPEC: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday stressed the need for continuity of policies for progress and development of a country.

Launching a fresh salvo against the PTI, the PML-N minister accused PTI of scandalising the game changer project of CPEC. Corruption allegations were leveled against the project and the western media highlighted the controversial statements made the PTI leaders, he added.

Talking to a private news channel, Ahsan Iqba said Murad Saeed leveled baseless corruption allegation against him involving the CPEC and embarrassed the China's state owned company. Perhaps, it happened for the first time that a China's state-owned company issued a condemnation statement against the minister whom it was working with. He said that the PTI-led government had ruined the sentiment developed by PML-N by baseless allegations, delay in visa renewal of Chinese workers and other tactics. It is pertinent to mention here that PDM-led government has been blaming the former ruling party of persuading negative policies regarding mega projects and discouraged international investment. They had been claiming that work on the China-funded project, especially on CPEC had been halted during the PTI's tenure. The incumbent coalition government led by the PML-N has constantly criticised the PTI for not working on CPEC.

Addressing a ceremony to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC a few days earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the mega project helped Pakistan progress in the region and the world. He regretted that the previous government created misconceptions about the project which resulted in its slow implementation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1111620/pti-scandalised-cpec-ahsan-iqbal/>

Naqvi outlines steps for people welfare with cooperation of China

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has said that Chinese language had become an international language and learning of language by personnel of Special Protection Unit (SPU) would enhance their communication skills.

A launching ceremony of Chinese language course for the officers and personnel of the SPU held at the Al-Razi Hall Punjab University on Saturday where the CM and Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren were chief guests. The officers and personnel of the SPU would learn Chinese language under the initiative and the course would continue till September 16. The CM thanked the Chinese Consul General for starting the Chinese Language learning programme for the officers and personnel of the force. SPU was rendering valuable services for the protection of foreign citizens especially for the Chinese brothers. Naqvi outlined that the government would take more steps for the welfare of the people of the province with the cooperation of China. Consul General Zhao Shiren while addressing the ceremony acknowledged that the Punjab government was taking measures for further cementing bilateral relations. The Chinese language course for the officers and personnel of SPU held a special significance.

Inspector General Police Usman Anwar, Vice Chancellor Punjab University Doctor Khalid Mehmood, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), DIG SPU Tayyab Hafeez Cheema, CCPO Lahore, Deputy Consul General Chinese Consulate, teachers imparting training to learn Chinese language, officers and personnel of SPU were present. Delegation discusses increase in textile exports with CM: A delegation of renowned an international textile brand, Primark, met Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office in which matters pertaining to increase in textile exports were discussed.

Provincial Industries Minister SM Tanvir, Chief Secretary and Chairman P&D gave a briefing to the delegation. Industrialist and leader of APTMA Group Gohar Ejaz apprised the

delegation about steps being taken to enhance cotton production in Punjab. It was informed during the briefing that farmers were being granted incentives and support price for excellent cotton production in the province. Effective steps have been taken for the elimination of substandard seeds and pesticides for the procurement of quality cotton. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi speaking on the occasion, stated that planning was being made for the provision of electricity to the industry at a reasonable price in Punjab adding that all institutions were on the same page for the promotion of industry and trade.

He assured that all possible facilities would be provided to the industry for the enhancement of exports in Punjab. He welcomed Primark delegation on their arrival in Punjab. The delegation comprised John Stephen, Mathew Rhodes, Siddique Bhatti, Habib Anwar and Amir Fayyaz. Secretary Energy, Secretary Industries, CEO Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) and concerned officials were also present on the occasion. CM grieved over loss of lives: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of human lives due to fire eruption in a passenger van in tehsil Bhalwal of Sargodha. The CM expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the heirs of the deceased. He directed to provide best treatment facilities to the injured. He directed Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Sargodha to immediately reach the accident site and investigate the incident.

CM inspects water drainage process in city: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited different areas of the provincial metropolis in rain on Saturday and inspected water drainage process at Kalma Chowk Underpass, Garden Town, Gulberg, Liberty, Jail Road, Mozang, Qartaba Chowk, Shakra-i-Fatima Jinnah, Lawrence Road. Mohsin Naqvi expressed his satisfaction over water drainage work in the city. He inspected the under-construction water drainage at the Kalma Chowk Underpass and issued directions for its early completion.

Mohsin Naqvi met the workers busy in water drainage at the underpass and commended them for timely draining out water. He directed that water drainage on the Gaddafi Stadium to Liberty road should be ensured at the earliest. The caretaker CM acknowledged the services of the Lahore district administration and WASA for working in a proactive manner, adding that relevant teams were present in the field. CCPO Lahore also accompanied the caretaker CM.

SMBR visits flood monitoring control room at PDMA offices: Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) and Relief Commissioner Punjab Nabeel Javed visited the Control Room of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) here on Saturday to assess the monitoring of the potential flood situation. PDMA Director General Imran Qureshi and other officials briefed the visiting official about preparations to address the recent rainfall and the potential risk of floods. He highlighted that more rainfall was expected in various cities of Punjab till Sunday, and currently water flow in rivers was within normal limits.

He cautioned that in the event of water release by India, there is a possibility of floods in the rivulets, connected to Ravi and Chenab rivers. Additionally, due to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas, watercourses may also face the risk of flooding. The DG emphasised that if the water flow reaches 600,000 cusecs, 62 locations in the Gujranwala division may be affected by floods.

Relief Commissioner Nabeel Javed stressed the importance of effective monitoring from the Provincial Control Room and reiterated the need to constantly update line departments. He emphasised the vigilance required in monitoring the flow of water in rivers and canals and issued instructions to deputy commissioners and others across the province, emphasising the need to ensure proper drainage of water in the field during rainfall. He urged them to be present in the field and utilise all available resources. Additionally, districts prone to hill torrents were instructed to make necessary arrangements and ensure timely response in emergencies. Adequate equipment for flood management has been provided.

The relief commissioner directed all districts to finalise arrangements for establishing relief camps, while the health, livestock and other departments should complete their preparations for the same. Rural reporting centers, including District Emergency Operation Centers, have been put on high alert. He concluded by stating that PDMA and other departments are capable of effectively dealing with emergencies.

All machinery activated in Lahore to drain out rainwater: Local Government & Community Development Secretary Dr Irshad Ahmad has said that monsoon rains are occurring in various districts of Punjab and the department has activated its machinery for on-time water drainage.

He was chairing a video-link meeting with the chief officers regarding the arrangements made for monsoon rains on Saturday. He noted that the department had taken proactive measures by mobilising its complete machinery for efficient drainage operations. Across all divisions, including Lahore, a total of 1,245 dewatering sets have actively been functioning. In addition, there are 1,081 tractors, 671 trolleys and 115 jetting machines deployed in the field, he added. Furthermore, 129 sucker machines and 472 fog machines are actively involved in the drainage operations, while 1,044 spray pumps have been fully activated to tackle heavy rainfall. It is essential to utilise all available resources effectively to drain out water from low-lying areas, he stressed.

Regarding drainage arrangements, Dr Irshad said that the local governments had taken timely action to clean the drains and repair any damaged machinery. These preparations would now play a crucial role in managing the monsoon rains. The chief officers should maintain a close liaison with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority and the district administration to effectively address any emergencies that may arise, he concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1111546/naqvi-outlines-steps-for-people-welfare-with-cooperation-of-china/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC to change Pak economic outlook, unleash era of uplift: Ahsan

China determined to continue partnership with Pakistan in all spheres: Chunxue BU, NIMA organize seminar marking 10th anniversary of CPEC

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Friday heaped praise on the Chinese government for showing understanding of the economic turmoil Pakistan was faced with recently and for rolling over loans worth billions of dollars.

China is our all-weather friend and moved to support Pakistan at a time when no country was willing to invest here. We are thankful to the Chinese leadership that despite an orchestrated propaganda and negative campaign against the China Pakistan Economic Corridor during the previous government's period, it patiently waited till the situation turned favourable and the project is now back on track with full speed and capacity.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed these views while addressing an international seminar titled 'CPEC—The Road to Prosperity & Growth Amidst Challenges' jointly organized by the Pak China Study & Research Centre of Bahria University and the National Institute of Maritime Affairs with support and partnership of HBL and Pakistan Observer.

Acting Ambassador of China Ms Pang Chunxue graced the seminar as Guest of Honour and delivered a keynote address on the occasion.

Rector of Bahria University, Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq, Director General, NIMA Vice Admiral (R) Ahmed Saeed, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China Masood Khalid, CEO & President of Habib Bank Ltd Muhammad Aurangzeb and Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Observer Mr Faisal Zahid Malik also addressed the event.

A message of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also read out on the occasion commending the efforts of BU and NIMA for organizing the seminar on an important subject. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haq also addressed the seminar via video-link.

Ahsan Iqbal was of the view that the seminar was taking place at an historic occasion as recently, both Pakistan and China celebrated 10th anniversary (July 5, 2013) of the first Memorandum of Understanding signed on the CPEC which is the flagship project of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).

CPEC, he said, with an investment of over US \$46 billion brought promise of economic prosperity, peace and stability for Pakistan at a time when investment was a far cry and the country was passing through the worst financial challenges.

Ahsan Iqbal recounted that President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in April 2015 on the invitation of the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and both the countries formally unveiled the multi-billion dollars project.

China's decision to select Pakistan for investment catapulted the world's conventional opinion about Pakistan and there was a beeline of international investors, foreign mission and multinational companies seeking to partner in this multi billion project, he said.

However, Ahsan Iqbal regretted the change of government in 2018 proved detrimental and the projects that were going at a fast pace and were near completion came to a sudden halt.

However, history has now bestowed us with another chance and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government after taking charge resumed the stalled work and now the CPEC is about to enter its second phase i.e. business-to-business cooperation, said Ahsan Iqbal who is leaving for China on Saturday (today) to discuss the second phase of the project. He also paid compliments to Charge d'Affaires Acting Ambassador Ms Pang Chunxue for vocally advocating the CPEC on all forums.

CPEC he said would not only address our energy crisis, it would also bring industrial growth. The other two equally important components are logistic development (of over 3,000km roads and connectivity network) and Gwadar Port which is already in operational stage.

Acting Ambassador of China Ms Pang Chunxue while appreciating the BU and NIMA for inviting her said CPEC was a landmark project of Belt and Road Initiative. “This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC. Over the past ten years, under the guidance of the leaders of our two countries, CPEC has made outstanding contributions to Pakistan’s economic and social development. Its great achievements have attracted worldwide attention,” she said.

In April 2015, President Xi visited Pakistan and the two sides agreed to promote a “1+4” pattern of economic cooperation featuring a leading role of the CPEC and four key areas including the Gwadar Port, Energy, Transportation Infrastructure and Industrial Cooperation.

Since then, the large-scale construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been accelerated, said she adding, up to now the building of CPEC has achieved many fruitful results in all four aspects and has expanded to a total of 11 working groups as entering the second phase of high-quality development. CPEC has become an important platform for all-round cooperation between China and Pakistan.

With the joint efforts of China and Pakistan and the support of the Navy and the Ministry of Planning etc., the construction of Gwadar Port has made tremendous progress, said the acting ambassador adding, the Gwadar Port has achieved full operational capacity doing well in transit trade with Afghanistan.

“This year is a fruitful year for Gwadar Port and the New Gwadar International Airport, the Desalination Plant and the Pak-China Friendship Hospital will be completed one after another this year. Now with economic free zone booming and infrastructure completing, Gwadar is making steady progress towards the goal of a logistics hub and an industrial base, and will exert greater vitality in promoting regional economic development and connectivity, said she.

The year 2023 also marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative put forward by President Xi Jinping, said the Chinese acting ambassador. BRI cooperation has made positive contributions to economic development, employment, and improvement of people’s livelihood in all countries, and has become a popular international public goods and international cooperation platform.

Statistics show that 151 countries and 32 international organizations have joined the initiative. It has generated nearly a trillion U.S. dollars in investment, established over 3,000 cooperation projects, created 420 thousand jobs along the routes, and helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty, she concluded.

Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Observer Faisal Zahid Malik said over the years, CPEC has emerged as a beacon of progress, regional connectivity, and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

It has laid the foundation for a comprehensive partnership that extends beyond mere infrastructure development, encompassing diverse sectors such as energy, industry, agriculture, and human resource development, he said.

CPEC's achievements are a testament to the vision and unwavering commitment of both the Pakistani and Chinese governments, he said adding, through their strategic planning and concerted efforts, major milestones have been accomplished, including the successful completion of infrastructure projects, the establishment of economic zones, and the creation of thousands of jobs for our people.

Pakistan Observer, said Mr Faisal Zahid Malik, has always played a crucial role in strengthening Pakistan-China relations and highlighting the significance and benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

My late father, the esteemed late Mr. Zahid Malik (Sitara-i-Imtiaz), founder of the Pakistan Observer, recognized the need for greater efforts in consolidating and strengthening the Pak-China relations, said Faisal Zahid Malik.

Ambassador Masood Khalid was of the view that with Ahsan Iqbal at the helm of affairs, CPEC was in safe hands. CPEC when launched, back in 2015 was something beyond our expectation particularly in its scale and size, the ambassador admitted frankly.

The Chinese companies with the support and blessing of both the governments rolled out a huge cycle of economic activity and a floodgate of opportunities—jobs, construction of roads, power projects, hospitals, schools, industrial units, etc—was opened.

Unfortunately, that momentum was broken with the change of the government as doubts were created on the transparency of the project.

However, again our time-tested friend proved quite up to the mark and instead of pulling out remained steadfast in its commitment to Pakistan, said Ambassador Masood.

Rector BU Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khaliq and DG NIMA Vice Admiral (R) Ahmed Saeed held the CPEC as a game-changer project not only for Pakistan but for the whole region.

CEO of HBL Muhammad Aurangzeb said his bank was providing services to over 25,000 individual Chinese customers and more than 600 corporate clients.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-change-pak-economic-outlook-unleash-era-of-uplift-ahsan/>

Chinese language learning vital to improve communication skills: CM

Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has said that Chinese language had become an international language and learning of language by personnel of Special Protection Unit (SPU) would enhance their communication skills.

A launching ceremony of Chinese language course for the officers and personnel of the SPU held at the Al-Razi Hall Punjab University on Saturday where the CM and Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren were chief guests. The officers and personnel of the SPU would learn Chinese language under the initiative and the course would continue till September 16.

The CM thanked the Chinese Consul General for starting the Chinese Language learning programme for the officers and personnel of the force. SPU was rendering valuable services for the protection of foreign citizens especially for the Chinese brothers.

Naqvi outlined that the government would take more steps for the welfare of the people of the province with the cooperation of China. Consul General Zhao Shiren while addressing the ceremony acknowledged that the Punjab government was taking measures for further cementing bilateral relations.

The Chinese language course for the officers and personnel of SPU held a special significance.

Inspector General Police Usman Anwar, Vice Chancellor Punjab University Doctor Khalid Mehmood, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), DIG SPU Tayyab Hafeez Cheema, CCPO Lahore, Deputy Consul General Chinese Consulate, teachers imparting training to learn Chinese language, officers and personnel of SPU were present.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-language-learning-vital-to-improve-communication-skills-cm/>

CPEC benefits belie propaganda

THE data released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry has effectively negated the propaganda against different aspects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and instead highlighted its immense benefits to the economy of Pakistan. As per details given by its spokesperson, CPEC attracted \$25.4 billion in direct investment in the 10 years since its launch in 2014, created 192,000 jobs for locals, generated 6,000MW of electricity, gave 510 kilometres of highways and expanded the national transmission network by 886 kilometres.

The CPEC projects were originally valued at \$46 billion which increased to \$53 billion, their value rose to \$62 billion in 2020 and by 2022 China's approved financing for projects in Pakistan jumped to \$65 billion. We have been emphasizing in these columns, time and again, that the Chinese collaboration enabled Pakistan to initiate and envisage plans and projects in areas, which the country could not undertake for decades due to lack of resources. The network of international standard roads connecting erstwhile inaccessible regions and speedy completion of power projects have created economic opportunities in different parts of the country and mitigated woes of the power consumers. The completion of the Gwadar project would help realize the dream of making the port a hub of regional trade and investment while establishment of special economic zones would contribute to the cause of industrialization. The upgrading of ML-I and cooperation in science and technology as well as agriculture would go a long way in fostering growth and development. More importantly, China has expressed its readiness to partner with Pakistan to enhance the development of CPEC, following important agreements between the leaders of both countries which aims to promote high-quality development, benefiting China, Pakistan, the region and all the nations involved. One hopes the Government coming into power after next elections would strive hard to exploit the full potential of cooperation with China under the framework of CPEC because of its demonstrated capability to accelerate the pace of progress in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-benefits-belie-propaganda/>

July 10, 2023

Business Recorder

Third-party participation

CPEC: draft modalities finalized

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has finalized draft modalities for third-party participation in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to attract investment from countries or entities other than China, well-informed sources in Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives told Business Recorder.

This was disclosed at a CPEC progress meeting presided over by the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, convened to finalized agenda for 12th Special Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on CEPC meeting on July 11, 2023 in Beijing. Iqbal will lead Pakistan's team. The purpose of this meeting is to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of CPEC.

In June 2022, MoFA had imposed a ban on announcements regarding inclusion of third party in CPEC projects on the pretext that both Pakistan and China have already decided to refrain from making public announcements in this regard.

However, now the government is finalizing its plan to attract investment from third party or parties to CPEC projects. A couple of days ago Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered India to take advantage of CPEC infrastructure project instead of creating hurdles in its way.

“Ministry of Foreign Affairs apprised that draft modalities for third-party participation in CPEC under Joint Working Group on international cooperation and coordination have been devised and shared with all stakeholders for input,” the sources added.

Minister for Planning, sources said, directed CPEC Secretariat to get is approval before sharing input draft modalities with MoFA.

Board of Investment (BoI), sources said, briefed the meeting that about 800 acres of land in Bostan SEZ is encroached upon. It was decided that the Government of Balochistan will take immediate actions to get the land vacated so as to ensure development of Bostan SEZ on envisaged 1000 areas.

Minister for Planning expressed serious reservations on delay in floating of Request for Proposal (RFP) for feasibility study of Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone despite issuance of authorization of the project in early May 2023. He directed BoI to immediately advertise the RFP.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research stated that the feasibility study for the development of an FMD free zone in South Balochistan is currently underway and is expected to be completed within one month.

Government of Punjab has also taken the initiative to develop an FMD free zone in the Cholistan area.

According to sources, Power Division informed that they have approached their Chinese counterpart for meeting of the Joint Energy Working Group (JEWG) but their response is still awaited.

The meeting decided that Pakistani Mission in China will facilitate the holding of JEWG on priority basis.

The issue of No Objection Certificate (NOC) of Chinese Personnel for implementation of DTMB-A project also came under discussion at the meeting.

It was informed that the project is being developed by Chinese side on grant-in-aid basis at three different sites of Pakistan including Murree, Cherat and Kala Shah Kaku.

The company applied for NOC for the three selected sites access, which is pending since December 2022. However, due to non-availability of NOC the technical teams could not visit the sites to carry out installation, commissioning and integration activities.

The representative of Interior Ministry informed that they have received the security clearance for second and third batch from security agencies on July 4, 2023 and they have already started the process for approval and issuance.

The sources said that Conveners of the respective JGWs will attend the 12th JCC meeting in person particularly the Conveners of the JGWs on Energy, Industrial Cooperation and Transport Infrastructure.

Pakistani Mission in Beijing will coordinate the meetings of the JGWs Conveners from Pakistani side with their respective counterparts on the sidelines of the JCC meeting for resolution of pending issues and way forward.

Pakistani Mission is also coordinating with National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) for participation of ex Co-Chairman of JCC meetings along with former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan in 2013 Sun Weidong in the 12th Special JCC meeting.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/10/1-page/966919-news.html>

PTI condemns Ahsan for making ‘absurd’ statement regarding China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Information Secretary Raof Hasan lashed out at Ahsan Iqbal, over his statement that China warned establishment against ‘new experiment’ before 2018 polls, saying that his outburst was a shameful example of sacrificing Pakistan and its interests for personal and group interest.

The PTI Central Information Secretary (CIS), in his reaction, strongly condemned the federal minister for his ‘senseless’ statement against the most trusted and time-tested friend like China.

However, Raof Hasan said that it was nothing new, as these ‘cabal of crooks’ always used national interests as an excuse for promoting and safeguarding their vested and personal politics interests.

He stated that the state of Pakistan was a captive of the misguided narratives of ‘politically active criminal professional families’. During the PTI era, this criminal group continued to target the CPEC through its false statements in total disregard of their negative ramifications, he added.

Raof Hasan stated that China’s senior diplomat in Pakistan had to appear before the media to expose their lies.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/10/3-page/966932-news.html>

Trade with China crosses ‘psychological barrier’ of \$20bn: FPCCI

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), has apprised that bilateral trade volume of Pakistan with China has crossed the psychological barrier of \$20 billion and stood at \$20.8 billion in FY22; and, China has emerged as the most important source of investments into Pakistan’s energy and infrastructure sectors. In fact, China is the most reliable economic partner of Pakistan, he added.

It is pertinent to note that Yang Yundong, Consul General of China in Karachi, assured the business community of Pakistan of his full support in forging B2B cooperation to further enhance trade, investments and economic relations.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stressed that despite continuous investments by China, Pakistan is still facing a trade imbalance with China; with imports from China showing an upward trend, as opposed to the downward trajectory depicted by Pakistan’s exports.

FPCCI Chief stated that, in 2021, Pakistan’s exports to China stood at \$3.04 billion, a major share of which was by cotton (\$826.32 million), copper & copper products (\$790.27 million), cereals (\$382.368 million), oil seeds (\$152.97 million) and fish, crustaceans & related products (\$161.217 million).

Sheikh explained that potential Pakistani products that have the following potential to increase Pakistani exports to the Chinese market include: different varieties of rice (\$1.12 billion), medical or surgical instruments (\$400.27 million), apparel & clothing (\$873.77 million), leather & leather products (\$176.43 million), cement & associated products (\$147.75 million), undenatured ethyl alcohol (\$164 million), fish, crustaceans & related products (\$157.14 million); polyethylene terephthalate (\$140.82 million) and mangoes (\$20.94 million).

Jawaid Ilyas, Chairman of FPCCI’s Pakistan–China Business Council, proposed that, under the massive relocation of many labour-intensive industries out of China, they can prioritize Pakistan as their new destination. Pakistan has a 64 percent young population; and, abundant labour force as a result. This will help Pakistan a great deal through industrialization; transfer of technology and employment generation.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/10/12-page/967007-news.html>

Sino-Pak cooperation: JCC meeting to explore new avenues

BEIJING: The Special Commemorative 12th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is to be held on Tuesday in Beijing, as the two countries celebrate a decade of achievements linked to the project.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal who will lead the Pakistani delegation, said before his departure for China that the two sides will explore new avenues of cooperation and chart the future course for the CPEC in emerging sectors during the meeting, Global Times reported.

This year marks a decade of the CPEC.

The landmark project was formalized on July 5, 2013, when the then prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif visited China to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pakistan and China representing the official commencement of the project.

The CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in south-western Pakistan with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which encompasses energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

The 12th Special CPEC JCC meeting holds great significance as it not only represents a decade of fruitful collaboration but also sets the stage for the next phase of the project.

The meeting aims to forge stronger ties, explore new opportunities and reinforce the foundation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). —APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/10/16-page/967025-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC's projects attract \$25.4b of direct investment during last 10 years

The projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are flourishing all across Pakistan and have attracted US\$25.4 billion of direct investment from China during the last 10 years.

“After ten years of development, a “1+4” cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas,” according to a senior official of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The projects under the CPEC framework have created 192,000 jobs, producing 6,000 megawatts of electric power, building 510 kilometers of highways and adding 886 kilometers to the core national transmission network, he added.

Terming the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor a signature project of China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era, he said that it is an important project under the Belt and Road Initiative.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC. After ten years of development, a “1+4” cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas.

The CPEC has made a tangible contribution to the national development of Pakistan and connectivity in the region. China and Pakistan have also explored new areas for cooperation under the framework of CPEC, creating new highlights in cooperation on agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication, and people's well-being.

“China stands ready to work with Pakistan to build on the past achievements and follow the guidance of the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries on promoting high-quality development of CPEC to boost the development of China and Pakistan and the region and bring more benefits to the people of all countries,” the official said.

In a recent statement, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said that the CPEC has been playing a pivotal role in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape.

The implementation of a number of multi-billion-dollar development projects under the CPEC has brought socio-economic benefits to Pakistan and helped the country progress in the region and beyond, Shahbaz Sharif said while addressing a ceremony to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

Over the past 10 years, the CPEC has gathered momentum unheard of in Pakistan's economic history with complete support from the Chinese leadership, the prime minister said.

He said that the pace of work on the CPEC projects will be further expedited in the coming days, and the cooperation between the two countries is being enhanced in various areas including agriculture, special economic zones, information technology, and exploration of mineral resources.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1112068/cpecs-projects-attract-25-4b-of-direct-investment-during-last-10-years/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC projects rapidly ushering Pakistan's development landscape

Experts on Sunday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects.

Talking to media in connection with the completion of 10 years signing of CPEC, the experts opined that the mega project helped Pakistan making progress in the region and the world. The experts said the country, during the last one decade has ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, which included coal-fired power plants, the Orange Line mass transit project, and road infrastructure.

Dr. Nadeem Javaid Chief Economist and PD CPEC said that it was worth welcoming that the synergistic convergence of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative and former Prime Minister

Nawaz Sharif's vision is going to transform Pakistan into an Asian tiger by 2025. This collective vision aimed to shift the nations focus from geopolitics to geo-economics, harnessing Pakistans strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East, he said.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-projects-rapidly-ushering-pakistans-development-landscape/>

Pakistan not under burden of Chinese debt

Pakistan under the burden of Chinese debt is not a true statement. Considering all the funds that China has provided to Pakistan, including the safe deposits, it amounts to approximately 20 percent. "And as I mentioned, most money came as a swap. They are reserves in Pakistani banks to avoid default.

The rest are concessional loans trying to help us create economic opportunities for more financial resources and revenue, which will help to avert our debt crisis, says report carried by Xinhua. Our real problem is the foreign debt from the Western financial institutions. Pakistan cannot pay them back because they are high-interest loans. Some of them, like private debt, are even higher," said Ramay. "Pakistan also sold bonds in the Western market at a higher rate. Those all are causing real problems for Pakistan. Take the textile industry.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-not-under-burden-of-chinese-debt/>

The Nation

Qureshi terms Ahsan's statement about China, CPEC unfortunate, irresponsible

ISLAMABAD - Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Shah Mehmood Qureshi has termed the statement of PML-N leader and Minister Planning Ahsan Iqbal pertaining to China and CPEC unfortunate and irresponsible.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said that the insinuation that our iron brother would interfere in our domestic affairs was baffling and insulting.

Shah Mehmood said that with PTI, there has always been strong consensus on taking CPEC forward, and under Imran Khan's leadership they successfully implemented the important projects, deepening Pakistan's commitment to CPEC under the PTI government. Faisalabad Rashakai Industrial zones were made operational during PTI government and the Dhabaji Industrial zone was finalised, which was under construction, he revealed.

Similarly, PTI Vice Chairman said that IT Science and Technology and Agriculture. Three new joint working groups negotiated and added in second phase of CPEC. He recalled that all power plants under construction were completed; Power generation projects were completed and added to transmission project.

Qureshi further stated that the highway construction more kilometres completed under PTI Government, Western alignment was finalised and work was accelerated on it. Moreover, PTI Vice Chairman said that Gawadar Industrial Zone was expanded and made operational.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-10/page-2/detail-8>

CPEC projects rapidly ushering development landscape: Experts

Lahore - Experts said that the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was playing a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion-dollar projects.

Talking to APP in connection with the completion of 10 years signing of CPEC, the experts opined that the mega project helped Pakistan making progress in the region and the world.

The experts said the country, during the last one decade has ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, which included coal-fired power plants, the Orange Line mass transit project, and road infrastructure.

Dr Nadeem Javaid Chief Economist and PD CPEC said that it was worth welcoming that the synergistic convergence of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's vision is going to transform Pakistan into an Asian tiger by 2025.

This collective vision aimed to shift the nation's focus from geopolitics to geo-economics, harnessing Pakistan's strategic location as a crossroads between South Asia, Central Asia, China, and the Middle East, he said.

The goal was to establish Pakistan as a regional hub for trade, commerce, manufacturing, and agriculture, he said, adding that the CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China.

Through industrial diversification, the long-term economic development of any country is dependent upon its productive material capabilities and the types of products which it produces for exports.

To a query Nadeem said that even, South- East Asian countries are now gradually moving up the industrial ladder and have developed capabilities for production of more complex and sophisticated products, which are much in demand in the global markets.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) former president Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo told APP that in the prevailing situation, industrialisation has the potential to become a dynamic engine of economic growth for the country, adding that it would help make significant contributions to meeting Pakistan's economic and human development goals.

Regarding development of industrial sector and Vision-2025, he said that Pakistan's economic planning and policies should be formulated under a long-term productive development vision and modern technology capabilities in the sectors where there is a high scope of diversification and innovation, which would be attractive for the investors.

He appreciated the incumbent government for announcing the main pillars of GDP growth for the next fiscal year, including exports, construction, industries, agriculture, IT, poultry and foreign remittances.

In terms of geo-economic growth and regional connectivity, China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is also a blessing for Pakistan's extensive industrial revitalisation, as well as for other regional countries in South Asia, he remarked.

Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Hashim Raza, while commending the vision and efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, told APP that an effective policy amid the prevailing situation. He said it is good omen that the government came up with an immediate planning on swift work on CPEC which will further boost up and save both the industry and the worker.

Hashim Raza lauded the government for boosting exports and industrial production to a considerable level. Through industrial diversification, the longterm economic development of any country is dependent upon its productive material capabilities and the types of products which it produces for exports.

Even, South-East Asian countries are now gradually moving up the industrial ladder and have developed capabilities for production of more complex and sophisticated products, which are much in demand in the global markets, he added.

It is worth mentioning here that Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal in his recent media brief has said that after the consistent efforts of the federal government, the fruitful results of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC in (CPEC) projects particularly in Gwadar can be seen visibly from 2022 to till date 637,124 metric ton cargo have been landed in Gwadar which is high as compared to 2018 -2021 which was only 166,207 metric ton.

Ahsan Iqbal lauded the swift completion of delayed projects within one year under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership.

Notably, he highlighted the resolution of unrest in Gwadar by addressing issues of electricity and water.

Through the construction of dams and desalination plants, Gwadar is now self-sufficient in water for the foreseeable future. Additionally, the transmission of electricity projects, as well as the connection of Gwadar with Iran and national- grade projects, were successfully completed within a year.

The minister emphasised that such accomplishments demonstrated the previous neglect of CPEC and the urgent need for attention.

He expressed optimism regarding recent efforts to restore confidence among Chinese companies and address economic challenges faced by these enterprises.

Meanwhile it may be mentioned here that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif recently said that the last ten years were an inspirational story of how President Xi Jinping's vision of "Iron Brotherhood" converted into the completion of projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

On his Twitter handle, the Prime Minister also praised the leadership role of his Quaid (former prime minister) Mian Nawaz Sharif in this regard.

“I am witness to how he oversaw the project implementation in energy & infrastructure sectors, spending hours on fine-tuning the details, reviewing progress & ensuring timelines,” he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Jul-2023/cpec-projects-rapidly-ushering-development-landscape-experts>

The News

Ahsan says his statement about China taken out of context

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal in a statement on social media said that his statement about China in a TV interview was out of context and needs clarification.

In a tweet, he said, “My statement about China in a TV interview is out of context which needs clarification. China maintains a policy of non-interference in domestic affairs of other countries.

“Some senior businessmen working on CPEC projects privately expressed the opinion that fair and free election was in the best interest of Pakistan to ensure continuity. As by March/April 2018, it had become abundantly clear and was being openly discussed in international media that establishment of that time didn’t want PMLN govt to return & was helping PTI to come into power through interference in electoral process.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=218356>

PTI rejects Ahsan’s ‘irresponsible’ statement about China, CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan has lashed out at Ahsan Iqbal for his statement that China warned the establishment against a new experiment before the 2018 polls.

He said on Sunday the minister’s statement was a shameful example of sacrificing Pakistan and its interests for personal and group interest.

In his reaction to the minister’s statement, he strongly condemned the remarks, calling them senseless against the most trusted and time-tested friend like China.

However, Raouf said that it was nothing new, as these cabal of crooks always used national interests as an excuse for promoting and safeguarding their vested and personal politics interests.

He said the state of Pakistan was a captive of the misguided narratives of the politically active criminal professional families. He charged that this man was insane who made a shameful attempt to accuse China of meddling in Pakistani politics in order to add weight to his false narrative.

During the PTI era, he claimed this criminal group continued to target the CPEC through its false statements in total disregard of their negative ramifications. Raouf said that China’s senior diplomat in Pakistan had to appear before the media to expose their lies.

PTI CIS said that the ‘puppet prime minister’ should explain to the nation about the statement of his long-tongued, lying and conspiratorial minister. He went on to say that the prime minister should tell the nation that on whose blessing and instructions, efforts were being made to involve a trusted friend like China in internal politics.

Taking to his Twitter handle, PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi called the incumbent minister’s statement “unfortunate and irresponsible”.

Giving details about the CPEC projects completed in the party’s tenure, Qureshi said, “With the PTI, there has always been strong consensus on taking CPEC forward, and under Imran Khan’s leadership we successfully implemented the following projects, deepening Pakistan’s commitment to CPEC under the PTI government.”

He added that the Faisalabad Rashakai Industrial zones were made operational, and the Dhabeji Industrial zone was finalised, which is under construction.

The PTI leader, whose government was toppled via a vote of no-confidence in April 2022, said that science, technology and agriculture — three new joint working groups — negotiated and added in phase II of CPEC in their tenure. “All power plants under construction completed; power generation projects completed and added transmission project,” he added.

In addition to this, the former foreign minister said that the PTI-led government had constructed several highways.

“Western alignment was finalised, and work accelerated. Gwadar Industrial Zone expanded and made operational,” the PTI leader highlighted.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=218357>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری مشترکہ رابطہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس کل بیجنگ میں ہو گا

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کی مشترکہ رابطہ کمیٹی (جے سی سی) کا 12 واں یادگاری اجلاس (کل) منگل کو بیجنگ میں منعقد ہو گا۔ وفاقی برائے منصوبہ بندی و ترقی احسن اقبال اجلاس میں پاکستانی وفد کی قیادت کریں گے۔ چین روانگی سے قبل اپنے ایک انٹرویو میں وفاقی وزیر نے کہا ہے کہ اجلاس میں دونوں ممالک تعاون کی نئی راہیں تلاش کریں گے اور سی پیک کے تحت ابھرتے ہوئے شعبوں میں مستقبل کا لائحہ عمل طے کریں گے۔ اس تاریخی منصوبے کو 5 جولائی 2013 کو اس وقت رسمی شکل دی گئی جب پاکستان کے اس وقت کے وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مفاہمت کی ایک یادداشت پر دستخط کرنے کے لیے چین کا دورہ کیا جس سے اس منصوبے کا باضابطہ آغاز ہوا۔ سی پیک ایک ایسی راہداری ہے جو جنوب مغربی پاکستان میں گوادر کی بندرگاہ کو شمال مغربی چین کے صوبہ سنکیانگ کے شہر کاشغر سے جوڑتی ہے، اس راہداری منصوبہ میں توانائی، ٹرانسپورٹ اور صنعتی تعاون شامل ہے۔ مشترکہ رابطہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس بہت اہمیت کا حامل ہے کیونکہ یہ نہ صرف ایک دہائی کے نتیجے میں تعاون کی عکاسی بلکہ اس منصوبے کے اگلے مراحل کا احاطہ بھی کر رہا ہے۔ اجلاس کا مقصد دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مضبوط تعلقات استوار کرنا اور تعاون کے نئے مواقع تلاش کرنا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-10/page-1/detail-13>

July 11, 2023

Daily Times

Mushahid lauds Chinese media for promotion of Pak-China friendship

Chairman, Senate's Defense Committee, Mushahid Hussain Syed has paid rich tributes to the China Media Group's Urdu service for playing an important role in the promotion and development of China-Pakistan friendship.

"My first contact with China was also due to the Urdu service of Radio Peking. Today, when there is a lot of news and information everywhere, China Media Group's Urdu service is playing an important role in the development of relations between the two countries," he said in an interview with China Media Group's Urdu Service. Mushahid Hussain Syed has recently led a high-level parliamentary delegation to China.

While talking about the important measures proposed by the President of China Xi Jinping, Belt and Road Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, he said that these initiatives will help mankind in the present era and provide sustainable solutions. He said that the way China under the leadership of President Xi Jinping helped and guided the world, especially in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, is admirable. The changes that the world is witnessing today are the major changes that have occurred in the hundred years. They can be countered only through collaborative thinking, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation. Unilateralism, protectionism, and factional politics have no place in today's world.

He said that Pakistan's great philosopher poet Allama Iqbal had predicted the leadership role of China in his poems a hundred years ago and today it is proving to be true under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that President Xi Jinping has always talked about dialogue between civilizations, mutual respect and learning from each other. The best way to deal with the challenges facing the world today is to respect each other, respect the development path chosen by all countries and abandon the Cold War mentality.

He said that the present century is the century of Asia and Asia is offering solutions to the problems faced by the world under the leadership of China. China is promoting peace in the world and the Chinese diplomacy under the leadership of President Xi Jinping brought great news to the world at the beginning of the current year. Diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran have been restored through the mediation of China. The Arab League looks united once again. The President of Palestine has been invited to visit China and the voice of Palestine has been strengthened.

In addition, Chinese Foreign Minister visited Pakistan and started a new era of friendly neighbor diplomacy between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan and between China, Pakistan and Iran which will start a new era of development and stability in the region. He said that today, it is a matter of happiness that the decisions of Asia are being made within Asia.

In this way, a successful meeting of Central Asian states was hosted under the leadership of China. China is not only promoting peace and development in the region, but is also playing its role in solving the problems faced by other countries and regions of the world. China is also playing a positive role in Russia-Ukraine conflict resolution.

Mushahid Hussain Syed described the Chinese-style modernization as an excellent development model. He said that in China's development journey, all people are taken forward, the best example of which is China's glorious victory in the war against poverty. Mushahid Hussain Syed said that thanks to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, there has been remarkable progress in the fields of infrastructure, energy, employment, health and education in Pakistan in the last ten years.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1112542/mushahid-lauds-chinese-media-for-promotion-of-pak-china-friendship/>

CPEC lays solid foundation for Pakistan's future development: ambassador

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has changed Pakistan's infrastructure layout and laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's future development.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan in 2015, the two countries signed more than 50 cooperation agreements and launched a number of projects such as energy, transportation infrastructure and port construction under the CPEC framework, he told People's Daily in an interview.

He said that the power generation and distribution projects launched and completed by Pakistan and China have greatly alleviated Pakistan's power shortage and enhanced Pakistan's trade and investment image. By the end of 2022, the CPEC had directly created 236,000 jobs.

Terming Gwadar Port as the pearl of the CPEC, which is crucial to Pakistan's economic transformation, he said that this year, many key projects, including New Gwadar International Airport, will make important progress. The new projects will accelerate the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Trade Area.

Ambassador Haque said that the second phase of the construction of the CPEC has been launched, which will strongly promote the cooperation between the two countries in industry, science and technology, agriculture and other fields.

The CPEC is of great significance to Pakistan's economic development and social progress, which is the general consensus of all sectors in Pakistan, he added.

During Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif's visit to China in November last year, he stressed that Pakistan is willing to work with China to continue to promote the high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative. The two countries also signed the China-Pakistan

Industrial Cooperation Framework Agreement, which has injected new impetus into Pakistan's industrialization, he said.

Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan fully supports China's Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative, because it is in line with our foreign policy goals of maintaining world peace and development, as well as the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and is conducive to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Pakistan is one of the countries that took the lead in cooperating with China on the implementation of global development initiatives, focusing on cooperation in the fields of economic and social development, poverty alleviation, health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, sports, culture and human resources development.

"We believe that this will further strengthen the all-weather strategic partnership between Pakistan and China," he added. Pakistan welcomes the Global Security Initiative Concept Document released by China, supports the settlement of all outstanding disputes through dialogue, and is willing to resolve all outstanding disputes that hinder the development and progress of South Asia through dialogue, he added.

He said that many countries, including Pakistan, have experienced devastating floods, earthquakes and other disasters this year. The solidarity of the international community to provide help to the people of these countries is strong proof that human solidarity and cooperation can transcend narrow geopolitics.

As China's good neighbour, good friend, good partner and brother, Pakistan will always stand with China to jointly promote world peace and development and jointly promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1112742/cpec-lays-solid-foundation-for-pakistans-future-development-ambassador/>

Pakistan Observer

'Chinese Girl's Adventures in Pakistan' screened at Aiwan-e-Quaid

Pakistan's rich, diverse culture jointly documented by CMG, 101 Friends of China

China is Pakistan's all-weather, 'iron' friend and both the countries are linked in a bond of friendship that spans over decades and travels through generations.

These views were expressed by the speakers at the screening of a short documentary film titled "Threads of Friendship: A Chinese Girl's Adventure in Pakistan" screened at the Aiwan-e-Quaid on Monday.

The event was held to celebrate the 10-year milestone of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. The documentary is in fact a joint venture of the China Media Group (CMG) and 101 Friends of China, an Islamabad-based mega strategic think-tank founded by the late Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Observer, Zahid Malik (Sitara-i-Imtiaz) in 2014.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (Minister of State) on Interior Affairs, Jawad Sohrab Malik was the Chief Guest on the occasion while among the noted guests who attended the show included Press Attache of the Embassy of China Mr Liu Chang, Vice-Chancellor of the Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU), Prof Dr Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, Vice-Chancellor, National Skills University, Prof Dr Muhammad Mukhtar, CEO of Pakistan Observer and Vice Chairman 101 Friends of China Mr Faisal Zahid Malik, DG National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Vice Admiral (R) Ahmed Saeed HI(M), and former Project Director (PD) China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Hassan Daud Butt.

In the 22-minute short film, Director of the China Media Group (CMG) Urdu Service, also known as the China International Radio Urdu Service, (FM 98 Dosti Radio) Noreen (Chinese name: Hu Pingping) has successfully tried to explore various layers of the ancient, rich, diverse and unique culture of Pakistan. She has started her journey by visiting Faisal Masjid giving some useful information about its architecture, design and historical perspective. She also visits the Pakistan Monument, Saidpur Village, Rawal Lake and the National Incubation Centre. "Pakistan" in her words "is a country full of wonders." At the closure of the documentary she says, "My journey has just started and soon I shall be back with more such captivating sights."

The audience that included a large number of the Pakistani and the Chinese viewers applauded as the short documentary progressed and admired her for portraying an enlightened, peaceful and moderate Pakistan in her documentary. Her command of Urdu and ease of using the right Urdu word at the right place is simply amazing, said Fatima, one among the audience.

In the words of the moderator and co-producer, Fahd Gauhar Malik, the screening exemplified the power of video-sharing and communication that enabled us all to delve deeper into the nuances of Pakistan's customs and traditions through the lens of our Chinese friends.

"During the four weeks of recording and while working with Noreen we always found her full of energy and passion to film the 'real potential' of Pakistan's tourism sector and to attract the local as well as foreign tourists to this land of peace, harmony and diversity," said Fahd Malik.

Chief Guest on the occasion SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik commending the work of the CMG and 101 Friends of China held Pakistan has always valued its friendship with China. Pakistan's tourism sector indeed carries a huge potential that must be tapped and Noreen and Fahd through the documentary have tried to reflect that. Dr Hassan Daud Butt in his speech shared his experience of the Chinese people's hospitality and love for the Pakistanis and held that he felt the same feeling of sincerity and camaraderie in the 'Chinese Girl's Adventures in Pakistan.' Noreen, he said, has become a household name in Pakistan because of FM9 8 Dosti Radio and a large number of the Pakistani people are tuned to its transmissions.

While thanking the audience, Noreen said she planned to do more such documentaries on Pakistan's sites that have not so far been discovered. To a question, she said wherever she went for the sake of the documentary she found the Pakistani people very kind, helpful,

cooperative and hospitable. A certificate was also presented to Noreen in recognition of her great work.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-girls-adventures-in-pakistan-screened-at-aiwan-e-quaid/>

2nd Chinese Language Program launched for SPU

An around 10-Week 2nd Chinese Language Program has been launched for Special Protection Unit (SPU) personnel in Punjab.

The first Chinese Language Program for SPU, Punjab was launched in 2019. In post-Covid-19 scenario, it is now the second program that has been organized by the Chinese Consulate Lahore on the proposal of the Chief Minister of Punjab.

An inaugural ceremony was held by Chinese Consulate Lahore in attendance with Zhao Shiren, Chinese Consul General Lahore, Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, Chief Minister of Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, Inspector General of Police, Punjab, Mr. Shakeel Ahmad, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Mr. Tayyab Hafeez Cheema, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Punjab, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, University of Punjab at Riaz Hall, University of Punjab.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the course is scheduled to be held every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00-12:00.

It will run until September 16, around 10 weeks time span.

The textbook is tailor-made for SPU officers so that they can deal with real situations when providing security service and protection to foreigners and particularly the Chinese across Punjab on CPEC or non-CPEC projects.

In order to improve teaching efficiency, the Chinese Consulate Lahore has divided 50 selected SPU people into two classes.

Three teachers are from the local Chinese community with two teaching assistants from Confucius Institute, University of the Punjab.

<https://pakobserver.net/2nd-chinese-language-program-launched-for-spu/>

The Express Tribune

China's growth a lesson in connectivity: minister

Iqbal says Pakistan greatly benefiting from infrastructure development under CPEC

BEIJING: Lauding the remarkable contributions made by China in the field of industrialisation, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has said that developing nations could draw several lessons from the country's experience with digital-era connectivity and economic growth.

