



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

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**November 16-30, 2024**

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**November 16, 2024**

**Daily Times**

**China's warns of shutting down steel mill plant in Rashakai Economic Zone**

China's Century Steel Mill has warned of shutting down the plant in the Rashakai Economic Zone, as investors continue to express concerns over mounting challenges.

Rashakai SEZ is a flagship project under the industrial cooperation of China China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework and is listed as the prioritized CPEC SEZ by China-Pakistan Joint Cooperation Committee.

According to official documents, Century Steel has informed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif through a letter about its decision to halt the project.

The letter highlights 18 specific grievances faced by the company.

The Century Steel Mill in its letter to the premier has also complained about numerous problems being faced by them.

The letter stated that the the high cost of land in the economic zone is making the project unviable, while unfair competition from FATA and PATA-based steel mills are impacting the steel industry across Pakistan.

“Inconsistent tax policies in the steel sector, leading to closures of major players like Amreli and Agha Steel.”

China's Century Steel Mills further said that power shortages and delays in approvals by NEPRA is also creating operational hurdles and the pressure to establish a solar power plant for electricity within the zone.

The letter also mentions challenges like declining demand for steel products due to rising costs, security expenses, and obstacles in machinery imports despite State Bank directives.

Century Steel warned, “This is our final communication. If the situation doesn't improve, we will begin dismantling the plant.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1239951/chinas-warns-of-shutting-down-steel-mill-plant-in-rashakai-economic-zone/>

Pakistan attracts Chinese investors with exclusive incentives in solar, EV sectors

Pakistan is set to attract Chinese investors with exclusive incentives in the booming solar and electric vehicle (EV) sectors, said Pakistan's Trade and Investment Counselor to China Ghulam Qadir.

Addressing the 4th Beijing International Engineering Procurement Conference & Exposition for Engineering Construction Supply Chain (EPC Expo), focused on sustainable trade between China and Pakistan, Ghulam Qadir emphasized that the Pakistani government has introduced special incentives designed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in green technology.

“These sectors are pivotal for Pakistan’s sustainable future and present lucrative opportunities for Chinese businesses,” Qadir noted according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday.

He highlighted the potential for collaboration on high-impact projects, including streamlined licensing processes, tax breaks, and favorable import policies aimed at reducing setup costs and accelerating the transfer of EV and solar technology to Pakistan.

“Pakistan offers a consistent 10-year policy framework of tax exemption for import of plant, machinery, and equipment for new and BMRE for manufacturing of solar panels, parts & allied equipment’s with equal treatment in sales tax for local manufacturers and importers and ten-year tax holidays.

Bank financing loans at low interest rates for setting up local manufacturing and international-standard in-country testing facilities/labs”, he added.

“Pakistan sees China as a vital partner in transforming its energy and transportation landscape,” Qadir stated.

“Our combined efforts in solar power and electric vehicle development can not only meet shared climate goals but also fuel substantial economic growth in both countries.”

He said that Pakistan aims for 30% of its local vehicle production to be electric by 2030 whereas comprehensive EV Policy 2020-2025 wherein incentives for local electric vehicle manufacturing are granted to the manufacturers and reduce reliance on imported fuel.

He highlighted potential projects and collaborations, including co-manufacturing initiatives, technology transfer agreements, and joint ventures designed to streamline production and reduce costs.

Qadir mentioned that as countries globally look toward greener solutions, Pakistan aims to leverage Chinese expertise and investment in EV and solar technologies to accelerate its energy transition. It is to be noted that the 4th Beijing International Engineering Procurement Conference & Exposition for Engineering Construction Supply Chain was scheduled to be held at Beijing Beiren International Exhibition & Convention Center from November 14-16, 2024.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1239850/pakistan-attracts-chinese-investors-with-exclusive-incentives-in-solar-ev-sectors/>



This achievement underscores the rapid growth of the rail corridor connecting China and Europe, facilitating seamless and reliable movement of goods across continents.

Over the past seven years, the service has seen an almost tenfold increase in operations, with annual train numbers rising from 1,702 in 2016 to over 17,000 in 2023. While it took 90 months to reach the 10,000th train, only six months were needed to surpass the 90,000th and 100,000th train milestones. Since March of this year, monthly operations have consistently exceeded 1,600 trains. “It is much cheaper than air freight and much faster and more reliable than sea logistics. It is an appealing option for many customers looking to optimize their supply chains,” said Zhang Shuzheng, operations director of Chongqing Shike Supply Chain Co.