He made these remarks while speaking at the panel discussion titled "Industrialisation and Digital Era Connectivity," organised on Monday by the China International Development Cooperation Agency in Beijing.

The minister is on a four-day official visit to China to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 (today) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The flagship connectivity and investment corridor project, part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative, has ushered into a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity.

In his remarks, the minister noted that China has undergone remarkable economic growth and technological advancements, making it a valuable example for developing countries.

“China's industrialisation journey was supported by substantial investment in infrastructure, including transportation networks, energy systems and telecommunications. Pakistan is greatly benefiting from infrastructure development under CPEC to improve its connectivity within the country and facilitate industrial growth,” he added.

Shedding light on the importance of the digital economy, he termed it a vital element for the sustainable development of the country.

While underscoring the importance of industrialisation and digital-era connectivity, Iqbal said that industrialisation and digital-era connectivity have transformed the world as both have brought unprecedented opportunities for progress, economic growth, and global connectivity.

However, he stressed the harmonisation of digital policies and standards by stronger collaboration through multilateral forums.

The minister also said that digital connectivity has revolutionised communication and collaboration in industrial sectors.

The digital era has generated massive amounts of data through various sources, including production processes, customer interactions and market trends, the minister said, who recently established a steering committee comprising experts from IT and the private sector for the implementation of digital transformation and to increase digital exports in the country.

Similarly, he said that the combination of industrialisation and digital connectivity has opened up new avenues for innovation and entrepreneurship. The startups and small businesses can leverage digital platforms and technologies to reach global markets and disrupt traditional industries, remarked the minister.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2425700/chinas-growth-a-lesson-in-connectivity-minister>

Chinese investors look for JVs in ceramics

Agree to relocate ceramics units from Zibo city to Pakistan

LAHORE: A Chinese delegation, from the city of Zibo, expressed keen interest in forging joint ventures in the ceramics sector of Pakistan during a visit to the Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI).

The delegation held a meeting with local industrialists of the ceramics sector at the PCJCCI Secretariat on Monday. The head of the delegation said that Zibo, being a key transportation

hub of China, was also playing an important role in the country's economy through its rapidly growing manufacturing industries, especially the ceramics sector.

He was impressed by the growth potential of Pakistan's ceramics industry and agreed to relocate ceramics units from Zibo to Pakistan as well as share global demand of ceramics products by exploiting the inherent advantages present in Pakistan and China.

Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki said that 70% of China's ceramics industry was working under the expertise of Zibo manufacturing concerns and the products produced in the city were being exported to the US, EU and other sophisticated markets.

"Zibo was ranked 34th most competitive city in China, according to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2016," Ghurki pointed out, adding that Zibo had a significantly large industrial base that accounted for 47% of China's gross domestic product (GDP). PCJCCI Vice President Hamza Khalid apprised the Chinese delegation of the immense support that would be extended by the PCJCCI for economic development in the two countries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2425595/chinese-investors-look-for-jvs-in-ceramics>

The Nation

PM appreciates China for launching GDI

LAHORE - Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan was keen to expand its cooperation with partner countries to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2030.

The prime minister virtually participated in the First High-Level Forum on Global Development Initiative (GDI). Held under the theme of Global Development Initiative: "Echo the Development Agenda and Call for Global Action", the forum was organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Shehbaz, in his remarks, stressed the salience of international development cooperation to present a unified global response for socio-economic development, mitigation of climate change threats, and galvanizing new drivers of growth for humanity's enduring progress and prosperity. He also appreciated China for launching the Global Development Initiative for achieving shared goals of inclusive and sustainable global development. Extending Pakistan's firm support to the GDI, the prime minister said that Pakistan would continue its multifaceted cooperation with China for swift implementation of the GDI projects in Pakistan. The event was attended by Wang Yi, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Director of the General Office of CPC Foreign Affairs Commission, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Chairman CIDCA, Luo Zhaohui. Leading experts and executives from several countries and international organizations also participated in the forum.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-11/page-1/detail-6>

Pakistan needs to tap Chinese market for citrus, mango exports

ISLAMABAD-Despite having a significant edge in quality of citrus fruit and mango over other countries, Pakistan's share in exports to China remained a mere 0.01% of the total \$1.2 billion worth of imports Beijing made of these fruits in 2020.

Several factors could explain this lower-than-potential export figure, including the "absence" of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, as well as Pakistan's inability to comply with tariff and non-tariff requirements. China, currently the second-largest food importer globally after the United States, imported approximately \$12 billion worth of fruits in 2020. This position has been achieved due to substantial growth in per capita income, which has fuelled consumerism in China. The demand for fruit within the country is experiencing exponential growth. Between 2016 and 2020, Chinese fruit imports witnessed a 23% increase, ranking third globally, after the US and Germany.

Pakistan has yet to fully tap into the opportunities in the Chinese fruit market. To successfully enter this market, Pakistan needs to have rigorous quality checks and well-established logistics systems that adhere to the desired safety standards for fruit production and transportation. Citrus fruit constitutes a significant sector, accounting for 40% of Pakistan's total fruit production. Citrus is the leading export fruit as its exports earned Pakistan \$205 million in 2021. Pakistan exported 536,000 tonnes of citrus fruit during the year.

Pakistan exports approximately 17% of its total citrus production, with Afghanistan receiving 27% and Russia receiving 23% of these exports. However, Pakistan's citrus exports to China were only 80 tonnes in 2020. Pakistan has been actively working on implementing the necessary sanitary measures required by China to increase citrus exports to Beijing. Annually, Pakistan produces over 1.7 million tonnes of mangoes at an average growth rate of 4.4%. In 2022, mango exports amounted to \$104 million, with the United Arab Emirates being the largest importer, followed by the United Kingdom and Afghanistan. However, when it comes to mango exports to China, Pakistan's share is less than 0.5% of its total mango exports and only represents 0.3% of China's mango imports. Specifically, Pakistan exported 37 tonnes of mangoes to China in 2020, 37.42 tonnes in 2021 and 23.95 tonnes in 2022.

Despite having favourable tariff conditions in the Chinese market, Pakistan's export performance falls significantly short of its potential. One advantage Pakistan possesses is the seasonality of its mangoes. As mangoes from Southeast Asia are not available in the market from May to September, which coincides with the Pakistani mango season, Pakistan has an opportune time to capture the Chinese market. China consumes a considerable portion – one-fifth – of the world's mangoes, and Pakistani mangoes are renowned for their unique taste, presenting a potential for rapid market penetration in China.

While the Hainan province of China and other Southeast Asian countries supply mangoes from January to May, Pakistan's mango season runs from May to September, providing a strategic positioning with minimal competition during that period. In developed markets, the demand for Pakistan's citrus fruit is diminishing due to the increasing availability of seedless varieties. Pakistan exports citrus fruit worth \$196 million worldwide but has no significant share in China's \$137 million citrus market.

Overall, Pakistan's citrus exports to developed countries only account for a modest 2.6% share. This is largely attributed to the preference of consumers in developed countries for seedless citrus varieties, which now make up 61% of global citrus exports. Pakistan's efforts to expand horticulture exports to China are hindered by various barriers, including inadequate value chain infrastructure and quality control processes. The export of high-quality mangoes and citrus faces challenges related to food safety, inconsistent quality, certifications, marketing, and fruit fly infestation. A key challenge is the lack of infrastructure and resources available to farmers and other stakeholders involved in maintaining quality standards throughout the mango value chain. The absence of well-defined standards and grades within the mango industry exacerbates this issue.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-11/page-9/detail-0>

The News

A decade of CPEC

Dr Murad Ali

In recent times, hardly has any other strategy or initiative gained any such global limelight than Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The US's Build Back Better World (B3W)/Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII) and the EU Global Gateway are concrete instances of how the world has responded to counter the rising global role and influence of China.

There is hardly a policy think tank or academic institute across the globe that has remained disinterested in the enterprise. On account of massive enthusiasm for the subject, one study asserts that in China alone "the BRI-related publications increased by nearly 30,000 in 2018". To a large extent, similar has been the case with one artery of the BRI in Pakistan – the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is one of the most discussed subjects in universities, think tanks and in business circles and the media.

In her study 'The Words of the Belt and Road Initiative: A Chinese Discourse for the World?', C M Costa has appropriately stated that the Chinese initiative has "turned into a global hot academic and media topic". One study claims that in China alone, "the BRI-related publications increased by nearly 30,000 in 2018", including probably media reports otherwise these figures seem quite exaggerated. What I want to emphasize here is that the BRI (globally) and CPEC (to some extent globally but mostly regionally or locally) have remained at the centre of attention, although the intensity of interest has been waning of late.

Both Pakistan and China have identified the benefits of the corridor and its achievements to date and hence have decided to celebrate a decade of CPEC this month, including a planned international conference in Islamabad. I am in Germany on a short research fellowship, working on my book on BRI/CPEC at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) in Bonn, thanks to my researcher collaborator Professor Stephan Klingebiel, who is an eminent expert in the field of transnational development cooperation.

I participated in a workshop '10 years of BRI – learning processes, policy adaptations and managing complexity', organized jointly by University of Bonn and Academy of

International Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). While a lot of issues were discussed during the seminar where experts and Sinologists from several countries participated, including from Taiwan and mainland China, there was also this feeling that the West is on the path of ‘de-risking’ – a mere euphemistic impression and a soft version of ‘decoupling’.

One PhD scholar showed how Sino-EU cooperation in the area of space mission and space technology has come to halt during the last several years. In addition to space technology, there are several other areas such as AI, biotechnology and information technology where the West has been on the course of ‘de-risking’ (read: decoupling). Sad for the growth of science and technology and for the greater benefit of humanity indeed.

The problem with the US and by extension the larger Western world is that it has been looking at the BRI primarily from geopolitical lenses. In his book, ‘The Avoidable War: The Dangers of a Catastrophic Conflict between the US and Xi Jinping's China’, former prime minister of Australia Kevin Rudd argues that an “armed conflict between China and the United States over the next decade, while not yet probable, has become a real possibility”. He is not alone to predict such a catastrophic scenario of the Sino-US bilateral ties, there is a long list of American writers. During the seminar, a US-based Chinese professor told me that you will rarely come across such warmongering from Chinese leadership and people in academia. The US is always obsessed with the idea of war, he stated.

And perhaps, no other writer can sum it better than the great Kishore Mahbubani, Singaporean diplomat and author of several books, whose parents lived and grew up in pre-partition Pakistan in Hyderabad. In his book ‘The Asian 21st Century’, he asserts: “The Chinese have, for instance, avoided unnecessary wars. Unlike the United States, which is blessed with two nonthreatening neighbors in Canada and Mexico, China has difficult relations with a number of strong, nationalistic neighbors, including India, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam. Quite remarkably, of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom), China is the only one among them that has not fired a single military shot across its border in 30 years...By contrast, even during the relatively peaceful Obama Administration, the American military dropped 26 thousand bombs on seven countries in a single year”.

To be certain, CPEC is not a hollow narrative or a mere slogan as it has real and tangible impacts. Recently, China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin stated in a press conference in Beijing that CPEC has attracted about \$24.5 billion since it was initiated. He added that CPEC projects have generated about 192,000 jobs, added 6,000 MW of power, constructed 510 km highways, and expanded the national power transmission network by 886 km. Several government documents corroborate such statements. Also, among the six economic corridors envisioned under the BRI, CPEC has made tremendous progress as numerous projects worth \$25 billion have been executed in energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors.

According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2021-22, out of the total 56 projects currently underway, “26 projects worth approximately US\$17 billion have been completed so far and 30 projects worth US\$8.5 billion are under construction”. Similarly, another 36 projects of about \$28.4 billion are stated to be in the pipeline. However, there is also a feeling that

“China faces challenges in the realization of the BRI as the multiple countries along the network have different economic, political, institutional and infrastructural conditions and agendas”.

In the case of CPEC, no doubt substantial progress has been made as projects have been completed across the length and breadth of Pakistan, including the first metro line in Lahore. Unfortunately, in contrast to our only Orange Metro Line in Lahore, 15 Indian cities have metro line infrastructure.

Pakistan has not made any progress in this area, with or without CPEC. Along with the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project and other planned mass transit systems in big cities, we have prioritized roads and motorized infrastructure and the fate of several projects is still in limbo. For example, Peshawar-Karachi railway line, known as Main Line-1 (ML-1). It must be mentioned that the project had been designated a ‘strategic’ project by the 6th JCC meeting held in Beijing. It was stated that with completion, travel time and cost of transportation would be reduced as trains would ply at the speed of 160 km per hour. Despite several promises, there was no headway on ML-1 during the 11th JCC meeting, and the project cost has phenomenally increased with the delay. There were no words about ML-1 during the 10th JCC meeting held in September 2021, the last such summit convened via videoconference by the previous PTI-led government. Another conspicuous example is that of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

In sum, there is plenty to celebrate the decade of CPEC as without any doubt both governments, despite security and political challenges as well as the Covid pandemic, have made significant progress. There is a need for prior coordination, meticulous planning, and no need to rush to projects which have political capital but are financially unsustainable. Beijing and Islamabad have been working in the field of defence and security for decades and they should not find challenges in clear communication. For CPEC implementation, the formation of institutional arrangements such Joint Working Groups (JWGs) and JCC are innovative approaches for increased consultations and coordination.

That said, both countries need to plan ahead -- and plan well. In contrast to the ML-1 case in Pakistan, the development and upgradation of railways has been a key element of the BRI in several participating countries. For example, in Ethiopia, the transboundary railway between Addis Ababa and Djibouti is considered to be a prominent BRI project in the region with significant dividend. According to one study, “the railway improves efficiency by reducing the amount of time required to import goods to central Ethiopia from three days to half a day”. Similarly, in Cambodia, Chinese investment in transport infrastructure has significantly reduced travel time as the mobility of local people and goods have increased domestically as well as between Cambodia and neighbouring countries through better transport networks.

The Thai case is another example which shows how to make the BRI more economically viable without venturing into the risks of ‘debt-traps’ by ensuring the BRI project fits in with the country’s priorities in alignment and delivery. For the successful fruition of CPEC, the onus is on Pakistan to keep its house in order. For petty political gains, our politicians do not hesitate to drag China in the country’s domestic politics. Such practices must not be repeated.

Even if there are reservations regarding the financial aspects of certain projects, there are proper forums for that rather than to resort to mudslinging.

To make the initiative truly a game-changer, Pakistan must revisit its political and governance model -- and of course its foreign policy priorities. With the existing mode of governance plagued by corruption, ineffective institutions, political instability, elite capture and mismanagement at different tiers of the government and sycophancy rather than meritocracy, it seems a daydream to see this country have a flourishing economy.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=218597>

July 12, 2023

Business Recorder

PM acknowledges China's support

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that as 'Iron Brothers' and old friends, Pakistan and China always stood together in difficult times and had extended unflinching support to each other on issues of mutual concern.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Charge d'affaires of the People's Republic of China Pang Chunxue, who called on him.

The prime minister felicitated the Communist Party of China on its 102nd anniversary and thanked the CPC leadership for its firm support to Pakistan's sovereignty, integrity and economic development, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Recalling his substantive interactions with President Xi Jinping and more recently with Premier Li Qiang, the prime minister appreciated the strong personal commitment of the Chinese leadership for strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries.

Noting the upward trajectory in Pakistan-China ties and deepening economic and financial relationship, the prime minister thanked China for its support for Pakistan's economic stability and expressed his firm commitment to further deepen development cooperation between the two countries under the rubric of Global Development Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Conveying the best wishes and felicitations of the Chinese government for Pakistan, Pang underscored that Pakistan was an all-weather strategic cooperative partner of China and a time-tested friend.

She highlighted that the Chinese government and the Communist Party of China accorded a special place to Pakistan in its neighbourhood diplomacy and looked forward to further deepening relationship in all fields of bilateral cooperation.

Thanking the prime minister for his virtual participation in the first High-Level Forum on Global Development Initiative (GDI), Chinese Charge d' Affaires expressed China's resolve to implement GDI projects in Pakistan as envisaged by the leadership of two countries.

She further underscored that CPEC was a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative and that Chinese leadership would continue supporting Pakistan's efforts for developing CPEC as the high-quality demonstration project of the BRI.

She reiterated that China regarded Pakistan as an important economic partner and would continue its efforts for promoting socio-economic development and financial stability of Pakistan.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/12/1-page/967115-news.html>

Foreign countries to create their cluster in DSEZ: SACM

KARACHI: Many foreign companies and factories of different countries are likely to be relocated to Dhabiji Special Economic Zone.

The expected arrival of factories and companies from China, Turkey and Gulf countries will create their cluster in Dhabiji Special Economic Zone, these views were expressed by Special Assistant to the Sindh Chief Minister for Investment and Public Private Partnership Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar while talking to a delegation of local businessmen in his office here on Tuesday.

Qasim Naveed Qamar said that Dhabiji Special Economic Zone is an economic zone with a lot of incentives for investment companies in terms of its prime location and availability of cheapest labor.

He said that the Dhabiji Special Economic Zone, located just a few kilometers away from Port Qasim, Karachi Port, Karachi Airport, Main Railway Line and National Highway, will connect its industries and production units not only to all regions of Pakistan but also to countries around the world. It has excellent bonding ability and the same is the reason why it is just the beginning and companies from most countries have approached for establishing industries in this zone, he informed.

Syed Qasim Naveed said that the Sindh government is trying hard to provide alternative energy and environment-friendly electricity in this zone. He made it clear that Dhabiji Special Economic Zone will prove to be an economic zone with respect of sustainable development.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/12/7-page/967158-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese delegation, PCJCCI discuss low-cost energy projects

A Chinese delegation from Huzhou visited Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) to discuss the scope of investment in low-cost energy projects here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Tuesday. The delegation was headed by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandeng, Hi-Tech Electric Co.

On this occasion, PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki said, "We are fully confident that the future of China-Pakistan relationship is broad and bright." He said that low-priced energy was produced in China through incineration of waste materials. This model could prove to be a solution to energy crisis and environment pollution in Pakistan. He also said that many

Chinese companies were willing to invest in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration for power generation.

Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandeng, Hi-Tech Electric Co said that in Pakistan about 3,000 MW electricity could be generated using agricultural residue and municipal solid waste. He said that Pakistan generated about 15 million tonnes of crops residue annually, which could be used as feedstock to generate 120 MW of electricity. He added Pakistan had a huge potential for renewable energy resources such as wind, solar and biomass, which would also save foreign reserves to be consumed on the high-cost energy. The delegation was of the view that construction style in Pakistan was conventional and inefficient. By contrast, Chinese employ highly energy-efficient construction technology and style that could save construction and energy cost in Pakistan by up to 10 times. He added that among the 530MW cumulative generation capacity in Pakistan, 400 MW (75 percent) was generated from Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, the first-ever power plant capable of generating solar energy in Pakistan, owned by the Punjab government and built by one of the renowned Chinese company.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI, said in order to nurture the industry and economic uplift; there was a dire need to inculcate modern trends of energy projects and construction among the common masses. With the involvement of general public, he added, the trends and standards of modern construction would start to reflect in other segments of society. He also said that shortfall of fuel and electricity in Pakistan was an indication for them to decrease dependence on conventional fuel resources and find the new sustainable resources such as renewable energy means. The joint chamber's Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif said that Pakistan could adopt a safe and balanced approach to exploit its vast coal reserves too for power generation with least damage to the environment to overcome energy shortfall without burdening the economy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1113062/chinese-delegation-pcjcci-discuss-low-cost-energy-projects/>

China, Pakistan to set up natural disaster observation and research center

In a move to enhance collaboration on natural disaster monitoring, China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences will set up a natural disaster observation and research center in the Karakoram Mountains together with Karakoram International University.

This was stated by Hong Tianhua, Executive Director and Researcher of the Joint Research Center at a panel meeting with China-SCO Geosciences Cooperation Research Center and the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) held here online, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

“The research center in Pakistan, to be completed in Passu, GB within 3 years, will monitor glacial lake outbursts, glacier debris flow, and landslides by analyzing the data of glaciers, snow cover, meteorology, hydrology and soil”, Hong Tianhua added.

China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences, established by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, serves as a bridge for bilateral cooperation on such areas as natural disasters, ecological environment, resource development and sustainable development of CPEC.

Last year, in the fight against the floods, the CPEC multi-factor database and data management and information service system of the Joint Research Center played an indispensable role by sharing 26 data sets regarding the deluge.

Building on it, the Joint Research Center will also set up a Digital CPEC platform this year, Mr. Hong Tianhua told the audience.

“The Digital CPEC platform will support the acquisition, preservation, sharing and utilization of data on ecological environment and disaster prevention and reduction of CPEC”, he added.

Geological cooperation is incorporated in the China-Pakistan Joint Statement signed in Nov. 2022. Against the backdrop of evolving climate change, it is becoming ever more imperative for countries to join hands in geological research. For China and Pakistan, the momentum is pacing up.

Permanent Secretary He Zhixin of China-SCO Geosciences Cooperation Research Center said that the Center has signed five agreements with Pakistan and carried out cooperation in terms of comparative studies of basic geology, construction and sharing of geological database for environmental geology and hydrogeology, geological sample analysis techniques and other areas of mutual interest.

More than 100 young technicians have been trained through various forms such as technical training courses, jointly implemented projects, academic education and visiting scholar programs, he shared.

“In the next step, we will work together with China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences to deepen practical cooperation with Pakistan in the field of geoscience”, he said.

At the meeting, China-SCO Geosciences Cooperation Research Center and China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences donated a book entitled Pakistan in the Eyes of Geologists to APCEA.

According to APCEA chairman Mr. Yang Jianduo, the book, published in January 2023, allows readers to gain deeper insights into Pakistan by taking them from the south all the way to the north of Pakistan along with the geological investigators. The book will also be translated into English and Urdu to enable more readers to have a better understanding of the resource-rich land.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1112871/china-pakistan-to-set-up-natural-disaster-observation-and-research-center/>

Dawn News

Pakistan, China to speed up ML-1, SEZs implementation

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to fast-track work on the implementation of main line (ML-1) railway project and special economic zones (SEZs).

An agreement in this regard was reached between Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Chairman Zheng Shanjie during a meeting held in Beijing on Tuesday, according to a press release.

The planning minister is on a four-day official visit to China to commemorate 10 years of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During his visit, the minister co-chaired a special Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting with the NDRC vice chairman, besides holding several meetings with key Chinese officials.

During a one-on-one meeting with the NDRC chairman, the minister conveyed felicitations of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Mr Shanjie on assuming his new role and assured him of full support in smooth implementation of CPEC projects.

The NDRC chairman offered to share Chinese expertise and knowledge to enhance Pakistan's export earnings and accelerate SEZs development.

Chinese official offers expertise to enhance Pakistan's export earnings

Both sides decided to hold regular meetings of joint working groups (JWGs) to review ongoing cooperation under the CPEC framework and work closely for the next phase which is much wider in scope and focuses more on industrialisation, agriculture, science and technology and socioeconomic development.

PM Shehbaz has already reiterated his full commitment to complete the CPEC projects and in this regard he visited China when he took charge as the prime minister.