Since the beginning of this year, Shike has transported more than 400 containers of goods worth about \$40 million, marking a significant shift in its logistics operations. Over 90 percent of the company’s logistics business between China and Europe now depends on the China-Europe freight train service. Liu Bori, head of international railway business for overseas region of SF Express Delivery Business Group, which has been transporting goods via the China-Europe freight train since 2020, noted the significant benefits of the service. “The China-Europe freight train service offers a perfect balance of speed, cost, and reliability,” Liu said. Liu’s company transports a wide range of goods, from clothing and electronics to automotive parts, furniture, and machinery. In total, more than 8,000 containers have been shipped, with a value exceeding 1.6 billion yuan (\$221 million). This year, the company has sent over 2,500 containers, worth more than 600 million yuan. Liu also noted that one of the key reasons for choosing the rail service is its efficiency and cost-effectiveness. “The main advantage of the China-Europe freight train is its fast transport times. A sea shipment from China to Europe usually takes about 35 days, but the rail service reduces that to just 20 days,” Liu said. “The train network is less affected by weather or port congestion, making it a more reliable and stable option for cross-border trade.”

In addition to speed and reliability, the service offers significant logistical advantages. The trains can reach inland cities directly, reducing the need for further transshipment and minimizing the risks associated with cargo handling. This door-to-door transport capability not only lowers costs but also improves overall operational efficiency, he noted. The network of the China-Europe freight train service has expanded rapidly from its initial routes into a fully integrated network covering most of the Eurasian region. The service now operates in 25 European countries, reaching 227 cities, and in 11 Asian countries, spanning over 100 cities. This broad and ever-expanding network has transformed the logistics landscape between China and Europe, offering more options for businesses across diverse regions. The continued success and expansion of the China-Europe freight train service are set to play a key role in shaping the future of international trade. With increasing demand for efficient and reliable logistics solutions, the service promises even greater potential for collaboration and growth in the years ahead.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1873127#:~:text=THE%20China%2DEurope%20freight%20train,manages%20and%20oversees%20the%20service.>

## The News

### **COP-29: China leading the climate fight**

*Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

The global community has gathered in Baku to have a philosophical debate on combating climate change. It is feared the debate will be dominated by blame games and shifting responsibility. However, China advocates philosophical debate, blame games or shifting of responsibility cannot solve the problems; only action can. Every country will have to play its role according to its development status and historical responsibility.

As a major country, China is cognizant it must lead by example. Hence, it introduced many policies, programmes and innovative solutions to combat climate change, making the country resilient against climate impacts, and contributing at the global level.

China is working to transform its agriculture, make it climate-compatible, use water smartly and efficiently, lower GHG emissions by implementing smart, green and technologically driven agriculture policies. This is important because an IFPRI study shows climate change will impact production of three major grain crops in China—corn, wheat and rice. According to the study, corn's yield can drop by 1/5th, followed by wheat by 4pc and rice by 1.5pc by 2030.

The efforts are paying off, and green and organic practices are becoming new normal. Data shows between 2009 and 2018, China successfully reduced nitrogen fertilizer use by 14.58MTs, GHG emissions by 55.58MTs and pesticides by 542,000 tons. These efforts contributed to environmental betterment, better and healthier food availability and preserved soil fertility. It was calculated the added value of ecosystem services reached RMB3.2 trillion.

China is focusing on water security. This is extremely important for the country because water, arable land and population are unequally distributed between northern and southern parts. The statistics show per capita availability of water in northern and southern parts is 757 cm<sup>3</sup> and 3208 cm<sup>3</sup>, respectively.

The low availability in the northern region has serious implications for China because it accommodates 42pc of population and has 60pc of arable land. Therefore, China is heavily investing in improving irrigation systems, diverting water from south to the north, climate-smart water governance and efficiency.

China has introduced comprehensive reforms to restructuring production, consumption, energy sources and consumption under New Philosophy of Development and High-quality Development initiatives. It is keenly focused on environmental needs and climate change and introduced the vision of Ecological Civilisation to ensure preservation and protection of nature's boundaries and achieve goal of creating harmony between humans and nature.

China is making serious efforts to mitigate climate change by promoting clean energy. For example, in 2023, it invested \$980 billion (equivalent to Switzerland or Turkey's GDP). Clean energy investment, production and consumption added almost \$1.6 trillion to national

economy, which was the major growth driver. In 2023, share of renewable energy in national energy mix was 51pc.