Recalling the launch of CPEC a decade ago, the planning minister noted that the development of the corridor had been a remarkable journey. He remarked that since 2013, the relevant institutions from the two sides worked as one team and successfully implemented key energy and physical infrastructure projects, laying a strong foundation for the next phase of CPEC.

The NDRC chairman remarked that China and Pakistan were good friends and partners, adding that despite the vicissitudes of global politics, the two countries have always stood together and extended complete support to each other.

He also appreciated the key role played by Ahsan Iqbal in the development of CPEC. Out of 12 JCC meetings, nine have been co-chaired by Mr Iqbal.

[https://www.dawn.com/news/1764249#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20Pakistan%20and%20China%20have,special%20economic%20zones%20\(SEZs\).](https://www.dawn.com/news/1764249#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20Pakistan%20and%20China%20have,special%20economic%20zones%20(SEZs).)

Pakistan Observer

Ahsan briefs Chinese companies on govt steps to facilitate investment

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal briefed the Chinese companies on the latest steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to facilitate investment and stated that Phase II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was increasing the bilateral cooperation in industrial, infrastructure and information technology sectors.

The minister hosted a dinner for the Chinese Companies working in Pakistan on CPEC-related projects, in Beijing.

The dinner was organized as part of celebrations of the Decade of CPEC (2013-23) to acknowledge the contributions of Chinese enterprises and companies in Pakistan's development through CPEC-related projects.

Addressing the participants, he also emphasized on business-to-business collaboration would be the hallmark of this phase of CPEC.

The minister also highlighted that the Government of Pakistan had formulated a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the economic revival of the country. Prof Ahsan Iqbal encouraged Chinese enterprises and investors to explore more investment opportunities in Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/ahsan-briefs-chinese-companies-on-govt-steps-to-facilitate-investment/>

Soft roads of the BRI Initiative

It is estimated that so far over 150 countries have joined the Belt and Road Initiative. Together with China, they are inhabited by about 75 percent of the world's population and account for more than half of the world's GDP. While certain countries are considering participating in the initiative and may still join it, very few have chosen to quit it.

This is the case of three small Eastern European countries, the post-Soviet republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Their decision to leave the initiative nevertheless has little meaning since their contribution to world production is insignificant, amounting to only a fraction of 1 percentage point in total.

Although the remaining 14 countries of the Central and Eastern Europe participating in the Belt and Road Initiative — Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia — have expected more, they can be satisfied with the achievements of this project. Much more would be accomplished if not for the disturbance caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the Ukraine crisis.

Despite such obstacles and unfavorable international political atmosphere, intensifying with the escalation of the second Cold War tainted by Sinophobia fueled by the United States, the economies and societies of the Central and Eastern Europe have a slightly higher level of production and employment as a result of expanded and deepened economic cooperation with China, to which the first decade of the Belt and Road Initiative's implementation has contributed.

During 2012-22, trade between China and the economies of Central and Eastern Europe increased more than two and a half times, from \$52.1 billion to \$133.6 billion. China's foreign direct investment rose from \$1.5 billion in 2012 to \$4.1 billion in 2021. Unfortunately, capital flows are asymmetric, as Central and Eastern Europe's direct investment in China has reached only \$1.74 billion in 2021.

In total, over the past decade, China has invested over \$20 billion in the CEEC region. As a result, not only the quality of the hard infrastructure necessary for the effective functioning of the economy improves, but also the achievements of technological progress are transferred. Importantly, hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created, most recently, for example, in Hungary and Poland in large factories for electric car batteries.

What is important for fueling the infrastructure investment in the coming years is better coordination of relevant projects between the European Union administration and the Chinese planners responsible for managing the East-Central European part of the Belt and Road Initiative. The recent visits by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to China and the visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang to Germany and France should push such desired cooperation still further. Yet, not only the 14 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, but all 27 EU members can function as a bridge between the West and the East, facilitating peaceful competition and fair cooperation — win-win as it is often called in China.

Under such circumstances, it is a suitable time to make a specific resetting of the Belt and Road Initiative, especially addressed to the European countries. While not giving up, just to the contrary, the hard projects in the form of investing in infrastructure — in roads, bridges, tunnels, railways, airports, and especially green energy transformation — the time for soft projects has come.

It is time to develop the soft aspects of the initiative. Soft roads imply a wide-ranging exchange and cooperation in the sphere of culture and in relation to science and R&D. In the latter of special meaning should be cooperation between the universities, research institutes and think tanks performing in politically and militarily non-sensitive fields, such as engineering, medicine, agriculture and development economics, yet the field should be open for all branches and disciplines of basic and applied sciences.

In times of rising international tensions caused by the ill-advised second Cold War, the soft roads of the Belt and Road Initiative can be a breath of fresh air.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has recently prepared a special report “Who Is Leading the Critical Technology Race?” It turns out that in relation to the 44 technologies that are most important from the point of view of economic functioning and development, China is the leader in 37, while the US is in second place. In the remaining seven cases, the reverse is true. No other country has been able to climb to the top two positions, with China clearly leading the world in these matters.

Hence, it is in the interest of the economies of Central and Eastern Europe to establish and intensify cooperation with Chinese research institutes and the most advanced high-tech companies.

Both in Poland, the largest country in Central and Eastern Europe, and in all countries of the region, there is a growing interest in Chinese culture. Unfortunately, only a small group of people know the Chinese language, hence the importance of translating the rich achievements of Chinese literature. Access to film and music should also be wider. Apart from personal contacts facilitated by tourism, which is developing again after the break caused by the

COVID-19 pandemic, nothing makes it easier to get to know each other and understand each other better than multilateral cultural exchanges. This is not only a value per se, but also a significant form of investing in human capital.

It is worth emphasizing that in the longer term, there is a synergy — positive feedback — between soft investments in human capital and hard investments in infrastructure. The more of one, the more of the other. Hence, opening wider new ways of cooperation supporting ecologically sustainable socioeconomic development will bring ample benefits. In its second decade, the Belt and Road Initiative's roads and belts will be even richer and wider than before.

<https://pakobserver.net/soft-roads-of-the-bri-initiative/>

China's Green Hydrogen Persuasion and CPEC & BRI: A Reality Check

Green energy has become the mantra of every country around the globe however, in real terms despite the western false and fake propaganda China has become the real champion of green transformation. Its holistic, comprehensive, inclusive and green development oriented policies, plans and projects are now mitigating bad impacts of global warming.

In this regard, renewables (wind, solar, biomass etc.) have become alternative sources of energy away from expensive and exploitative fossil fuels and in this filed China has become new custodian for human survival, reducing of global temperature, introducing new concepts, methods and technologies to safeguard the regional as well as global bio-diversity, nature and environment. China's rigorous persuasion of Green Hydrogen (GH) is a new energy source to expedite the fight against climate change in the world which should be appreciated.

Hopefully, the GH will be useful for China to achieve the desired goals of controlling carbon footnotes, reducing carbon emission by 2030 and last but not least carbon neutral by 2060. Moreover, the GH would also be a game changer in all the member countries of the BRI and its flagship project the CPEC in the days to come. Since more than 152 countries comprising 75 percent of the world's population have already joined the BRI, obviously it would further foster China's sincere efforts of controlling carbon emission and neutrality in the region and around the globe.

Moreover, most recently-inaugurated China's Sinopec has become an iconic project in the country. According to the company, it has the capacity to produce 20,000 metric tons of hydrogen a year, using solar power to electrolyse. It is China's first solar green hydrogen facility with an annual capacity of more than 10,000 metric tons. It is indeed the largest green hydrogen facility operating in the country. Sinopec's facility, along with its production capacity, has hydrogen storage capacity of 210,000 cubic metres and transmission capacity of 28,000 cubic metres per hour. It is indeed a giant step in the right direction.

China is leading the world to develop the GH production using renewable power to split water into hydrogen and oxygen as a crucial source of fuel with no carbon emissions to help limit climate change.

The World Economic Forum at the 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions held in Tianjin also highlighted the remarkable achievement of China in the field of the GH helping it to successfully march towards the carbon free era by 2060.

The new report, Green Hydrogen in China: A Roadmap for Progress, in collaboration with Accenture and China Hydrogen Alliance, pinpoints the challenges faced by China's green hydrogen industry. It suggested barriers and goals pertaining to cost, infrastructure, market demand, industry standards and certification, technology, and evolution and cooperation would easily be readjusted through readjustment and shifting of major energy policies.

On its part, the policy makers of China have already shown their commitment to achieve all strategic goals relating to carbon emission by starting in-depth decarbonization in multiple industries. In this regard, the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the National Energy Administration (NEA) jointly issued Medium and Long Term Plan for the Development of the Hydrogen Energy Industry (2021-2035), a 15-year plan to develop the hydrogen energy industry and boost the proportion of such energy generated from renewables.

According to the Chinese figures it produced some 33 million metric tons of hydrogen in 2021, making it the world's largest producer, and the production is expected to reach 43 million tons by 2030. China Hydrogen Alliance (CHA) estimated that the GH will take up more in the energy mix, from 1 percent in 2019 to 10 percent by 2030, and the market scale will have increased nearly 30 times by then.

Definitely, with strong policy guidance and incentives, China has the potential to commercialize the GH technologies to transform its industrial system and the wider economy. In this regard, the policy makers of China should focus on developing the sector through industrial, regional and global collaboration. Role of private sector and meaningful partnership is needed to further accelerate the cost-effective production, acceptability, utility and importance of the GH in the country and around the world.

In summary, the member countries of the BRI have rich wind, photovoltaic and hydropower resources which make green energy development an important direction in the future. Moreover increasing threats of global warming, green hydrogen energy production would be necessary to maintain optimal levels of bio-diversity, smarter living and last but not least green industrial production in all the member countries of the BRI. Apart from building plants and facilities for clean-green energy production, expanding the application of green energy in the BRI programs should also be pursued and promoted so that spirits of greater regional connectivity would be further promoted through green transformation making all the member countries carbon neutral in the years to come.

Additionally, the GH has a much wider range of applications, such as chemical, power generation and steelmaking. It is suggested that the GH can be developed in conjunction with the large-scale development of green electricity and be applied to the refining and chemical industry in the next step in the BRI member countries and also the CPEC Phase-II.

Energy & food security would be one of the looming threats in the world which may be managed with the help of GH in all the member countries of the BRI. In this regard, energy

enterprises and chemical enterprises can be involved in BRI projects to promote GH production for the demand of industrial production. The extra GH can be used for the production of low-carbon fuels and chemicals such as green ammonia and green methane. Such efforts can push forward BRI green energy development.

The BRI and CPEC have already entered into its second decade. The start of the GH production would also further strengthen China's plans of carbon neutrality. The GH would be a value addition. The government of Pakistan must pursue the approval of a mega project of the GH during the ongoing 12th JCC in Beijing so that desired goals of energy efficiency, energy diversification and energy innovation would be achieved in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-green-hydrogen-persuasion-and-cpec-bri-a-reality-check/>

The Express Tribune

At 12th JCC, Pakistan and China strengthen ties

Iqbal reaffirms commitment to providing favourable environment to Chinese companies

BEIJING: The 12th (Special) Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was successfully held in Beijing on Tuesday, solidifying the robust partnership between the two nations.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and Vice Chairman of China's National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC), Cong Liang, co-chaired the meeting, which saw the presence of senior officials and representatives from various ministries and departments associated with CPEC matters.

Addressing the gathering, Iqbal highlighted the significance of CPEC, describing it as an extraordinary endeavour that symbolises the deep-rooted ties between China and Pakistan. He acknowledged the monumental role this visionary project has played in transforming the region's economic landscape, fostering connectivity, enhancing trade, and creating opportunities for shared prosperity.

Underlining the national priority accorded to CPEC within the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, Iqbal emphasised the potential for further collaboration and expansion in sectors such as agriculture, industry, technology, and mining.

Iqbal commended the hard work of the JCC and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to providing consistent policies and a favourable environment for Chinese companies and citizens working in the country.

During the meeting, the conveners of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Energy, Transport Infrastructure, and Gwadar Port presented updates on the progress made in their respective areas and outlined future plans of action.

The JCC highlighted the importance of key projects in energy and infrastructure development, which are now operational and providing numerous opportunities for socio-economic advancement in Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2425773/at-12th-jcc-pakistan-and-china-strengthen-ties>

Iqbal invites investment in solar power

Asks investors to set up regional engineering design centres in Pakistan

BEIJING: Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has urged Chinese companies to invest in solar power generation and establish solar PV manufacturing plants in Pakistan to help achieve better efficiency and ensure wider distribution of cheaper electricity.

At a meeting with China Apollo Holding Group Chairman Chen Diming and China Ocean Engineering Construction Company senior representative Xu Hao in Beijing, Iqbal underscored the importance of energy projects, which enabled Pakistan to overcome shortages.

The minister appreciated the Chinese companies' longstanding partnership with Pakistan and their interest in its solar power sector.

He spoke about the prime minister's solar energy initiative where foreign investors were offered special incentives. He invited the Chinese companies to take benefit of the new policy and asked them to set up their regional engineering design centres in Pakistan as well as employ the local talented and skilled professionals.

Iqbal assured the Chinese companies of the government's full support and facilitation.

Meanwhile, a Chinese delegation from Huzhou city visited the Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Secretariat in Lahore.

It discussed the scope of investment in various sectors like energy, machinery manufacturing, construction and cultural exchanges.

The delegation was headed by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandeng, Hi-Tech Electric Co. Gan stressed that in Pakistan about 3,000 megawatts of electricity could be generated using agricultural residue and municipal solid waste.

"Pakistan generates about 15 million tonnes of crop residue annually, which can be used as feedstock to generate 120MW of electricity," he said. He saw a huge potential for renewable energy resources in Pakistan, which would save the foreign currency reserves consumed on high-cost energy.

The delegation was of the view that the construction style in Pakistan was conventional and inefficient. By contrast, the Chinese employ highly energy-efficient construction technology and style that can save up to 10 times of cost in Pakistan.

PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki pointed out that low-priced energy was being produced in China through the incineration of waste material and that model could prove to be a solution to Pakistan's energy crisis and environmental pollution.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2425774/iqbal-invites-investment-in-solar-power>

The Nation

Pak, China agreed for timely execution of Railway ML-I, SEZs projects

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan and China have agreed to fast-track the implementation of Railway Main Line-I (ML-I) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for the timely execution of these projects.

The agreement was reached between Federal Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Minister Ahsan Iqbal and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Chairman Zheng Shanjie during a meeting held in Beijing on Tuesday. Ahsan Iqbal is on a four-day official visit to China over the 10 -year celebrations of CPEC. Earlier, the meeting of 12th (Special) Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which was co-chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) China, Cong Liang.

Senior officials and representatives of various ministries and departments dealing with CPEC matters from both the sides were also present at the occasion. In his remarks, the minister noted that CPEC is a remarkable endeavour that symbolises the deep-rooted ties between China and Pakistan. It has fostered connectivity, enhanced trade, and opened up new avenues for shared prosperity. It is noted that since the government came into power in April 2022 the CPEC projects have been revived which remained halted.

The minister emphasised that CPEC is the topmost national priority of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and these avenues provided an opportunity to consolidate successes and further enhance potential future cooperation. He also noted that while numerous milestones had already been achieved, there was a massive potential for expanding and developing in agriculture, industry, technology and mining sectors.

During the meeting, the conveners of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Energy, Transport Infrastructure, and Gwadar Port made presentations highlighting the progress on their specific areas and informed about the future plans of actions. The JCC also highlighted the significance of the key projects for energy and infrastructure development, which are now operational and providing a myriad of opportunities for socio-economic development in Pakistan.

During one to one meeting with Chairman NDRC, Zheng Shanjie, the planning minister conveyed felicitations of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Chairman Zheng on assuming his new role and assured him of full support in smooth implementation of CPEC projects. On the proposal of the planning minister, Chairman Zheng offered to share Chinese expertise and knowledge to enhance Pakistan's export earnings and accelerate Special Economic Zones (SEZs) development. Both sides decided to hold regular meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to review ongoing cooperation under the CPEC framework and work closely for the next phase which is much wider in scope and focuses more on industrialisation, agriculture, science and technology and socio-economic development.

Since the government came into power in April 2022, the CPEC projects have been revived which remained halted by the previous government. Prime Minister Shahbaz already reiterated his full commitment to complete the CPEC projects and in this regard the premier visited China when he took charge as a PM.

Similarly, both sides have decided to hold regular meetings of the Joint Working Groups to review ongoing cooperation under the CPEC framework and work closely for the next phase which is much wider in scope and focuses more on industrialisation, agriculture, science and technology and socio-economic development. Recalling the launch of CPEC a decade ago, the Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal noted that the development of CPEC has been a remarkable journey.

He remarked that since 2013, the relevant institutions from the two sides worked as one team and successfully implemented key energy and physical infrastructure projects, laying a strong foundation for the next phase of CPEC. Chairman NDRC remarked that China and Pakistan are good friends and partners. Despite the vicissitudes of global politics, the two countries have always stood together and extended complete support to each other. He also appreciated the key role played by Ahsan Iqbal in the development of CPEC.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-12/page-9/detail-0>

The News

Pakistan, China hold 12th JCC meeting in Beijing

BEIJING: The meeting of 12th (Special) Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held here on Tuesday.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal and Vice Chairman, National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC), China, Cong Liang, co-chaired the meeting.

Senior officials and representatives of various ministries and departments dealing with CPEC matters from both sides were also present.

In his remarks, the minister noted that CPEC is a remarkable endeavour that symbolizes the deep-rooted ties between China and Pakistan.

He recalled that this monumental project, initiated under the visionary leadership of President Xi and then Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif, had been instrumental in transforming the economic landscape of the region. It has fostered connectivity, enhanced trade and opened up new avenues for shared prosperity.

The minister emphasized that CPEC is the top-most national priority of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and these avenues provided an opportunity to consolidate successes and further enhance potential future cooperation. He also noted that while numerous milestones had already been achieved, there was a massive potential for expanding and developing in agriculture, industry, technology, and mining sectors. He also conveyed the deep appreciation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the hard work of JCC

and reiterated the Government of Pakistan's commitment to provide consistent policies and a conducive environment for Chinese companies and citizens working in Pakistan.

During the meeting, the conveners of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Energy, Transport Infrastructure, and Gwadar Port made presentations highlighting the progress in their specific areas and informed about the future plans of action.

The JCC also highlighted the significance of the key projects for energy and infrastructure development, which are now operational and providing a myriad of opportunities for socio-economic development in Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=218905>

‘Chinese girl’s adventure in Pakistan’ screened

Islamabad: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM), Jawad Sohrab Malik has said that Pakistan and China are tied in inter states development cooperation and innumerable projects including the historic project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are in progress.

He was speaking to the participant at the inaugural ceremony of a documentary, ‘Chinese Girl’s Adventure in Pakistan’ presented by China Media Group on the concept of a Chinese girl, Naureen, living in Islamabad who could speak and understand the Urdu language.

Jawad Sohrab Malik, praising the efforts of the Chinese girl, said that Naureen covered each and every aspect of Islamabad in her camera amplifying the beauty of the Capital City of Pakistan. She captured the beauty of Islamabad and its surrounding areas in her camera and made them part of her documentary.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=219021>

Dhabeji SEZ to attract foreign firms

KARACHI: Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is expected to attract foreign companies from China, Turkey and Gulf countries, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, special assistant to the Sindh Chief Minister for Investment and Public Private Partnership, said the SEZ has a lot of incentives for investment companies, including its prime location and availability of the cheapest labor.

"The Dhabeji SEZ is located just a few kilometers away from Port Qasim, Karachi Port, Karachi Airport, Main Railway Line and National Highway," Qamar said. "This will connect its industries and production units not only to all regions of Pakistan but also to countries around the world."

He said the Sindh government was trying hard to provide alternative energy and environment-friendly electricity in the SEZ.

"Dhabeji SEZ will prove to be an economic zone with respect to sustainable development," Qamar said.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=219154>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان، چین ایم ایل ون خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کے نفاذ پر عملدرآمد تیز کرنے کیلئے متفق

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) پاکستان اور چین نے اے م ایل ون اور خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کے نفاذ پر عملدرآمد کو تیز کرنے پر اتفاق کیا ہے تاکہ منصوبوں کو بروقت مکمل کیا جاسکے۔ یہ اتفاق وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال اور چیئر مین نیشنل ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ ریفارم کمیشن (این ڈی آر سی) زینگ شانجی کے درمیان بیجنگ میں ہونے والی ملاقات میں کیا گیا۔ چیئر مین این ڈی آر سی مسٹر زینگ شانجی سے ملاقات کے دوران وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی جانب سے چیئر مین زینگ کو عہدہ سنبھالنے پر مبارکباد پیش کی اور انہیں سی پیک منصوبوں پر عمل درآمد میں مکمل تعاون کی یقین دہانی بھی کرائی۔ اس موقع پر وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی کی تجویز پر چیئر مین این ڈی آر سی نے پاکستان کی برآمدات کو بڑھانے اور خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی ترقی کو تیز کرنے کے لیے چینی مہارت کی بھی پیشکش کی۔ دونوں فریقوں نے سی پیک کے فریم ورک کے تحت جاری تعاون کا جائزہ لینے کے لیے مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپس کے باقاعدہ اجلاس کرنے اور اگلے مرحلے کے لیے تمام منصوبوں کی عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنانے کا فیصلہ بھی کیا جس کا دائرہ کار بہت وسیع ہے جن میں صنعت کاری، زراعت، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور سماجی شعبے پر زیادہ توجہ مرکوز کرتا ہے۔ ملاقات میں ایک دہائی قبل سی پیک کے آغاز کو یاد کرتے ہوئے، وفاقی وزیر نے اپنے ہم منصب سے کہا کہ سی پیک کی ترقی کا سفر شاندار سفر رہا، جس میں بہت سے چیلنجز کا سامنا ہا لیکن حکومت ثابت قدم رہی۔ 2013 سے دونوں اطراف کے متعلقہ اداروں نے ایک ٹیم کے طور پر کام کیا اور توانائی اور فزیکل انفراسٹرکچر کے کلیدی منصوبوں کو کامیابی کے ساتھ نافذ کیا، جس سے سی پیک کے اگلے مرحلے کی مضبوط بنیاد رکھی گئی۔ اس موقع پر چیئر مین این ڈی آر سی نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان اچھے دوست اور شراکت دار ہیں۔ عالمی سیاست کے اتار چڑھاؤ کے باوجود دونوں ممالک ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ کھڑے رہے ہیں اور ایک دوسرے کی مکمل حمایت کی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-12/page-1/detail-27>

چینی وفد کا دورہ پاکستان چائنا جو انٹ چینیر آف کامرس سیکرٹریٹ

سے تعلق رکھنے والے ایک چینی وفد نے پاکستان چائنا جو انٹ چینیر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری سیکرٹریٹ کا دورہ کیا تاکہ مختلف شعبوں (لاہور) کامرس رپورٹر Xiandeng میں سرمایہ کاری کے دائرہ کار پر تبادلہ خیال کیا جاسکے۔ توانائی کے منصوبے، مشینری، تعمیرات اور ثقافتی تبادلہ۔ وفد کی سربراہی ہائی ٹیک الیکٹرونک کمپنی کے کر رہے تھے۔ پی سی جے سی سی آئی کے صدر معظم گھر کی نے خطبہ استقبالیہ میں کہا کہ ہمیں مکمل یقین ہے کہ چین پاکستان تعلقات کا Gan Meilin کے چیئر مین مستقبل وسیع اور روشن ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین میں ناکارہ مواد کو جلانے کے ذریعے کم قیمت توانائی پیدا کی جاتی ہے۔ یہ ماڈل پاکستان میں توانائی کے بحران اور ماحولیاتی جلانے میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے کو (MSW) آلودگی کا حل ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ بہت سی چینی کمپنیاں بجلی کی پیداوار کے لیے میونسپل سالڈ ویسٹ تیار ہیں۔ ہائی ٹیک الیکٹرونک کمپنی کے چیئر مین نے کہا کہ پاکستان سالانہ تقریباً 15 ملین ٹن فصلوں کی باقیات پیدا کرتا ہے جسے فیڈ اسٹاک کے طور پر استعمال کر کے 120 میگا واٹ بجلی پیدا کی جاسکتی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان میں قابل تجدید توانائی کے وسائل جیسے ہوا، شمسی اور بائیوماس کے لیے بہت زیادہ پوٹینشل موجود ہے وفد کا موقف تھا کہ پاکستان میں تعمیراتی انداز روایتی اور غیر موثر ہے۔ اس کے برعکس، چینی انتہائی توانائی کی بچت کرنے والی تعمیراتی ٹیکنالوجی استعمال کرتے ہیں جو پاکستان میں تعمیراتی اور توانائی کی لاگت کو 10 گنا تک بچا سکتی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان میں 530 میگا واٹ کی مجموعی پیداواری صلاحیت میں سے 400 میگا واٹ (75%) قائد اعظم سولر پارک سے پیدا ہوتی ہے، جو پاکستان میں شمسی توانائی پیدا کرنے والا پہلا پاور پلانٹ ہے، جو پنجاب حکومت کی ملکیت ہے اور اسے معروف چینی کمپنی نے تعمیر کیا ہے۔ پی سی جے سی سی آئی کے نائب صدر حمزہ خالد نے کہا کہ صنعت کو پروان چڑھانے اور معاشی ترقی کے لیے؛ توانائی کے منصوبوں اور تعمیرات کے جدید رجحانات کو عام لوگوں میں بیدار کرنے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ عام لوگوں کی شمولیت سے جدید تعمیرات اور معیار معاشرے کے دیگر

طبقات میں بھی جھلمکنا شروع ہو جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ پاکستان میں ایندھن اور بجلی کی کمی ان کے لیے روایتی ایندھن کے وسائل پر انحصار کم کرنے اور قابل تجدید توانائی کے ذرائع جیسے نئے پائیدار وسائل تلاش کرنے کا اشارہ ہے۔ پی سی جے سی سی آئی کے سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو نئے کے اپنے وسیع ذخائر سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے لیے ایک محفوظ اور متوازن طریقہ اختیار کر سکتا ہے تاکہ ماحول کو کم سے کم نقصان پہنچایا جاسکے تاکہ معیشت پر بوجھ ڈالے بغیر توانائی کی کمی پر قابو پایا جاسکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-12/page-3/detail-10>

July 13, 2023

Business Recorder

The BRICS's creeping 'gold currency'

Shahab Jafry

It's a shame that market pundits have been busy scandalising JP Morgan's involvement with the late, notorious sex trafficker Jeffery Epstein — especially after a US judge's approval late last month of a \$290 million settlement with women who were abused by him — and betting if, rather when, the axe would fall on chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon; the longest serving head of any major Wall Street outlet. Otherwise they would have paid more attention to the other major headline coming out of America's biggest bank.

JP Morgan's strategists admitted in a report released in early June that there were "signs of de-dollarisation unfolding in the global economy", although the currency "should maintain its long-held dominance for the foreseeable future". A month earlier, in the beginning of May, another Wall Street giant (though now smaller than JP Morgan) Goldman Sachs raised similar concerns and reached similar conclusions.

That while the dollar's share of FX trading volumes remains just short of record highs at 88 percent and its use in trade invoicing has not really changed in 20 years, scratching beneath the surface "reveals a more bifurcated picture". The pressure of steeply rising interest rates along with sanctions that freeze Russia out of the international banking system seem to have forced a new play by BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa – that could, in the long run, ultimately pose a challenge to King Dollar's undisputed post-WWII reign. A few trends provide interesting insights.

Dollar's share of global central bank reserves is already shrinking; down from 72pc in 2002 to 58ps in 2022. Lately, the energy trade has also started to inch away from the greenback; something not thinkable before the Ukraine war. A number of countries, including Pakistan and India, have been buying Russian oil and gas in the Chinese yuan. India has also made payments in UAE dirhams, with a contingency in place to pay in INR (Indian rupee) if there are future sanctions on the dirham. Saudi Arabia and China are in talks to settle Chinese oil payments in the yuan. Brazil and China have announced the phase-in of a yuan clearing agreement. And Beijing has announced that now most of its trade with Moscow is also in yuan.

To top it all, the Russians have just leaked that BRICS countries might finally announce a roadmap to the launch of their new currency during their summit in August; and that it would

“most probably be backed by gold”, sparking an intense debate about a possible re-repeat performance of the Gold Standard, though on a much more limited scale.

Think about it. The geopolitical implications of the energy trade out of the dollar are significant; especially if China, the world’s largest oil importer, is not just on board but in the driving seat. Now it’s bent upon expanding BRICS, expressing interest last year in admitting new members. There are reports that about 20 countries have already lined up to join the platform, including Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, the UAE, Thailand and Venezuela. Just a few days ago Ethiopia, one of Africa’s fastest-growing economies, also asked to join.

If there is some truth to Russian rumours and BRICS countries go ahead with their gold-backed currency and its members, at least, use it to buy their oil and gas, then much of the global energy market will no longer be in dollars. Why, then, would central banks want to go on holding so much of their reserves in the greenback? BRICS will surely lead in cutting dollar holdings, giving smart ideas to others at the same time. And even though there’s no threat to King Dollar’s throne just yet, the percentages will change.

Suddenly, it makes a lot of sense that while the dollar share of global FX reserves was shrinking, that of gold rose to 15pc from 11pc just five years ago. This is, of course, just the start of a very long process. JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs analysts are right to conclude that while “some signs of de-dollarisation are emerging”, the dollar still maintains its “large footprint” and talk of its demise is a “popular headline and unlikely story”.

Still, if BRICS countries really announce the new currency next month, it will be like that old Biblical story where the child that was prophesised to overthrow the pharaoh would be born, and slowly growing and getting stronger.

If that does happen, come August, buy gold!

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/07/13/6-page/967221-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Deepening Pak-China collaboration will have a transformative impact on the agri sector: Ali

A delegation, led by Mr. Wu Yuelang, Department of Science and Technology, Hubei Province, China visited the National Agricultural Research Center in Islamabad as part of their visit to Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad, and Dr. Muhammad Jaffar Jaskani, Director ORIC, along with other high official from University of Agriculture Faisalabad were also present at the occasion. The delegation included Ms. Shi Hong, Director of the Social Development Technology Division, Mr. Ye Lin, an Officer from Hubei Province, Mr. Xiao Xuan, the Deputy Dean of Hubei General Hospital, and other esteemed officials from Hubei Province, China.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guests and presented an overview of PARC's endeavors dedicated to fostering innovation in the agriculture sector.

Dr. Ali highlighted that PARC actively engaged in agricultural research and development across ten distinct agro-ecological regions of the country, forging collaborations with domestic as well as international institutions. Furthermore, Dr. Ali highlighted the longstanding partnership between PARC and Chinese research institutes in the field of agriculture.

<https://pakobserver.net/deepening-pak-china-collaboration-will-have-a-transformative-impact-on-the-agri-sector-ali>

Business Forum held in Beijing to promote investment opportunities in Pakistan

The Pakistan China Business Forum, aimed at exploring trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan, was held here at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing to promote investment opportunities in Pakistan, China Economic Net reported.

Speaking at the occasion, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, emphasized the need to work together in order to share the benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) not only between the two countries but also with the rest of the world.

“CPEC has transformed Pakistan's energy landscape and has also played a crucial role in constructing hundreds and thousands of kilometers of roads, revolutionizing connectivity in the country. We must never forget that China extended its assistance to Pakistan during a critical time when we faced an energy shortage,” he added.

The minister further highlighted that over \$25 billion worth of projects have been executed in Pakistan to help build its energy infrastructure, logistics infrastructure, information technology, and other ports in the past 10 years.

During the business forum, the Commercial Counselor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing mentioned that following the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to China in November 2022, protocols have been finalized for the export of cherries, boiled meat, milk and dairy products, chilies, and donkey skin, which opens up a market worth \$30 billion.

He also stated that in the Gwadar Zone area, complete tax holidays of 23 years are available for establishing businesses, as well as complete tax holidays of 20 years for contractors and sub-contractors.

Additionally, there is an exemption from customs duty for 40 years on the import of equipment and materials for the construction and operation of the free zone.

Chinese companies were invited to attend the International Food & Agriculture Expo, scheduled for August 10th to 12th in Karachi. It was mentioned that over 100 registrations from major enterprises have already been received.

The forum highlighted the advantages of relocating Chinese industries, particularly labor-intensive ones, to Pakistan in the short to medium term, taking advantage of the demographic dividend and market access for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan.

Sheikh Muhammad Shariq, Chief Representative of the National Bank of Pakistan in China, introduced the business model in Pakistan and assured Chinese investors of facilitation.

<https://pakobserver.net/business-forum-held-in-beijing-to-promote-investment-opportunities-in-pakistan/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan hopes to take CPEC into next phase with greater vigour: Iqbal

Minister says enemies are always on the lookout for harming strategically important CPEC

BEIJING: Pakistan is looking forward to taking the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into the next phase with greater vigour and hopes to see its fruits benefit not only China and Pakistan, but the whole region, said Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal.

He was talking to the Global Times in an interview after a meeting of the 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the CPEC in Beijing.

Iqbal, who has extensive experience and long-standing involvement in the CPEC, said that he was overwhelmed at how much has been accomplished by the CPEC in just 10 years.

The beauty of the CPEC is that it is a project between two countries that enjoy a very unique relationship, Iqbal said.

"Normally, countries come close when they need to, and they get farther away when they do not need each other. But in the case of China and Pakistan, it has always been spring. There has never been autumn in this relationship," he said.

This year marks a decade of the CPEC as the landmark project was formalised on July 5, 2013.

CPEC has done a great service to Pakistan, helping it overcome the energy crisis, develop modern infrastructure and restore the country's image as an investment destination, he said, highlighting that prior to the CPEC, the world used to look at Pakistan as a very dangerous country.

Pakistan would be facing an extreme energy crisis today without the projects launched under the CPEC, Iqbal emphasised.

Everyone in Pakistan has benefited from the great contribution that has been made by the CPEC, he added. If there was a lack of electricity, factories would be closed and workers would be laid off; patients in hospitals and students in educational institutions would also be stranded, he further said.

He mentioned the Thar region of Pakistan, which was once a backward area, saying that CPEC has transformed the region into a source of energy for the country. Local education, employment, hospitals and schools have also flourished.

The projects also empower local women in the region, Iqbal noted. "You will be amazed to see that local women are driving the heavy trucks, which take coal out of the mines," he remarked, adding that in total, the CPEC projects have created about 200,000 job opportunities.

Iqbal also said that Pakistan now has a lot more vigor to move forward on the CPEC, adding that many projects that were delayed in previous years were completed in the last year.

He said that Pakistan is looking forward to taking the CPEC into the next phase with greater vigour. "I hope that the next phase will bring many dividends for the wider region beyond Pakistan and China. We hope one day the whole of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East will benefit from the CPEC," he added.

When talking about the mega projects within the second phase of the CPEC, Iqbal expressed his hope to see the start of major upgrades to the Main Line 1 railway between Karachi and Peshawar with China's help as soon as possible in 2023. Modernisation and upgrades are urgently needed for this aging railway line, especially as it was badly damaged by the floods last year, he added.

This \$10-billion project was supposed to be done in the first phase, but it got delayed in the last four years, Iqbal said.

He refuted claims in the Western media that the CPEC has not lived up to expectations and has become a "debt trap," saying that instead it has "outperformed the expectations. "The propaganda [from the West] that the CPEC is a debt trap is all false. All the negative propaganda against the CPEC has a political element. It has no reality," he told the Global Times.

Infrastructure was the priority of the first-phase of the CPEC, and the second phase will focus on industrial cooperation and business linkage through increasing investment in sectors such as energy, agriculture, information technology and mining, according to Iqbal.

Pakistan is working on nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which will provide more opportunities for Chinese investment. Rashakai, one of the nine SEZs, will be inaugurated later this month, and other SEZs are also in advanced stages, he revealed.

In the energy sector, Pakistan is actively pursuing solar energy and is hoping to invite Chinese companies to set up solar power production plants, the minister noted.

Chinese officials are highly concerned about the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan and hope that the Pakistani side will continue to take strong security measures.

On security in Pakistan, the minister said that Pakistan is taking extra precautions for the security of Chinese people, and has provided four layers of security dedicated to CPEC projects including deploying a special army force with 10,000 personnel, which has been integrated with police, paramilitary forces and local security.

As the CPEC is a strategic project with big geopolitical implications, enemies are always looking for opportunities to disrupt it either through terrorist acts or creating miscommunication, the minister emphasised. APP

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2426078/pakistan-hopes-to-take-cpec-into-next-phase-with-greater-vigour-iqbal>

The News

China agrees to invest \$10bn in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: China has agreed to invest \$10 billion in new infrastructure projects in Pakistan, including ML-1 railway line.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, who attended the 12th JCC meeting of the two countries in Beijing concluded a day earlier, is returning home today (Thursday) and is likely to make an announcement about further Chinese investment in various projects.

Ahsan Iqbal hosted a dinner for the Chinese companies working on CPEC projects. The dinner was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the decade of CPEC (2013-23).

“China and Pakistan would benefit from greater Chinese investment in Pakistan. It would not only support Pakistan’s economy but also provide an avenue for Chinese companies to sell products manufactured in Pakistan in the Chinese market and elsewhere in the world,” he said.

Chen Diming, Chairman of China Apollo Holding Group, and Xu Hao, senior representative of China Ocean Engineering Construction Company, had meetings with the minister.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=219408>

Not asking Pakistan to choose between US and China: State Dept

WASHINGTON: The State Department on Wednesday maintained that Pakistan is not being pressured to pick sides between US and China and that relations with Islamabad “build on our close people-to-people ties”.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller was asked during a press briefing about Pakistan’s minister of state for foreign affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar’s statement that Islamabad had no appetite to pick a fight in the growing global rivalry between Washington and Beijing.

“No, the United States does not ask Pakistan or any other country to choose between the United States and the PRC [People’s Republic of China] or to choose between the United States and any other country,” the spokesperson said.

Miller said that relations with Pakistan are based on close people-to-people ties, and the US will continue to seek ways to expand its partnership and economic ties with the South Asian nation.

“Our economic cooperation with Pakistan reflects our vision for the region as one of — comprised of nations that are independent, strong, and prosperous. And our relationships are based on a spirit of respect and partnership.”

The spokesperson also commented about the recently concluded staff-level agreement between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a \$3 billion bailout package.

The State Department official didn't deny the reports that the US played a key role in helping Pakistan to secure the deal.

“What I would say is that we stand by the Pakistani people during these difficult times. We welcome the progress that has been made between the IMF and Pakistan in having reached a staff-level agreement,” he replied and vowed to continue supporting Islamabad.

“Our support for the country's economic success is unwavering.”

The US will continue to engage with Pakistan through technical engagements and continue to strengthen its trade and investment ties, all of which are priorities for the bilateral relationship, he added.

“We believe Pakistan has a lot of hard work ahead to be on a long-term sustainable path to economic recovery and prosperity, but we will continue to stand by them through that process.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=219448>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی انجینئر کی بس پر حملے کا ماسٹر ماسٹڈ افغانستان میں ہلاک

کابل (نیٹ نیوز) داسو ڈیم میں چینی انجینئر کی بس پر حملے کا ماسٹر ماسٹڈ افغانستان کے صوبے کنڑ میں مارا گیا۔ پاکستان میں داسو ڈیم پر چینی انجینئر کی بس پر حملے کا مرکزی ملزم بدنام زمانہ دہشت گرد طارق رفیق واقعے کے بعد سے مفور تھا اور 26 اپریل 2022ء کو کراچی میں چینی زبان کے مرکز پر خود کش حملے کا منصوبہ ساز بھی یہی تھا۔ اب اطلاعات ہیں کہ طارق رفیق افغانستان کے صوبے کنڑ میں ایک کارروائی میں مارا گیا۔ طارق رفیق کی ایک آنکھ خراب ہے جس کی وجہ سے اسے ٹین خراب کی عرفیت سے بھی جانا جاتا تھا۔ وہ کالعدم تحریک طالبان پاکستان کے ایک دہشت گرد گروپ کا سرغنہ بھی تھا۔ کالعدم تحریک طالبان پاکستان کے سینئر کمانڈر نے میڈیا کو بتایا کہ طارق رفیق گزشتہ روز سے کسی کے رابطے میں نہیں ہے لیکن اس کی لاش دیکھنے تک قتل کی تصدیق نہیں کر سکتے۔ افغانستان میں طالبان حکومت کی جانب سے بھی طارق رفیق کی ہلاکت کی تردید یا تصدیق نہیں کی گئی ہے۔ 14 جولائی 2021ء کو داسو میں خود کش بم دھماکے میں 9 چینی انجینئرز، 2 ایف سی اہلکار اور 2 مقامی افراد جاں بحق ہو گئے تھے جب کہ 27 چینی اور 5 مقامی افراد زخمی ہوئے تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-13/page-1/detail-18>

سی بی کے نے پاکستان کے توانائی کے منظر نامے کو تبدیل کر دیا: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی پر ڈائریجنر احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ سی بی کے نے پاکستان کے توانائی کے منظر نامے کو تبدیل کر دیا ہے، سینکڑوں اور ہزاروں کلو میٹر سڑکوں کی تعمیر میں بھی اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے، ملک میں رابطوں میں انقلاب برپا کیا ہے، چین نے اس نازک وقت میں پاکستان کی مدد کی، گزشتہ 10 سالوں میں پاکستان میں توانائی کے انفراسٹرکچر، لاجسٹک انفراسٹرکچر، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی اور دیگر بندر گاہوں کی تعمیر میں مدد کے لیے 25 بلین ڈالر سے زائد کے منصوبے لگائے گئے ہیں۔ گوادریو کے مطابق پاکستان چائنا بزنس فورم بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے میں منعقد ہوا اس کا مقصد پاکستان میں تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع تلاش کرنا

ہے۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی، ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات پروفیسر احسن اقبال نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے فوائد کو نہ صرف دونوں ممالک بلکہ باقی دنیا کے ساتھ بانٹنے کے لیے مل کر کام کرنے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-13/page-1/detail-12>

July 14, 2023

Daily Times

CM's aide distributes China ambassador scholarships among students

Provincial Caretaker Minister for Law and Higher Education, Justice Retired Irshad Qaisar here on Thursday termed CPEC a milestone achievement for both the neighboring countries and said that that project was proof that relations between the two nations were growing stronger with each passing day. She expressed these views during a ceremony to distribute China Ambassador Scholarships among ninety students and to award cash prizes among the participants of a painting competition being held to mark the ten year completion of CPEC project. The ceremony was held in University of Peshawar and attended by large number of teachers and students. Addressing the ceremony, she said that CPEC project would be proved as a game changer for the whole region besides bringing both the two countries closer and strengthening cordial relations between them. She said, CPEC has not only changed the economic scenario of Pakistan but has also created endless opportunities of growth for the people. She said that CPEC has become a benchmark reflecting friendship between two countries adding that we should take benefit of the project and work to lead the country on the course of progress and development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1113648/cms-aide-distributes-china-ambassador-scholarships-among-students/>

CPEC brings Chinese companies, technologies to Pakistan: minister

Thanks to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan is now slowly moving from imported fuels to local fuel for power generation and from outdated technology to new Chinese technology, Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan has said.

“This shift is happening and Chinese companies are much more visible now. They are bringing their technology, their management to Pakistan, and they are teaching Pakistani engineers and workers,” he told Xinhua in a recent interview at a power transmission project under the CPEC. The deeper penetration of Chinese companies into the energy sector was one of the major positive developments that had happened in the country as a result of CPEC, Khan said. Highlighting the prospects of the transmission network, he said that 660kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current transmission project under the CPEC was the most advanced transmission project in Pakistan's history.

The project, being the only transmission project under CPEC, was crucial for Pakistan as it connected the country's south to the north and vice versa, he said. This is now one of the principal backbones of Pakistan's national transmission line, he said, noting that it had been operational for over 1,000 days without any issue, which was also a testament to the Chinese

and Pakistani engineers who worked here and who had done so well in very challenging circumstances.

Regarding the 10th anniversary of CPEC this year, the minister said China supported Pakistan in 2013 when no other country was willing to invest. By the end of 2022, CPEC has brought 25.4 billion U.S. dollars in direct investment to Pakistan and has created about 236,000 jobs for the country, as per a recent data revealed by Chinese embassy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1113867/cpec-brings-chinese-companies-technologies-to-pakistan-minister/>

China major export market for Pakistani products: ambassador

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that China is a major export market for Pakistani products and the government is working together to further enhance the access of Pakistani products to the untapped sector of the Chinese market.

“Our two countries have a robust trade and investment cooperation, which is very essential for Pakistan’s economy. As our largest trading partner, China is a major export market for Pakistani products, and we are working together to further enhance the access of Pakistani products to untapped sectors of the Chinese markets,” he said while talking to The Nation and Nawa-i-Waqt dailies.

The ambassador said Pakistan takes pride in its special friendship with China which is time-tested and timeless. “Our relations with China are based on strong political support, strategic trust and practical cooperation. A heart-to-heart relationship between our two peoples enjoying support across the political spectrum. No wonder, this friendship remains the cornerstone of our foreign policy.”

Ambassador said that China has recently lifted its Covid-related travel restrictions and opened up international travel. This naturally has a positive impact on various sectors of the Chinese economy, including trade and tourism. The re-opening has resulted in enhanced bilateral interaction between our two countries. Many high-level visits took place in the last few months. As China-Pakistan celebrate the Year of Tourism Exchanges this year, both countries are looking forward to enhancing cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Talking about ML-1, he said, in line with the leadership consensus, the relevant institutions from both sides are making earnest efforts to finalize all arrangements and launch the project this year.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, China provided us critical support, especially in supplying over 160 million vaccine doses which were the mainstay of our inoculation drive. China was the top country in providing generous assistance after the unprecedented floods of last year. Talking about Pakistani students, he said, China is a popular and the largest destination for Pakistani students. The pre-Covid figure stands at 28,000 students enrolled all across China in various disciplines, including medicine, engineering, IT, science, humanities, and modern arts, among others.