The IEA predicted China would lead the world by installing 56pc renewable energy capacity during 2023-28. It was also a major supplier of wind turbines and solar panels in 2022, with 60pc and 80pc of global supply, respectively. China achieved marvelous success on the back of government policies, investment, and most importantly, generous allocations and investment in research and development.

China is promoting and has become a leader in electrical vehicle production and consumption to accelerate efforts to achieve net zero target before time. In 2023, China's contribution to global EV sales was over 60pc. S&P Global predicted EV sales will cross 12M in 2024. Moreover, in 2023, China produced almost 40pc of global EVs and earned \$42 billion from export.

China did not achieve it overnight. It was possible due to continuous efforts, policy framework, R&D spending and leadership of CPC. The story started with a policy initiative by CPC in 2001.

The CPC envisioned EV penetration in the Chinese vehicle market should be 45pc by 2027. Since then, China has spent billions of Yuan on R&D, designed pro-EV policies and encouraged consumers to go for EVs by offering incentives. For example, an EV buyer can get a free licence plate without any hassle, which can buyer cost 100,000 RMB in Shanghai, otherwise. A

Such policies helped China achieve the target of 45 percent penetration before 2027. Further, Alix Partners' survey indicates 97pc of Chinese respondents said they would purchase EVs (Europe 43pc, US 35pc). This means EVs will usher in a new boom in China's auto industry.

China believes without cooperation and contribution at the international level, climate fight will be incomplete. Therefore, China devised a comprehensive policy under BRI to promote climate-compatible and environment-friendly development. National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) took the lead and introduced Green BRI policy.

The Green BRI got new impetus during second BRI forum in 2019. President Xi assured the world Chinese investment would have the characteristics of 1)- Sustainability, 2)- High-quality, 3)- Reasonable pricing, 4)- Risk resilience, 5)- Inclusiveness, and 6)- Accessibility. He tasked BRI-relevant Chinese ministries, institutes and companies to lead the discourse and path in promoting green and environment-friendly development.

To pursue this objective, numerous initiatives, including BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), Green Development Coalition, Silk Road Environment Programme, Green Silk Road Envoy Programme, Big Data Platform, Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange, Transfer Centre, Green Lightning and Green Cooling Initiatives were launched under the BRI.

However, the BRIGC is one of the most important initiatives to realise the dream of green and environment-friendly development. It is a joint venture of Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, and over 100 international intergovernmental and non-government



organisations. The BRIGC was created with three specific objectives: to promote policy dialogue and communication; act as an environmental knowledge platform; act as a technology transfer platform.

It is good to note China is equally focused on taking concrete actions to implement green BRI vision. First, it started to divert investment towards green energy, infrastructure and industry. For example, in 2020, investment in renewable energy resources was 58.2 percent, which was 19.6pc in 2014.

Moreover, China invested almost \$7.9 billion in green energy-related projects in 2023. Besides, after President Xi Jinping's statement, China abandoned its investment in coal power plants.

China worked with 29 BRI countries for low-carbon demonstration zones to build their capacity to combat climate change-related challenges. Third, China is also putting efforts into building capacity through programmes like Green Silk Road Envoys Programme to train 1,500 environmental officials, etc. President Xi Jinping announced China will invest in building capacity of 100,000 personnel from BRI member countries. Fourth, China is promoting use of technology to green the BRI.

In conclusion, these are only a few examples; we can find many more by analysing the BRI investment programmes, programmes under Ecological Civilisation, Green BRI, GDI, New Philosophy of Development, etc. China promotes green development under AIIB to bridge the financial gap. This indicates China does not talk, it acts.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=360480>

## **Zooming in on China**

*Hassan Baig*

One of the most important factors and common denominators behind the success of great empires was the level of preparedness and willingness to struggle to achieve national goals. The same is true today.

The outperforming nations willing to struggle to achieve their national goals are progressing well. China is one such nation, outperforming others in almost all fields – from industrial development to technological innovation. Pakistan can take the lead and learn a lot from the Chinese experience. Infrastructure development, industrialisation and technological innovations have helped make China an economic power that is now leading the world.

The wise decision on the part of Chinese policymakers was to adopt a non-political or neutral role in world affairs, concentrating only on their economic development. China has been very practical in achieving its national goals by pursuing a policy of non-interference and non-alignment focusing only on economic growth and development. Today, digital and green transformations are underway in China, addressing new emerging challenges to the world economic outlook. This is a great leap forward.