After the lifting of Covid-related travel restrictions, students already enrolled in different disciplines have started coming back to resume on-campus classes along with new entrants. Talking about his professional career, he said, I have had a career spanning more than three

and a half decades in the foreign service of Pakistan. During this time, I had a number of assignments at the headquarters and at the Missions abroad. Before my appointment to China in August 2020, I was serving as Pakistan's Ambassador to France. When I landed here, face-to-face interactions with the community was a bit difficult because of Covid. However, this did not stop us for keeping regular engagement with them through online meetings and launching various initiatives for the community.

The first priority was to begin the repatriation of Pakistani students to China, who had been stranded because of the closing of borders and the across-the-board restrictions on the travelling of international students back to China. Pakistan was among the first few countries whose students returned to China after Covid, he said.

Another key objective was to ensure community's enhanced access to the embassy, for which we introduced a digital registration system. We also launched a dedicated professionals forum, an important platform for Pakistani professionals to engage, discuss and give suggestions for enhanced cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Thirdly, we launched an online portal for Pakistani students and professionals, where they can connect, share their achievements, experiences and network for their job hunt in China and Pakistan.

The students and aspiring professionals can share their CVs and find potential employment opportunities. During my almost three years in China, serving the Pakistani community has been a privileged and a priority. I firmly believe that overseas Pakistanis, who are our assets hardworking, vibrant and patriotic and play a key role as Pakistan's ambassador in promoting its interests and strengthening relationships with the host countries.

To further bolster our people-to-people ties, China and Pakistan decided to celebrate 2023 as China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges. In this year, both our sides would be carrying on a series of activities to celebrate our friendship, raise awareness about each other's tourism potential and welcome tourists from each other's countries.

We have increased the visibility of Pakistani tourist landscapes on Chinese social media platforms with targeted marketing companies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1113868/china-major-export-market-for-pakistani-products-ambassador/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان اور چین کا تعلیمی شعبے میں تعاون کا اہم معاہدہ کرنے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (نیٹ نیوز) پاکستان اور چین نے تعلیم کے شعبے میں تعاون کا اہم معاہدہ کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا، پاکستان کی نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی اور چین کے گرینڈ یو اے ٹی ٹیویشن میں معاہدہ طے پائے گا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق وفاقی کابینہ نے اکیڈمک کو آپریشن معاہدے پر دستخط کرنے کی منظوری دی ہے، کابینہ سے وزارت دفاع کی سمری کی سرکولیشن کے ذریعے منظوری لی گئی، وزارت خارجہ اور ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل آئی ایس آئی نے معاہدے پر اعتراض نہیں کیا۔ وزارت تعلیم و تربیت اور ایچ ای سی نے معاہدے کی حمایت کر دی جبکہ وزارت قانون و انصاف سے بھی معاہدے کی مسودے کی توثیق کرائی گئی ہے، معاہدے کے تحت تعلیم، اکیڈمک اور تحقیق کے شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-07-14/page-1/detail-29>

July 15, 2023

Daily Times

PM breaks ground on \$3.48bn Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-5

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday broke ground on the 1200MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 (C-5) in Mianwali which is likely to be completed in seven to eight years at a cost of around US\$3.48 billion.

On June 30, 2023 the prime minister had witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the C-5 project between China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd (CNOS) and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). Addressing the ground breaking ceremony, the prime minister said keeping in mind the country's requirements of clean and cheap energy sources, the project should be completed before the given schedule.

Terming it a huge milestone and a symbol of cooperation between the two great friends China and Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif said the project would help the country promoting clean, efficient and comparatively cheaper energy. He said after a pause of many years, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was going again in full swing. He gave the credit of concluding the agreement of C-5 to the coalition government and the SPD for their hard efforts. "Our detractors had been fabricating rumours all around that Pakistan was going to default on its sovereign commitments but we crossed all turbulent waters in just 15 months," he added. However, he said the risk of potential default had been completely averted through team effort of the government.

The prime minister said a couple of days ago, there was an approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and within 48 hours around \$4.5 billion were transferred by the Pakistan's brotherly countries Saudi Arabia and UAE besides another \$1.2 billion from the IMF.

About 4 months ago, he said the Chinese government and commercial banks rolled over amounts back to Pakistan to the tune of \$5 billion.

The prime minister, pledging to make the vocational education as the government's number one priority, said skilled human resource earn more than the raw labour, hence increasing the country's foreign remittances. He said vocational training was key to prosperity and development in today's era as nations get prosperous only at the back of these skilled-based people. He hoped that after completion, the campus would play key role in promoting technical and industrial education in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114166/pm-breaks-ground-on-3-48bn-chashma-nuclear-power-plant-unit-5/>

China Fellowship Ceremony held at PMAS-AAUR

Minister of state, Ms Romina Khursheed Alam, has said that agriculture constitutes the largest sector of the economy and the present Government is focusing on developing the agriculture sector on modern lines not only to improve the livelihoods of small farmers but also to enhance its contribution in the national economy.

She stated this while addressing the ceremony of China Fellowship 2023 held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The ceremony was organized by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Center (CPEC-ACC) and Asian Institute of Eco Civilization Research and Development (AIECRD).

On the occasion, Chairman AIECRD, Mr. Zahid Latif, Mr Shakeel Ramy CEO, AIECRD, PMAS-AAUR Prof. Abdul Saboor Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Deans, Directors, Faculty Members, management staff and students were also present.

She emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the two friendly nations and said that it is the need of the hour that we should make more use of this friendship by enhancing and strengthening cooperation to overcome our issues.

Talking about the importance of Fellowship China, she said that it will be helpful to Pakistani students to study all the fields of China, which has led to progress in all its fields. It will not only help them to brighten their future but also contribute to the country's development, she added.

Chairman AIECRD, Mr. Zahid latif Khan highlighted the importance of bilateral relationship between the neighboring countries for the development of nation.

Mr Shakeel Ramy CEO, AIECRD brief the audience about the importance of this fellowship and told that despite the brotherly relationship and good-will there is little understanding of China among the people. Lack of understanding arises due No formal mediums to teach China's governance, diplomacy, security, environment and social model, which is developed on the principles of Confucius, Taoism, and Chairman Mao's thoughts

Prof. Abdul Saboor Dean Faculty of Social Sciences during his welcoming note Appreciated that activities of organizers to conduct such fellowship which is good platform for learning about Chinese culture and progress for young students.

At the end, Prof. Dr. Azam Khan, Director CPEC-Agriculture Center informed about the selection process of this fellowship and advised the students to give full devotion in learning. He also thanks Dean, Directors and Media personnel for sparing their time to make this event successful.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114001/china-fellowship-ceremony-held-at-pmas-aaur/>

Chinese companies keen to set up joint ventures in Pakistan

The Chinese manufacturers companies on Friday visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields.

A delegation of Chinese companies led by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandeng Hi-Tech Electric Co. visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields including machinery manufacturing, electric vehicles, equipment industry, drilling, magnetic wire manufacturing, commercial concrete, equipment installation and department store sales, said a press release issued by ICCI here.

The delegation exchanged views with the business community to explore areas of mutual collaboration and business partnerships.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) briefed the Chinese delegation about the potential areas of joint ventures and investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. He said that CPEC has started a new era of development and long-term business partnerships between Pakistan and China.

He said that Pakistan was establishing many special economic zones under CPEC and it was a good opportunity for Chinese companies to transfer technology to Pakistan and set up joint ventures in areas of interest.

He said that ICCI is working on a new industrial estate in the region and Chinese companies should explore investment opportunities in that facility.

He assured that ICCI would help connect the Chinese investors with the right partners in Pakistan.

Gan Meilin, Chairman, of Xiangeng Hi-Tech Electric Co. of China said that their delegation has come to Pakistan to interact with the Pakistani counterparts and explore areas of business cooperation.

He said that both countries have good potential to establish sustainable business partnerships and regular interactions between the entrepreneurs of both countries would help achieve this goal.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President of ICCI said that construction is a growing industry in Pakistan and it was the right time for the Chinese companies to enhance their presence in Pakistan in the construction sector to achieve lucrative outcomes. Both sides exchanged views on promoting business cooperation in various fields to achieve mutually beneficial results for the economies of Pakistan and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114188/chinese-companies-keen-to-set-up-joint-ventures-in-pakistan/>

Dhabeji Special Economic Zone project to be launched today

Sindh government to launch Dhabeji Special Economic Zone- a CPEC priority project aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, promotion of industrialisation and creation of employment opportunities- on Saturday, said Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

Addressing a press briefing along with Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh for Investment and Public Private Partnership projects Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar here on

Friday, Sharjeel Memon said that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah will perform the groundbreaking of the project. He said that the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) is offering 10 year tax holiday to local and foreign investors intending to set up industries in the zone while they would enjoy tax exemptions on the import of plants and machinery as well.

The information minister informed that DSEZ is a priority project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and it is being developed in Sindh province under Public Private Partnership mode through an international competitive bidding process. The zone is expected to attract foreign direct investment of around \$ 5 billions and create more than 150,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, he anticipated adding that investors who wanted to exploit the lucrative opportunity being offered were already in contact with the concerned authorities.

Sharjeel Memon termed it as a momentous development for Pakistan and the entire region in terms of industrialisation and investment and said that DSEZ could play a significant role in stabilizing the economy particularly in the current economic situation of the country. He said that PPP Sindh government was offering lucrative incentives to investors for luring in foreign investment and for the promotion of business and industrial activities in the province.

Thar Coal projects were a remarkable example of that which not only brought in precious foreign investment and created enormous job opportunities but those were also contributing much-needed power generation at the low cost, he noted. SACM Qasim Naveed Qamar while giving details of the project informed that DSEZ was being developed with an estimated cost of Rs.24 billion over an area of 1530 acres of land. He said that the project has distinctive features like proximity to sea port, major highways and main railway line and availability of cheaper labour as well as utilities like electricity, natural gas and water.

Sindh has become power house of Pakistan with the largest share in electricity generation, he observed adding that Sindh government was vying to make the DSEZ a green energy zone by provision of electricity from renewable sources of energy like wind and solar power.

He said that skill development was another aspect of the project and a technical and vocational training centre will also be established in the zone to train the local labour in required fields. CEO Sindh Economic Zones Management Company Abdul Azeem Uqaili informed that Sindh government had proposed three important projects- i.e. DSEZ, Keti Bandar port and KCR- to JCC of CPEC in 2018. DSEZ was the largest Public Private Partnership mode project being carried out in Pakistan, he added.

Chairman ZKBDMC, developer of Dhabeji Industrial Zone, Muhabat Khan at the occasion said that it was a unique project owing to its geographical location as a port, airport, highways and main railway line were at a short distance from it. He hoped that the project would play a pivotal role in stabilising the national economy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114189/dhabeji-special-economic-zone-project-to-be-launched-today/>

Ahsan Iqbal hopes to start ML-1 railway line project this year

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said that with China's support, work on the multi-billion ML-1, the main railway line project between Karachi and Peshawar, would be started as early as possible during this year. The ML-1 project was to be done in the first phase, but somehow, it got delayed in the last four years. "There was little follow-up from the previous government, but now, we are actively following it up," the minister said. "We are hopeful that this project will start this year," he said in an interview with APP after a special meeting of the 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC in Beijing. He said, "The railway track has been badly damaged during the floods last year. This is the main railway track line linking north and south Pakistan. We want to repair it and we want to upgrade it as early as possible. It will be a US\$10 billion project. We will do it in phases, and we hope to start this project as soon as possible during this year." Ahsan Iqbal said, "The 150 years old railway line now requires major modernization and up-gradation. We are hoping that with China's help, we will be able to modernize this railway track from Karachi to Peshawar and it will be a very big support to our logistics." About Karachi circular railway, he said, "It is a mass transit project for Karachi which is the biggest city in Pakistan. So, we also agreed to fast-track that project." Ahsan Iqbal said the JCC meeting was very historic because it marked a decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "About 10 years ago, both China and Pakistan started a new journey of bilateral relationship through CPEC which is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative." "As a result, today, we have more than \$25 billion worth of investments in Pakistan under CPEC and the flagship project has helped Pakistan overcome its energy crisis." Under CPEC, we installed more than 8,000 megawatts of power projects. It has helped us to construct modern highways, and motorways, which has improved connectivity in the country, linked different parts of the country, and provided efficient logistic support to the economy. He said, "Through CPEC, we have also developed infrastructure in Gwadar." "We have also improved the digital infrastructure with fiber optic cable that has been laid between China and Pakistan." "With CPEC, we have also carried out a number of socio-economic projects for uplifting the social conditions of people." "So, this is a very historic journey in which we are able to transform the nature of the relationship between two countries and make it much stronger in the economic cooperation field," the minister added. He said, "We had a discussion about how to take forward CPEC in the next phase, which will promote business-to-business cooperation, industrial cooperation, and also Chinese private investment in Pakistan's energy, agriculture, information technology, and mining sectors, where there are many opportunities for investors to have good business opportunities for Pakistan, to take benefit of investment and technology from China." "It will be a win-win investment for both countries and we look forward now to taking CPEC into the next phase, based on greater cooperation in industrial and agricultural fields, and also in the technology areas." Sharing more details in terms of how did the CPEC benefit the livelihood of Pakistani people, he said, "The CPEC projects have created almost 200,000 job opportunities and helped Pakistan overcome the energy crises." He said, with 12 hours and 14 hours of electricity shortage, the factories were closed, and the workers were laid off. The small businesses were out of business, in hospitals, the patients were suffering, in educational institutions, the students

were suffering. “So, by solving the energy crisis, everyone in Pakistan has benefited from the great contribution that has been made by CPEC.” Similarly, in some remote areas, where projects had been made, for example, in Thar, which is Pakistan very remote area, and we had huge untapped coal deposit there. With CPEC, we were able to do the mining project and now it has become the energy capital of Pakistan, he said. “The companies that are working there, are setting up schools and setting up hospitals. They are empowering local people including women by providing them job opportunities. It has helped the economy.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1114190/ahsan-iqbal-hopes-to-start-ml-1-railway-line-project-this-year/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani, Chinese institutions to sign cooperation agreement

Two well-known Pakistani and Chinese institutions have decided to enhance cooperation to boost cooperation in the education sector. In this connection, an agreement is set to be signed between Pakistan’s National Defence University (NDU) in Islamabad and China’s Grandview Institution (GVI), a distinguished independent think tank. Pakistan’s federal cabinet has granted approval for the agreement, which also has garnered support from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the Ministry of Law and Justice. According to a Gwadar Pro’s report, the agreement is intended to enhance collaboration in education, academics, and research between the two nations. In June, Pakistan’s Finance Minister Ishaq Dar expressed the nation’s dedication to bolstering bilateral relations with China.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-chinese-institutions-to-sign-cooperation-agreement/#:~:text=Two%20well-known%20Pakistani%20and%20Chinese%20institutions%20have%20decided,Grandview%20Institution%20%28GVI%29%2C%20a%20distinguished%20independent%20think%20tank>

The Express Tribune

Bilawal to inaugurate Dhabiji SEZ development work today

Memon said any investor who establishes their business within this zone will be eligible for a 10-year tax exemption

KARACHI: Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon along with Special Assistant to CM for Investment Qasim Naveed Qamar announced that the development work at the Dhabiji Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a CPEC project, will commence on Saturday at 12 noon.

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, along with Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, and members of the Sindh cabinet will inaugurate the project on July 15 (today).

Sharjeel Memon said any investor who establishes their business within this zone will be eligible for a 10-year tax exemption, and the importation of machinery for business purposes will be duty-free.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2426275/bilawal-to-inaugurate-dhabeji-sez-development-work-today>

The Nation

Chinese companies show interest in setting up joint ventures in Pakistan

Imran Ali Kundi

ISLAMABAD-Chinese companies have shown interest in setting up joint ventures in Pakistan. A delegation of Chinese companies led by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandeng Hi-Tech Electric Co., visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields including machinery manufacturing, electric vehicles, equipment industry, drilling, magnetic wire manufacturing, commercial concrete, equipment installation and department store sales. The delegation exchanged views with the business community to explore areas of mutual collaboration and business partnerships.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), briefed the Chinese delegation about the potential areas of joint ventures and investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. He said that CPEC has started a new era of development and long-term business partnerships between Pakistan and China. He said that Pakistan was establishing many special economic zones under CPEC and it was a good opportunity for Chinese companies to transfer technology to Pakistan and set up joint ventures in areas of interest. He said that ICCI is working for a new industrial estate in the region and Chinese companies should explore investment opportunities in that facility. He assured that ICCI would help connect the Chinese investors with right partners in Pakistan. Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiangeng Hi-Tech Electric Co. of China said that their delegation has come to Pakistan to interact with the Pakistani counterparts and explore areas of business cooperation. He said that both countries have good potential to establish sustainable business partnerships and regular interactions between the entrepreneurs of both countries would help achieve this goal.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, said that construction is a growing industry in Pakistan and it was the right time for the Chinese companies to enhance their presence in Pakistan in the construction sector to achieve lucrative outcomes. Both sides exchanged views on promoting business cooperation in various fields to achieve mutually beneficial results for the economies of Pakistan and China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-15/page-1/detail-10>

Students awarded Rs6m under Chinese Envoy Scholarship

PESHAWAR - The University of Peshawar (UoP) distributed Rs6 million in cash assistance to deserving students under the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Programme 2023.

The China Study Centre (CSC) at UoP organised the scholarship distribution ceremony, alongside the 'Prizes Distribution of Art Competition & Exhibition' titled 'Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor' at the Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan Auditorium, UoP.

Provincial Minister for Higher Education & Archives Libraries Justice (Retd) Irshad Qaiser, the chief guest, congratulated the students on their scholarship success, stating the financial aid would help alleviate financial burdens, aiding students in shaping Pakistan's future.

Prof Dr Kausar Takrim, Director of CSC, revealed the centre had distributed Rs18 million amongst deserving students to date, according to Gwadar Pro.

This year, RMB 150,000 (equivalent to Rs6 million) was distributed among the university's deserving students.

Last year, the CSC distributed Rs4.5 million under the same scholarship programme.

“CPEC is a game-changer project, bringing peace and prosperity to South Asia. It will transform and modernise Pakistan,” said Ms Takrim.

Prof Dr Muhammad Idrees, Vice-Chancellor, UoP, highlighted the significance of the 10th anniversary of CPEC due to the substantial progress made by Pakistan under this flagship project

He praised the university for producing high-quality graduates, making it a key institution for regional cooperation, development, and integration. The VC also emphasised the positive impact of the CSC's establishment at UoP, with the financial and technical support of the Chinese embassy, on fostering mutual understanding between China and Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-15/page-4/detail-0>

Decade of BRI's China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

“China and Pakistan have built a model of economic cooperation for the world to learn from.”

—Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

As the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) completes its first decade, it stands as a testament to the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan and the transformative power of strategic partnerships. Launched in 2013 as a flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC has emerged as a game-changer, reshaping the economic and infrastructural landscape of both nations. A decade of collaboration has brought about remarkable achievements, cementing the foundation for shared prosperity and regional connectivity.

The ambitious CPEC initiative aimed to connect Gwadar Port in southwestern Pakistan with China's northwestern region of Xinjiang through a network of highways, railways, and pipelines. Its overarching objective was to stimulate economic growth, alleviate poverty, and strengthen regional connectivity. Today, CPEC encompasses various sectors, including energy, infrastructure development, industrial cooperation, and the promotion of Gwadar as a major trade hub.

During the past ten years, CPEC has witnessed the successful completion of several milestone projects. The construction of Gwadar Port, an integral part of CPEC, has

transformed it into a bustling international port city. With Chinese investment and expertise, Gwadar Port has become a crucial maritime gateway connecting Pakistan to the world, providing a significant boost to trade and commerce in the region.

The energy sector has also experienced a significant transformation under CPEC. The establishment of several power projects, including coal, wind, solar, and hydroelectric, has helped bridge Pakistan's energy deficit, reducing load shedding, and ensuring a stable power supply for industries and households. These initiatives have not only enhanced the country's energy security but also laid the groundwork for a greener and more sustainable future.

Furthermore, CPEC has played a vital role in boosting industrialization and economic diversification in Pakistan. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) established under the project have attracted both domestic and foreign investments, creating new employment opportunities and fostering economic growth. The transfer of technology and expertise from Chinese companies has been instrumental in enhancing Pakistan's industrial productivity and competitiveness.

The impact of CPEC extends beyond Pakistan's borders, encompassing the entire region. As a linchpin of the BRI, the corridor has strengthened connectivity between China, Pakistan, and other countries in the region, fostering regional integration and trade. The development of transport infrastructure, including the Karakoram Highway and the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway, has reduced travel time and improved connectivity, facilitating the movement of goods and people.

As we reflect on a decade of CPEC, the words of President Xi Jinping ring true: "Friendship between China and Pakistan is rock solid and unbreakable." The successful implementation of the CPEC projects demonstrates the depth of this friendship and the mutual benefits derived from it. The initiative has not only bolstered economic cooperation but has also enhanced people-to-people exchanges, cultural understanding, and strategic collaboration between the two nations.

Looking ahead, the next phase of CPEC holds tremendous potential. The completion of ongoing projects and the launch of new initiatives will further strengthen the economic and strategic ties between China and Pakistan. The focus will shift towards enhancing connectivity, promoting regional trade, and harnessing the potential of emerging sectors such as the digital economy and e-commerce.

The transformative journey of CPEC serves as an inspiration for other nations seeking to forge strategic partnerships for sustainable development. It underscores the significance of mutual trust, shared vision, and long-term commitment in realizing ambitious projects of this nature.

To usher the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a new dimension and phase, the Chinese President is anticipated to make a significant visit to Pakistan. This forthcoming visit holds tremendous importance as the Chinese President is expected to inaugurate two pivotal projects that will greatly contribute to the country's progress. Firstly, the inauguration of the Gwadar International Airport will serve as a major milestone in the development of the strategic port city, bolstering its position as a key regional trade hub. Secondly, the Chinese

President will oversee the inauguration of the 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, which not only signifies a remarkable achievement in energy cooperation between the two nations but has also generated approximately 4250 jobs during its construction phase. Situated on the scenic River Kunhar, a tributary of the mighty River Jhelum, this hydropower project exemplifies the shared commitment towards sustainable development and economic growth. The Chinese President's visit is poised to strengthen the bond between China and Pakistan and propel the CPEC initiative towards a brighter future, marked by enhanced cooperation and prosperity.

CPEC is a living example of the fact that we can achieve what we set out to do if we work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. As we celebrate a decade of CPEC, let us acknowledge the remarkable achievements and look forward to a future of continued cooperation, prosperity, and progress.

Looking ahead, the next phase of CPEC holds tremendous potential. The completion of ongoing projects and the launch of new initiatives will further strengthen the economic and strategic ties between China and Pakistan. The focus will shift towards enhancing connectivity, promoting regional trade, and harnessing the potential of emerging sectors such as the digital economy and e-commerce.

The transformative journey of CPEC serves as an inspiration for other nations seeking to forge strategic partnerships for sustainable development. It underscores the significance of mutual trust, shared vision, and long-term commitment in realizing ambitious projects of this nature.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past decade, let us acknowledge the remarkable progress made and look forward to a future of continued cooperation, prosperity, and progress.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-15/page-7/detail-0>

Pakistan, China hold consular consultations

SHAFQAT ALI

Director General (China), Ambassador Syed Ali Asad Gillani, led the Pakistani delegation while the Chinese side was led by Deputy Director General, Wu Demin

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan and China yesterday agreed that the relationship between the two countries was gaining more strength and people-to-people ties were expanding.

The 9th round of Pakistan-China Consular Consultations was held on 13th July 2023 in Beijing. Director General (China), Ambassador Syed Ali Asad Gillani, led the Pakistani delegation while the Chinese side was led by Deputy Director General, Wu Demin.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the expanding people-to-people ties between Pakistan and China and resolved to further enhance consular facilitation for each other's nationals, said a foreign ministry statement.

It was agreed that the embassies of the two countries would hold a monthly review meeting with the concerned officials to discuss consular matters concerning students and entrepreneurs and issues relating to prisoners.

The 10th round of Pakistan-China Consular Consultations will be held in Islamabad next year.

Consular Consultations are an institutionalized mechanism between Pakistan and China that reviews the entire range of consular matters including visa and immigration, and consular facilitation for nationals of the two countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-07-15/page-13/detail-2>

The News

China fellowship held at Arid University

Afshan S. Khan

Rawalpindi: Agriculture constitutes the largest sector of the economy and the present government is focusing on developing the agriculture sector on modern lines not only to improve the livelihoods of small farmers but also to enhance its contribution in the national economy.

Minister of State, Romina Khursheed Alam stated this while addressing the ceremony of China Fellowship 2023 held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) here on Friday. The ceremony was organised by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Centre (CPEC-ACC) and Asian Institute of Eco Civilisation Research and Development (AIECRD).

On the occasion, Chairman AIECRD, Zahid Latif, Mr Shakeel Ramy CEO, AIECRD, PMAS-AAUR Prof. Abdul Saboor, dean faculty of social sciences deans, directors, faculty members, management staff and students were also present. She emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts between the two friendly nations and said that it is the need of the hour that we should make more use of this friendship by enhancing and strengthening cooperation to overcome our issues.

Talking about the importance of Fellowship China, she said that it will be helpful to Pakistani students to study all the fields of China, which has led to progress in all its fields. It will not only help them to brighten their future but also contribute to the country's development, she added.

Chairman AIECRD, Zahid Latif Khan highlighted the importance of relationship between the neighboring countries for the uplift of nation. Shakeel Ramy CEO, AIECRD brief the audience about the importance of this fellowship and told that despite the brotherly relationship and good-will there is little understanding of China among the people. At the end, Prof. Dr. Azam Khan, Director CPEC-Agriculture Centre informed about the selection process of this fellowship and advised the students to give full devotion in learning.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=220097>

Chinese Newspapers

July 01, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Chinese red chili contract farming opens vistas for development in Pakistan's agriculture sector

Misbah Saba Malik, Jiang Chao

KASUR, Pakistan, July 1 (Xinhua) -- In a yard brimming with red chilies strewn everywhere on the ground under the blazing summer sun in Kasur district of Pakistan's east Punjab province, Maryam Bibi and other women laborers were busy making each piece of chili get ample exposure to sunlight and dry up in time.

"We turn them three to four times a day so that they get dry after being soaked in the summer sun, they get fully ripe and dry in five weeks, and when we hear the sound of dried seeds rattling inside the pod, we pack them in bags and put them in storage, Bibi told Xinhua in the remote village of Jamber.

This year, Pakistani farmers and laborers are happy to get a bumper harvest of Chinese red chilies and expect to get good profits as the yield is double that of other varieties of pepper available in Pakistan.

The project is a part of a large-scale agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China in the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is currently underway after the success of the first phase focusing on infrastructure and power projects.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and is touted as a game changer for Pakistan by local experts.

Advancing cooperation in the agricultural sector, China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) and Sichuan Litong Food Group have established a company and carried out a red chili contract farming project in 2021, with model farms across Punjab.

In talks with Xinhua, Xi Jianlong, the Chinese manager from CMEC at Pakistan-China red chili contract farming, said that the Chinese variety is compatible with local soil and the overall hot climate of Punjab province conduces to the growth and nourishing of the Chinese chili variety.

He added that the cooperation benefits numerous individuals, including landowners, farmers, and laborers.

"Last year, we had created more than 2,000 jobs in Pakistan and generated an output value of approximately 770,000 U.S. dollars," he said, adding that when the crop is harvested and dried, they directly buy it from the farmer, without involving any middlemen.

He further said that this year, they planted chili on about 750 acres of land from where about 1,500 tons of chili were harvested, and during the process of cultivation to harvest, the

Chinese company not only transferred knowledge and technology to locals but also utilized the rural labor force.

Talking to Xinhua, Muhammad Ammar Asghar, an agronomist working with the CMEC, said that most of the farmers hired by the landowners are uneducated. In order to help the landowner get high yield, the Chinese company provided complete assistance and guidance to the farmers through agronomists and agriculture technicians.

"We translate scientific language into the local language and help farmers get more benefit from the advanced studies done by Chinese researchers ... We make sure that they learn the Chinese style of managing the farms and get the knowledge of the right time and quantity of using fertilizers, pesticides, and water. Initially, it is hard for them to learn, but gradually they get used to it and manage things very well," Asghar said.

The agricultural practices in Pakistan are predominantly traditional and lacking in modern techniques. Local farmers strongly believe that the knowledge sharing from China will extend beyond the contract farming projects, leaving a broader impact as the laborers acquire valuable skills that can be utilized in various other settings.

Rao Shahab, one of the landowners who cultivated the chili with the cooperation of the Chinese, said that this year he experimented by planting chili on seven acres of land, and was so impressed by the yield that he is planning to cultivate it in a bigger area next year.

"The Chinese variety is high yielding and disease resistant. After seeing it blooming at my farm, many other farmers are also showing interest in cultivating it because it is a cash crop with a great export value, and I see Pakistan as a big producer of Chinese chili in the future," he said.

Talking about the contribution of CPEC in transforming Pakistan's agricultural sector, Shahab, a barrister by profession, said that Chinese cooperation is crucial for modernizing Pakistan's agriculture and uplifting the livelihood of local farmers.

"China can help Pakistan by providing high-yielding seed and transferring technology. If China establishes processing units for value-added services for Pakistani agriculture products, it will be a win-win situation for both countries," Shahab added.

The Chinese manager said that the CMEC will not limit the project to the supply chain, but in the future they will initiate the industrialization process, generating scores of employment opportunities and giving benefits to Pakistan in terms of taxation and strengthening foreign exchange reserves.

"The future endeavors will focus on establishing a chili processing industry, emphasizing the industrial and value chains ... Our goal is to make substantial contributions to the CPEC while introducing advanced agricultural industrialization to Pakistan," the manager said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230701/5785d6311c87499e93e60cc13dacca78/c.html>

July 04, 2023

People's Daily

China commits to building closer SCO community with shared future

(Xinhua)

* As the first intergovernmental organization named after a Chinese city, SCO today stands as a comprehensive regional cooperation organization that covers the largest area and population in the world.

* Over the years, the SCO has evolved from an organization that focuses on security and economic cooperation to one with a holistic view, aiming to build "a community of health for us all," "a community of security for us all," "a community of development for us all" and "a community of cultural exchanges for us all."

* In the face of a torrent of global challenges and crises, the SCO has become an indispensable force in anchoring global stability, safeguarding world peace and security, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

BEIJING, July 3 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) via video conference from Beijing on Tuesday.

As the first inter-governmental organization named after a Chinese city, SCO today stands as a comprehensive regional cooperation organization that covers the largest area and population in the world.

Over the years, China has been firmly upholding the Shanghai Spirit and is ready to chart the way forward and work with other SCO members to build a closer community with a shared future.

EVOLVING CORE VALUES

At the landmark Qingdao summit of the SCO in 2018, Xi called on countries involved in the regional bloc to work closely to build an SCO community with a shared future, enriching the Shanghai Spirit which champions mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development.

"We owe SCO's remarkable success to the Shanghai Spirit. And we will continue to follow its guidance as we forge ahead," Xi said.

In the Qingdao Declaration, the SCO members embraced "building a community with a shared future for humanity" their most important political consensus and the goal for their future efforts.

Last year in Samarkand, an important town on the ancient Silk Road, Xi summarized the successful experience of the SCO, namely, upholding political trust, mutually beneficial cooperation, equality, openness and inclusiveness, and equity and justice. These five points fully embody the Shanghai Spirit, he said.

Amid the complex international situation and constantly evolving global challenges, Xi's vision has also been enriching the connotation of the Shanghai Spirit.

From putting forward China's view of "a global community of health for all," "an indivisible security community" and "a global development community," to proposing the Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative, Xi has been promoting the steady and long-term progress of the SCO along with the common development of mankind.

With a long history of exchanges, similar development tasks and a closely linked future, countries on the Eurasian continent have joined hands to build an even closer SCO community with a shared future, injecting vigorous impetus into regional and global development.

Under the Shanghai Spirit, they have carried out comprehensive cooperation, safeguarding energy security and food security, stabilizing and diversifying supply chains, as well as combating climate change, among others.

In 2022, leaders of the SCO member states adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the Implementation of the SCO Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation for 2023-2027, drawing a blueprint for future collaboration in the next five years.

SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming said that the SCO has brought together countries from different regions, with different traditions and development paths thanks to the Shanghai Spirit, which has become a source of life and endless force propelling the group's development.

PRACTICAL APPROACH

Over the years, the SCO has evolved from an organization that focuses on security and economic cooperation to one with a holistic view, aiming to build "a community of health for us all," "a community of security for us all," "a community of development for us all" and "a community of cultural exchanges for us all."

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the surging problems that have been plaguing human beings and also provided the SCO members with an opportunity to build a closer community with a shared future.

Guided by the vision of building "a community of health for us all," China has provided COVID-19 vaccines to Uzbekistan, donated anti-epidemic materials to Kyrgyzstan, and sent medical experts to Russia and Kazakhstan.

Over the past three years, China has provided over 2.2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to more than 120 countries and international organizations, offering vital support to developing nations in their battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regional security lays a solid foundation for SCO cooperation. Mechanisms such as the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group have been proven to be effective in helping facilitate the peace process of the war-torn country for years.

Over the past decade, the SCO has become an important platform for practical Belt and Road cooperation. Major projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, SCO training and demonstration base for agricultural technology exchange and China-SCO local economic and trade cooperation demonstration zone have brought tangible benefits to local people.

In recent years, a comprehensive infrastructure network involving roads, oil and gas pipelines, and railways was gradually formed in the SCO region.

With the construction of transportation services such as the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline and the regular operation of China-Europe freight train services, ties among SCO member states have physically become closer.

In June, the fifth anniversary of the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area was celebrated in the eastern Chinese coastal city of Qingdao. Statistics showed that apart from sea, air, and road transport, the Area operates 31 international freight train routes, reaching 54 cities in 23 countries, including the SCO countries and those along the Belt and Road.

"China's economic growth momentum is strong, and I hope that more Kazakh businessmen will continue to deeply integrate into China's new development paradigm and achieve win-win results through cooperation," said Botakoz Yelshibek, a Kazakhstan youth who had studied and worked in China for six years.

Established in January 2022, the China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade in Qingdao has held over 130 training programs covering international logistics and cross-border e-commerce and trained over 9,900 people from 43 SCO countries and others along the Belt and Road.

Meanwhile, China has also promised to establish a China-SCO base for training counter-terrorism personnel, set up a China-SCO Big Data Cooperation Center and provide developing countries in need with emergency humanitarian assistance of grain and other supplies worth 1.5 billion RMB yuan (about 214 million U.S. dollars). Its commitments to the SCO not only benefit the region but also lead a broader range of practical cooperation.

EXPANDING FAMILY

As a steadfast champion of multilateralism since its founding, the SCO is committed to building an open and inclusive "big family" for like-minded countries.

At the Samarkand summit in 2022, the SCO kicked off a new round of the largest expansion of the SCO membership, signing a memorandum of obligations on Iran's SCO membership, starting the procedure for Belarus' accession, granting Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Qatar the status of SCO dialogue partners, and reaching an agreement on admitting Bahrain, the Maldives, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Myanmar as new dialogue partners.

"In recent years, an increasing number of countries have applied to join our SCO family. This fully demonstrates the power of SCO's vision and the widely shared confidence in its future," Xi said on the significance of the SCO membership expansion.

From a regional organization with six founding members to a big family with dozens of members and partners, the SCO has developed into a new type of international organization, transcending differences in ideology, social system, and development path, and setting an example of international relations.

People-to-people exchanges constitute a crucial component of SCO cooperation. Cultural events such as the Year of Languages, the Year of Culture, and the Year of Tourism have been held in succession among member countries. The first Luban Workshop in Tajikistan in Central Asia has trained plenty of local professionals. Through flourishing cultural and people-to-people exchange events, the civil bond of the SCO family is getting stronger.

Over the years, China has worked to forge a series of consensus among SCO members on strengthening cooperation in big data, artificial intelligence, green infrastructure, tackling climate change, and safeguarding international energy and food security.

In the face of a torrent of global challenges and crises, the SCO has become an indispensable force in anchoring global stability, safeguarding world peace and security, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Looking into the future, China is ready to work with other SCO member states to actively implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, promote the development and prosperity of regional countries, build an even closer SCO community with a shared future, and jointly open up a brighter future for the Eurasian region.

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0704/c90000-20039077.html>

Xinhuanet News

CPEC qualitatively changes Pak-China relations into deep economic partnership: minister

LAHORE, Pakistan, July 4 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan said Monday that with the inception of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 10 years ago, the relations between the two countries qualitatively changed into a deep economic partnership.

"CPEC is a deep commitment by the government and the people of China to the future economic development of Pakistan," the minister told the celebrations of safe operation for 1,000-days of ± 660 kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under CPEC.

Highlighting the 10th anniversary of CPEC, he said Pakistan had crippling energy shortages with regular load shedding along with a strong wave of terrorism a decade ago, due to which none of its international partners were willing to come out actively for its support.

"China came and stood beside Pakistan shoulder to shoulder," Khan said, adding that "it is the tough times that allow you to recognize your true friends."

Regarding the Matiari-Lahore transmission line, the minister said this 886-km-long network connecting the power projects from Pakistan's northern mountains all the way up to the southern parts, represents a deep bond of friendship between the two countries.

On the occasion, Li Yong, counselor of commercial affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said the only power transmission project under CPEC, has already delivered almost 27 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity.

"The Chinese side is willing to work closely with the Pakistani counterpart to fully implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, to promote the high-quality development of CPEC and turn it into a high-quality demonstration project for Belt and Road cooperation," he added.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

The Matiari-Lahore transmission project was invested and constructed by the State Grid Corporation of China. The construction started in December 2018, and around 7,000 jobs had been created for the locals during the construction period.

The commercial operation of the project, which has the maximum capacity to transmit electricity of 35 billion kWh annually, started in September 2021.

<https://english.news.cn/20230704/0ea910a6b2054ec3b4f439f62a232cba/c.html>

July 05, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Xinhua Headlines: Xi attends SCO summit, calls for unity, coordination

BEIJING, July 4 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) must rise to the call of the times, keep in mind its founding mission, and stay in unity and coordination to bring more certainty and positive energy to world peace and development.

Xi made the remarks when addressing the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) via video conference from Beijing.

SCO GROWTH

Xi said ten years ago, in view of the changes of the world, of the times and of the trajectory of history, he opined that mankind, living in the same global village, are increasingly becoming a community with a shared future in which everyone's interest is closely interlinked.

Since then, the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind has gained extensive recognition and support from the international community, and has been transforming from an idea to action and a vision to reality. At the forefront of this trend is the SCO, upholding this very concept and the Shanghai Spirit to build an SCO community with a shared future, Xi said.

Member states have followed their fine tradition of standing together through thick and thin, as passengers in the same boat should do, and have firmly supported each other in standing up for their respective core interests and have become trustworthy partners on their paths to development and national rejuvenation, Xi said.

Member states have acted out the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, accommodated each other's legitimate security concerns, and responded to both traditional and nontraditional security challenges. Together member states have safeguarded peace and tranquility in the region, he said.

Xi pointed out that member states have embraced the development philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared growth, synergized national development strategies and regional cooperation initiatives, which has helped promote coordination in the economic development.

Member states have carried forward the spirit of good-neighborliness, and advocated equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between civilizations, and called for peaceful coexistence and harmonious development of different civilizations, he said.

He noted member states have upheld international fairness and justice, opposed hegemonic, high-handed, and bullying acts, and built partnerships featuring dialogue instead of confrontation, cooperation instead of alliance, strengthening the progressive forces for world peace and stability.

"More and more countries have realized that the SCO is not an exclusive 'small circle,' but a new type of international organization with vitality and openness. The accession of new members will help the SCO play a positive role on a larger scale," said Li Yongquan, an expert with the Development Research Center of the State Council of China.

Leaders attending the summit spoke highly of the remarkable achievements of the SCO in its development, welcoming Iran to become a full member and hoping Belarus will complete the procedures for joining the SCO as soon as possible.

They noted that the SCO has been growing with increasing international influence, making important contributions to deepening good-neighborliness and friendship, safeguarding the common interests of member states, promoting lasting peace and stability in the region and the world, and promoting sustainable development. They said it has become a model of mutual trust, equal dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation.

They said member states should further carry forward the Shanghai Spirit, enhance mutual understanding and cooperation, promote regional economic cooperation, and oppose ideological confrontation, division and discrimination.

They agreed member states should strengthen regional connectivity and the building of major corridors, support the synergy of the Belt and Road Initiative with the building of the Eurasian Economic Union, deepen cooperation in economy, trade, finance, energy, science and technology, environmental protection, digital economy and people-to-people exchanges, and jointly address global challenges such as the food and energy crises and climate change.

They also called for joint efforts to combat the forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism and uphold genuine multilateralism, support the United Nations in playing a leading role and strengthen global governance.

It was decided at the summit that Kazakhstan will take over the rotating presidency of the SCO in 2023-2024.

The summit was hosted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gathering Xi and leaders from member states Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as observer states Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia.

CHINESE PROPOSALS

The world today is undergoing both transformation and upheaval; changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace; human society faces unprecedented challenges. Unity or split, peace or conflict, cooperation or confrontation -- these are the questions raised again by the times, Xi said.

"My answer is this: the people's wish for a happy life is our goal, and peace, development and win-win cooperation are the unstoppable trends of the times," Xi said.

Xi said that member states should keep to the right direction and enhance solidarity and mutual trust. "Facts have shown that as long as we bear in mind the larger picture, shoulder our responsibilities and remain undisturbed by all sorts of distractions, we will be able to protect and promote the security and development interests of our member states," Xi said.

Member states should step up strategic communication and coordination, bridge differences through dialogue, replace competition with cooperation, truly respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and firmly support each other's endeavor for development and rejuvenation, Xi said.

Member states should keep in mind the overall and long-term interests of the region, and make the foreign policies independently so that the future of their development is held firmly in their own hands, Xi said.

He said member states should maintain regional peace and safeguard common security. China stands ready to work with all sides to implement the Global Security Initiative, promote the settlement of international disputes through dialogue and consultation, and encourage political settlement of international and regional hotspots, so as to forge a solid security shield in the region.

He called for upgrading SCO security cooperation, and crack down hard on the forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism such as the "East Turkistan" elements, drug trafficking, and cyber and transnational organized crimes and expand cooperation in the nontraditional security fields, including digital, biological and outer space security.

Xi said member states should continue to utilize platforms such as the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbors, and encourage the country to embark on the path of peace and reconstruction.

Member states should focus on practical cooperation and expedite economic recovery. China stands ready to work with all sides to implement the Global Development Initiative, keep to the right direction of economic globalization, oppose protectionism, unilateral sanctions and the overstretching of national security, and reject the moves of setting up barriers, decoupling and severing supply chains, the Chinese president said.

"We should make the pie of win-win cooperation bigger, and ensure that more development gains will be shared more fairly by people across the world," Xi said.

He welcomed member states' participation in the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to broaden the Belt and Road as a "path of happiness" benefiting the whole world.

China proposes that the SCO scale up local currency settlement between member states, and promote the establishment of an SCO development bank, according to Xi.

On strengthening exchanges and mutual learning and forging closer bonds between peoples, Xi said China welcomes all sides to work together to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, promote inclusiveness and coexistence among all civilizations, and increase mutual understanding and friendship among all nations.

Member states should further deepen cooperation in education, science and technology, culture, health, sport and media. In the coming three years, China will provide member states with 1,000 International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarships, offer 3,000 "Chinese Bridge" summer camp opportunities, and invite 100 young scientists to China for scientific research exchanges, Xi said.

Xi said member countries should practice multilateralism and improve global governance. Member states should advocate the common values of humanity, uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law, and oppose hegemonism and power politics.

He called on member states to make global governance more just and equitable, and advance modernization of the entire humanity through collective efforts to promote equal rights, equal opportunities and fair rules for all, and jointly promote world peace, drive global development and safeguard the international order.

The Chinese people are rallied behind the Communist Party of China to pursue Chinese modernization. China hopes to share new development opportunities with SCO members and all countries around the world through its achievements in modernization, and together make the world a better place, Xi said.

"A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far," Xi said. "The SCO's development accords with the trend of our times and goes along with the direction of human progress. Through our joint efforts, it will definitely grow from strength to strength."

Sun Zhuangzhi, director of the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said China's willingness to work with

other countries to implement the three initiatives, which are important public goods that China provides to the world, will have a positive impact on the SCO.

<https://english.news.cn/20230705/99a4ad4823bb4db28be9ac0d80716a91/c.html>

July 06, 2023

Global Times

China to continue promoting high-quality development as CPEC celebrates 10th anniversary

China is willing to promote high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), better contribute to the development of China and Pakistan and the region, and benefit the people of all countries, Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry, made the remarks after the Pakistani government held an event on Wednesday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

After ten years of development, a "1+4" cooperation layout has been formed, with the CPEC at the center and Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas, Wang said.

Projects under CPEC are flourishing all across Pakistan, attracting \$25.4 billion of direct investment, creating 192,000 jobs, producing 6,000 megawatts of electric power, building 510 kilometers of highways and adding 886 kilometers to the core national transmission network, Wang said.

He said that China and Pakistan are also expanding cooperation areas under the framework of the corridor, creating new highlights of cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication and people's wellbeing.

China is willing to carry forward the past and forge ahead with Pakistan. We will promote the high-quality development of the corridor to boost the development of China and Pakistan and the region and bring more benefits to the people of all countries, Wang said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that the CPEC has been playing a pivotal role in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

The implementation of a number of multi-billion-dollar development projects under the CPEC has brought socio-economic benefits to Pakistan and helped the country progress in the region and beyond, Sharif said while addressing a ceremony to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

Over the past 10 years, the CPEC has gathered momentum unheard of in Pakistan's economic history with complete support from the Chinese leadership, the prime minister said.

He said that the pace of work on the CPEC projects will be further expedited in the coming days, and the cooperation between the two countries is being enhanced in various areas including agriculture, special economic zones, information technology, and exploration of mineral resources.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1293870.shtml>

People's Daily

Xi's remarks at SCO summit illustrate China's commitment to peace, development

(Xinhua)

Through Xi's recent address at the SCO summit, experts and scholars have seen fresh boosts to a closer and stronger SCO community and drawn more confidence in building a better world featuring peace and stability, win-win cooperation, and a more just and equitable international order.

BEIJING, July 5 (Xinhua) -- "Unity or split, peace or conflict, cooperation or confrontation?" Chinese President Xi Jinping inquired under the attentive gaze of world leaders at Tuesday's 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

"These are the questions raised again by our times," Xi continued. "My answer is this: the people's wish for a happy life is our goal, and peace, development and win-win cooperation are the unstoppable trends of the times."

China's commitments in Xi's speech are palpable for residents living on the outskirts of Lahore, Pakistan.

Just one day earlier, they held celebrations for the 1,000-day safe operation of the ± 660 kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which brought an end to the era of insufficient power supply that had plagued the local area for long.

For experts and scholars who have heeded China's efforts to promote world peace and development, the power transmission project is a testament to China's commitment to improving living standards of all people by cooperating with other countries.

And through Xi's recent address at the SCO summit, they have seen fresh boosts to a closer and stronger SCO community and drawn more confidence in building a better world featuring peace and stability, win-win cooperation, and a more just and equitable international order.

CHAMPION OF PEACE & STABILITY

"Sustaining peace and security in this region is our common responsibility," Xi said in his speech, adding that China stands ready to work with all sides "to implement the Global Security Initiative, promote the settlement of international disputes through dialogue and consultation, and encourage political settlement of international and regional hotspots, to forge a solid security shield in our region."

The Global Security Initiative is a China-proposed initiative to advance multilateralism and peacebuilding to strengthen global security.

Inspired by Xi's address, Jalal Bazwan, a lecturer at the Kabul-based Kardan University, said: "Xi's speech highlights China's proactive role in global security and its commitment to regional stability."

Referring to the Afghan issue as an example, Bazwan said that China has been playing a constructive role in addressing regional issues and "supporting long-term stability through political negotiations."

China has been the forerunner of the SCO, leading the way in ensuring global security and prosperity while building a community with a shared future for mankind, said Gulru Gezer, a former Turkish diplomat and foreign policy analyst.

"This is very important because the region and itself and the world is going through a turbulent period, and having an open dialogue based on mutual respect and mutual trust, I think, is critical nowadays," Gezer told Xinhua.

At the summit, Xi noted that SCO members "have acted out the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, accommodated each other's legitimate security concerns, and responded to both traditional and nontraditional security challenges."

Echoing Xi's words, Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in Islamabad, said the SCO offers a platform for member countries to explore avenues for addressing regional conflicts, promoting stability and mitigating risks in a volatile world.

By promoting comprehensive and practical cooperation, China is contributing to maintaining peace and stability within the region and strengthening security collaboration among SCO member states, Akram added.

ADVOCATE OF WIN-WIN COOPERATION

In his address, Xi emphasized the importance of member states enhancing strategic communication and coordination, resolving differences through dialogue, promoting cooperation instead of competition, showing genuine respect for each other's core interests and major concerns, and providing firm support for each other's efforts towards development and rejuvenation.

Xi's proposals forging closer SCO partnerships "align with the interests and aspirations of people from various countries," demonstrate China's responsible role as a major country, and contributes to regional and global peace and development, said Benyamin Poghosyan, chairman of the Center for Political and Economic Strategic Studies in Armenia.

"We should make the pie of win-win cooperation bigger and ensure that more development gains will be shared more fairly by people across the world," Xi said, welcoming member states' participation in the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to broaden the Belt and Road as a "path of happiness" benefiting the whole world.

Thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Tulanbay Kurbanov, an Uzbek expert on international relations, said that the infrastructure, trade and economic ties among Asian, European and African countries are becoming further interconnected.

As the BRI heads into a new decade, Xi's call for further coordination between the BRI and the development strategies of relevant countries will become a unifying force among regional countries and a cause for further global development, Kurbanov added.

"China is promoting economic growth, facilitating trade, and enhancing people-to-people exchanges by encouraging regional development ... These efforts align with the spirit of the SCO, which seeks to enhance cooperation among member states for the region's benefit," Akram said.

The Pakistani expert said that through economic collaboration under the BRI, China connected its prosperity with regional growth, aligning with the SCO's objective of promoting economic integration and shared prosperity.

Selcuk Colakoglu, director of the Ankara-based Turkish Center for Asia-Pacific Studies, told Xinhua that in Xi's speech, "There is a focus on win-win cooperation and also increasing interactions for peaceful developments in international space."

"President Xi's remarks illustrate China's unwavering policy to expand mutually-beneficial cooperation, promote multilateralism for the benefit of all, and oppose hegemony and power politics," said Kin Phea, director-general of the International Relations Institute of Cambodia.

TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD

The world today is undergoing both transformation and upheaval; changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace; and human society faces unprecedented challenges, Xi said in his remarks,

In response to the challenges, Xi called on SCO member states to make global governance more just and equitable and advance the modernization of humanity through collective efforts to promote equal rights, equal opportunities and fair rules for all. He called on member states to jointly promote world peace, drive global development and safeguard the international order.

From the viewpoint of Mohammad Reza Manafi, editor-in-chief for the Asia-Pacific news desk of Iran's official news agency IRNA, the SCO is an excellent example of common growth and development.

The Chinese government, he said, profoundly believes that today's world is not a place for unilateralism. When working together, nations and countries can achieve more growth and development.

"China has proved that it is trying its best to use its huge abilities to bring common development to the whole nations simply because it believes it can achieve more development if other nations could develop together," Manafi added, noting China's approach as "real multilateralism."

Xi's remarks reflect "China's firm commitment and efforts to build an even closer SCO community with a shared future that will inject stronger impetus into regional and global peace, security and development," said Kin Phea.

He believed that China's global initiatives, such as the BRI, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Security Initiative, are crucial to address regional and global challenges.

"It was particularly important that he (Xi) also underscored China's willingness to work with all parties to safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core and maintain the international order based on international law and promote the establishment of a fair and more reasonable global governance system," Gezer told Xinhua.

Humankind does not need hatred, division or conflict, and people worldwide want to live a good life, said Sheradil Baktygulov, a foreign affairs consultant at the Kyrgyz National Institute for Strategic Studies. "The thoughts of President Xi show the way for building a close SCO community and a bright future for the Eurasian continent."

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0706/c90000-20040266.html>

CPEC plays pivotal role in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape: PM

ISLAMABAD, July 5 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has been playing a pivotal role in transforming Pakistan's economic landscape.

The implementation of a number of multi-billion-dollar development projects under the CPEC has brought socio-economic benefits to Pakistan and helped the country progress in the region and beyond, Sharif said while addressing a ceremony to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

Over the past 10 years, the CPEC has gathered momentum unheard of in Pakistan's economic history with complete support from the Chinese leadership, the prime minister said.

"The CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China," he said, adding that Pakistan ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, including energy and infrastructure projects.

Highlighting the tireless efforts made by the Chinese and Pakistani staff working on the CPEC projects, Sharif said that thousands of Chinese workers along with their Pakistani counterparts worked day and night and completed many projects ahead of schedule, reflecting unparalleled commitment and exuberance of the two sides.

He said that the pace of work on the CPEC projects will be further expedited in the coming days, and the cooperation between the two countries is being enhanced in various areas including agriculture, special economic zones, information technology, and exploration of mineral resources.

The prime minister also thanked the Chinese government for supporting Pakistan during the financial crisis, underlining the financial support by China including the rollover of its loans.

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0706/c90000-20040524.html>

Xinhuanet News

Xiplomacy: Xi's remarks at SCO summit illustrate China's commitment to peace, development

BEIJING, July 5 (Xinhua) -- "Unity or split, peace or conflict, cooperation or confrontation?" Chinese President Xi Jinping inquired under the attentive gaze of world leaders at Tuesday's 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

"These are the questions raised again by our times," Xi continued. "My answer is this: the people's wish for a happy life is our goal, and peace, development and win-win cooperation are the unstoppable trends of the times."

China's commitments in Xi's speech are palpable for residents living on the outskirts of Lahore, Pakistan.

Just one day earlier, they held celebrations for the 1,000-day safe operation of the ±660kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which brought an end to the era of insufficient power supply that had plagued the local area for long.

For experts and scholars who have heeded China's efforts to promote world peace and development, the power transmission project is a testament to China's commitment to improving living standards of all people by cooperating with other countries.

And through Xi's recent address at the SCO summit, they have seen fresh boosts to a closer and stronger SCO community and drawn more confidence in building a better world featuring peace and stability, win-win cooperation, and a more just and equitable international order.

CHAMPION OF PEACE & STABILITY

"Sustaining peace and security in this region is our common responsibility," Xi said in his speech, adding that China stands ready to work with all sides "to implement the Global

Security Initiative, promote the settlement of international disputes through dialogue and consultation, and encourage political settlement of international and regional hotspots, to forge a solid security shield in our region."

The Global Security Initiative is a China-proposed initiative to advance multilateralism and peacebuilding to strengthen global security.

Inspired by Xi's address, Jalal Bazwan, a lecturer at the Kabul-based Kardan University, said: "Xi's speech highlights China's proactive role in global security and its commitment to regional stability."

Referring to the Afghan issue as an example, Bazwan said that China has been playing a constructive role in addressing regional issues and "supporting long-term stability through political negotiations."

China has been the forerunner of the SCO, leading the way in ensuring global security and prosperity while building a community with a shared future for mankind, said Gulru Gezer, a former Turkish diplomat and foreign policy analyst.

"This is very important because the region and itself and the world is going through a turbulent period, and having an open dialogue based on mutual respect and mutual trust, I think, is critical nowadays," Gezer told Xinhua.

At the summit, Xi noted that SCO members "have acted out the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, accommodated each other's legitimate security concerns, and responded to both traditional and nontraditional security challenges."

Echoing Xi's words, Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in Islamabad, said the SCO offers a platform for member countries to explore avenues for addressing regional conflicts, promoting stability and mitigating risks in a volatile world.

By promoting comprehensive and practical cooperation, China is contributing to maintaining peace and stability within the region and strengthening security collaboration among SCO member states, Akram added.

ADVOCATE OF WIN-WIN COOPERATION

In his address, Xi emphasized the importance of member states enhancing strategic communication and coordination, resolving differences through dialogue, promoting cooperation instead of competition, showing genuine respect for each other's core interests and major concerns, and providing firm support for each other's efforts towards development and rejuvenation.

Xi's proposals forging closer SCO partnerships "align with the interests and aspirations of people from various countries," demonstrate China's responsible role as a major country, and contributes to regional and global peace and development, said Benyamin Poghosyan, chairman of the Center for Political and Economic Strategic Studies in Armenia.

"We should make the pie of win-win cooperation bigger and ensure that more development gains will be shared more fairly by people across the world," Xi said, welcoming member

states' participation in the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to broaden the Belt and Road as a "path of happiness" benefiting the whole world.

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Selcuk Colakoglu, director of the Ankara-based Turkish Center for Asia-Pacific Studies, told Xinhua that in Xi's speech, "There is a focus on win-win cooperation and also increasing interactions for peaceful developments in international space."

"President Xi's remarks illustrate China's unwavering policy to expand mutually-beneficial cooperation, promote multilateralism for the benefit of all, and oppose hegemony and power politics," said Kin Phea, director-general of the International Relations Institute of Cambodia.

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From the viewpoint of Mohammad Reza Manafi, editor-in-chief for the Asia-Pacific news desk of Iran's official news agency IRNA, the SCO is an excellent example of common growth and development.

The Chinese government, he said, profoundly believes that today's world is not a place for unilateralism. When working together, nations and countries can achieve more growth and development.

"China has proved that it is trying its best to use its huge abilities to bring common development to the whole nations simply because it believes it can achieve more

development if other nations could develop together," Manafi added, noting China's approach as "real multilateralism."

Xi's remarks reflect "China's firm commitment and efforts to build an even closer SCO community with a shared future that will inject stronger impetus into regional and global peace, security and development," said Kin Phea.

He believed that China's global initiatives, such as the BRI, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Security Initiative, are crucial to address regional and global challenges.

"It was particularly important that he (Xi) also underscored China's willingness to work with all parties to safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core and maintain the international order based on international law and promote the establishment of a fair and more reasonable global governance system," Gezer told Xinhua.

Humankind does not need hatred, division or conflict, and people worldwide want to live a good life, said Sheradil Baktygulov, a foreign affairs consultant at the Kyrgyz National Institute for Strategic Studies. "The thoughts of President Xi show the way for building a close SCO community and a bright future for the Eurasian continent."

<https://english.news.cn/20230706/28bf7d1046bb48a9ad60b0800d89da2e/c.html>

CPEC promotes high-quality development of Pakistan: foreign ministry

ISLAMABAD, July 6 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been promoting high-quality development of Pakistan, with the country witnessing remarkable economic achievements since its inauguration in 2013, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

"Pakistan and China are celebrating the 10th anniversary of CPEC which is an important pillar of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership with China," Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at a weekly press briefing.

The spokesperson said that both Pakistan and China remained committed to continued expansion and development of CPEC to promote win-win connectivity, development and mutual prosperity.

"We will continue to push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner, promoting cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, health, and science and technology," Baloch said.

Under the first phase of CPEC, China invested billions of dollars in Pakistan, primarily in energy and transport infrastructure sectors, she said, adding that thousands of MWs of energy were added to the national grid, and about 200,000 jobs were created in Pakistan.

The spokesperson also reiterated that being an important node in cross regional connectivity, CPEC is an inclusive and open platform for interested third parties to benefit from investment opportunities in its priority areas such as industry, agriculture, information technology, and oil and gas sectors.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230706/5d572475c9234425b6d6d301ecb49913/c.html>

July 08, 2023

Global Times

JCC Meeting to explore new avenues of China-Pakistan cooperation, chart future course for CPEC

By Liu Caiyu

The Special Commemorative 12th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is to be held on Tuesday in Beijing, as the two countries celebrate a decade of achievements linked to the project, the Global Times learnt from the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing on Saturday.

Ahsan Iqbal, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning and Development who will lead Pakistani delegation, said before his departure for China that the two sides will explore new avenues of cooperation and chart the future course for the CPEC in emerging sectors during the meeting.

This year marks a decade of the CPEC. The landmark project was formalized on July 5, 2013 when the then prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif visited China to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pakistan and China representing the official commencement of the project.

The CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which encompasses energy, transport and industrial cooperation, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The 12th Special CPEC JCC Meeting holds great significance as it not only represents a decade of fruitful collaboration but also sets the stage for the next phase of the project, the embassy said.

The meeting aims to forge stronger ties, explore new opportunities and reinforce the foundation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the embassy added.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202307/1293973.shtml>

July 11, 2023

Xinhuanet News

China Focus: Eco Forum Global highlights China's contribution to harmony between man, nature

GUIYANG, July 11 (Xinhua) -- During the two-day-long Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2023, which concluded Sunday at the capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province, participants spoke highly of China's contribution to the global cause of promoting ecological conservation and green development.

"We are facing a global climate emergency amid a time when countries are still addressing and rebounding from the socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic," James

George, deputy resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in China, told Xinhua in an interview.

More efforts must be made to maintain the harmony between humanity and nature to realize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for a better future for both people and the planet, he added.

Talking about China's efforts in ecological conservation, he noted that "China's efforts in utilizing spatial planning to safeguard and protect key ecological function zones and fragile areas have helped improve the living environment for communities and promote biodiversity conservation."

"This is one of the lessons that could be shared with other countries in the world for strengthening conservation efforts," he noted.

During the event, Tamas Hajba, senior advisor for China and head of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Beijing Office, told Xinhua that China's role in tackling climate change and low-carbon transition is very important.

China has a lot of experiences and a lot to share with the world. It is a leading country in terms of the application of renewable energy in the world, Hajba noted.

"More importantly, China has managed to bring down the prices of renewable energies, in other words, to commercialize renewable energies much faster and much earlier than other countries," he added.

In 2022, China's renewable energy generation was equivalent to a reduction of 2.26 billion tonnes of domestic carbon dioxide emissions. Its wind power and photovoltaic product exports helped other countries reduce emissions by approximately 573 million tonnes.

The two figures added up to 2.83 billion tonnes of emissions, or about 41 percent of the world's total carbon emissions reduction converted from renewable energy, data from the National Energy Administration showed.

A firm practitioner for ecological conservation and a pilot in green development, China has also actively shared experiences and cooperated with countries globally to facilitate the harmonious coexistence of man and nature.

Pakistan's Karot hydropower project epitomizes China's global cooperation in promoting sustainable development.

The station, constructed by the China Three Gorges Corporation, can generate electricity to meet the daily power demand of about 5 million people while saving around 1.4 million tonnes of standard coal each year.

In an interview with Xinhua, Mostak Ahamed Galib, executive director of the cross-cultural communication and Belt and Road Initiative research center at the Wuhan University of Technology, hailed the China-built Padma multipurpose bridge in Bangladesh.

"Affected by rising sea level and tropical cyclones, which are heavily linked with global climate change, people's livelihoods in some parts of southwestern Bangladesh significantly deteriorated due to problems including land salinization," he said.

"The bridge has brought opportunities and new hope to people living in these areas by greatly shortening the trip to the country's capital city," he noted. With convenient transportation, thousands of domestic and foreign tourists have come to see coastal mangrove tigers in local forests.

This boosted tourism, increased the income of local residents and raised the awareness of biodiversity conservation, making people better understand how to live harmoniously with nature, he commended.

China is playing a critical role globally in terms of green development and green technology, Yanga Viwe Socikwa, a national community member of the Young Communist League of South Africa, said in an interview at the forum.

He hoped to apply China's strategies and tactics in the context of his own country and advance projects that balance environmental protection and economic growth, such as the transformation of coal mines.

Tu Ruihe, head of the UN Environment Programme China Office, expected China to continue to support international multilateral cooperation and lead global environmental governance with more active and pragmatic actions to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

"We hope that China will share experiences in the fields of low-carbon transformation, green development, environmental protection, and ecological restoration, and support developing countries in green transformation," he said in a keynote speech at the forum.

<https://english.news.cn/20230711/c64d6edb15d24620ac736cddb482826/c.html>

July 12, 2023

China Daily

How China keeps the world away from risks

Some Western countries have a habit of hyping up notions they concocted to serve their domestic agenda. The most recent example would be "de-risking" in relation to China, a substitute for "decoupling." However, as any discerning individual can tell, this is merely old wine in a new bottle.

Three years ago, the Eurasia Group, one of the world's leading political risk consultancies, called a "divided America" the biggest risk facing the world. It is still true today. But rather than focusing on the crisis at home, the US chose to label others as "risk" and blame them for its own problems. Here is how the US "de-risking" in fact poses risks to the world, and how China keeps the world away from such risks.

China as a force for unity

The US has a long history of pursuing "isolationism" since its independence. The truth is: the US wants to avoid international responsibility, so it engages in multilateral institutions only when doing so fits its self-interest. While claiming no interference and no involvement in the affairs of other countries, the US has been actively building small blocs such as AUKUS,

QUAD, the Five Eyes and G7 with specific targets in mind, stoking division, confrontation and instability.

By contrast, China is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind and has been steadfast in supporting and practicing genuine multilateralism for decades: becoming ASEAN's dialogue partner, joining numerous multilateral organizations, launching the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and advocating global public goods like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, the list goes on. While some countries withdrew from international obligations, agreements and organizations, China called for greater unity and never shied away from responsibilities as a major country.

China as a force for cooperation

"The dollar is our currency, but it's your problem." For years, under the hegemony of the dollar, the US exported inflation to the rest of the world, triggering currency or debt crises in other countries and intensifying international economic and financial risks. The US also exploits the dollar's dominance to practice "financial terrorism." It has imposed economic sanctions on nearly 40 countries, adversely affecting nearly half of the global population. Moreover, the US is weaponizing its advantages in technology by building "small yards with high fences" like the "Chip 4 alliance" and "Clean Network initiative" — even its "allies and partners" may get shut out of these "yards."

China, unlike the US, champions common prosperity and is willing to share its development opportunities with the world. With the participation of 150 countries and 30 international organizations, the BRI has delivered more than 3,000 cooperation projects, created some 420,000 jobs, and helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty. The Mombasa-Nairobi Railway, the China-Laos Railway and the Jakarta-Bandung High Speed Railway are bringing tangible fruits to local communities. The China International Import Expo (CIIE) has served as a high-quality platform for enterprises around the globe to share the benefits of China's economic development.

As for technology, Tesla is a case in point. Instead of blocking Tesla out — which the US did to Huawei and is trying to do to Tiktok — China has offered a sound business environment and immense market opportunities for the American tech giant. This does put more competitive pressure on local EV manufacturers, but China believes that both Chinese and American businesses will grow and succeed through healthy competition. Had China behaved like the US, companies such as Apple, Microsoft, Boeing and Nvidia would never have succeeded in the world's largest market.

China as a force for stability

Political polarization inside the US has reached a historic level — the Democrats and Republicans disagree on almost all major issues, as the recent debt ceiling episode revealed yet again. And this mess not only affects the American people, but people across the world.

In this era of transformation and volatility, a stable and developing China means a broader market, more capital, more choices of quality products, and more opportunities for cooperation. From 2013 to 2021, China's average contribution to global growth was above 30

percent, more than the G7 combined and ranking first among all countries. A stable and united China is a blessing for its own people, but also a source of confidence for people of other countries. Just as Jeffrey Sachs, a professor and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, said at Athens Democracy Forum 2022, China has made extraordinary achievements in the past four decades, and we should "take joy in China's accomplishments, not fear from it."

Today's world is far from being tranquil and "black swans" and "gray rhinos" emerge from time to time. What the world really needs are advocates of unity, cooperation and stability like China, who take real actions to keep the world away from risks, not "risk mongers" like the United States. May there be more hard doers and less toxic talkers.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202307/12/WS64adf5cea31035260b815e3e.html>

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Xinhuanet News

New Hualong One nuclear power unit exported to Pakistan: CNNC

BEIJING, July 15 (Xinhua) -- China has exported a new nuclear power unit to Pakistan, according to the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

Unit 5 of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (C-5) broke ground recently, marking another milestone in nuclear energy cooperation between China and Pakistan.

It is the third one-million-kilowatt-class unit of Hualong One, China's self-developed third-generation nuclear power technology, and the seventh nuclear power unit exported from China to Pakistan.

The CNNC said it had built two nuclear power bases in Pakistan with a total of six nuclear power units, which can provide nearly 30 billion kWh of clean electricity every year, equivalent to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 24.48 million tonnes per year.

The construction of the C-5 project will further enhance Pakistan's energy security, help promote Pakistan's economic development, and improve the well-being of local people, said the CNNC.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, China and Pakistan reached a consensus on enhancing collaboration across the entire industry chain and achieving mutual benefit and win-win results.

<https://english.news.cn/20230715/4c00cfac229b4ee2a764551997dfc43c/c.html>