The modern era of the Chinese economy can be traced back to 1989 when Deng Xiaoping changed the Chinese concept of total ownership of the state to private sharing in the affairs of

state-owned enterprises and entities. China has become the second largest economy in the world, with clear aims and objectives to become number one in the coming years. They have done wonders for their economy. The capitalist world, led by the US, is trying to resist China's rise by raising tariffs to discourage cheap Chinese exports to the EU and other countries. But it is difficult to stop China now.

The US was the main beneficiary of the post-World War II international financial system. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) became the main source of lending to the world's economies. The US dollar became the international currency, replacing the old Bretton Woods system of using gold and silver as reserves. For a long time, the World Bank, IMF and the US became the lenders of last resort. But no more, as China has now emerged as a giant lender for economies in debt and other forms of distress.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS, led by China, are trying to dislodge the dominance of the dollar through currency swaps with banks of their choice, facilitating trade and investment in the local currencies of the member countries. The Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) is an alternative to the World Bank to facilitate the bloc for infrastructure development. One potential proposal could be to use the AIIB or another specific bank to provide support to the member countries of SCO and BRICS for investment in local currencies.

The SCO and BRICS countries possess almost 60 per cent of the global population and market and have agreed to expand their bloc by allowing other developing countries to become members. Over 30 countries have shown an interest in joining the bloc or have formally applied for membership. China's President Xi Jinping, who has long pushed for the expansion of the BRICS group, has said: "The world is undergoing major shifts, division and regrouping....it has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation." The SCO and BRICS countries are committed to promoting trade in their own national currencies for which a bank is being established to promote trade and investment in member countries.

Chinese policymakers have devised a very smart strategic policy to first industrialise their country. They waged a great struggle to create industrial clusters and started exporting their products to almost all countries of the world. An estimated \$4 trillion worth of exports and a trade surplus with almost all countries are clear indications that China is on the rise in a big way.

The country is now embarking on a technological revolution led by artificial intelligence (AI). The AI-based technological revolution depends on chips and semiconductors, triggering a trade war between Western countries and China. There is a lot of discussion and debate over supply chain disruptions in the backdrop of such unhealthy chip wars.

Battery and microchip technologies have become a mainstay of global markets, with China possessing huge resources and a cache of stockpiles in these fields. Currently, the Chinese supply chain is under stress due to multiple political and economic reasons, especially new tariffs imposed by the US on most imports from China.

The Nato countries are following the US's lead, which may ultimately prove to be detrimental to the future of the semiconductors supply chain. South Korea's chip exports to

China almost halved in January 2023 amidst American pressure, although they cannot afford to lose the Chinese market. According to some reports, Vietnam is also preparing to serve in the US chip war, although China wants to maintain global industrial and supply chain stability in chips and semiconductors.

The Chinese economy has emerged as a big threat to the economic might of US power in the field of technology, especially electric batteries and the microchips used for AI applications. Economic diplomacy is taking new turns due to the ensuing trade war between the US and China. The new US efforts to encircle China through various defence and economic alliances at the world level may lead to another conflict endangering global supply chains.

The supply chain mechanism was strengthened through various initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) started by the present Chinese government. There is no doubt that the BRI is a wonderful programme, providing an excellent infrastructure network connecting the world and thereby facilitating trade and commerce. It is, in fact, a signature project of President Xi Jinping, based upon the concept of global partnership. The Chinese commitment to support the world's economies is encouraging by all means.

There is no doubt that the BRI is a strategic project, but its utility is also monumental. Through such initiatives and big projects, China has started delivering a lot and one can picture the rise of China from the fact that they have lent about \$900 billion to 151 lower-income countries through commercial efforts to develop and safeguard geopolitical and geo-economic interests. Infrastructure development in pursuance of industrialisation and now technological revolutions has strengthened China as a leading world power. They have done wonders by building outstanding bridges, dams and airports, which are unmatched across the world and have outperformed the US and the EU in the field of infrastructure development.

Right now, China is moving towards adopting market-based reforms that would positively impact economic growth. The country needs more consumer markets for its economic growth, which is showing signs of slowing down after rising at an unprecedented rate for many years. They need to properly regulate AI-based technologies and developments to derive the maximum benefits. Digital and green transformations are also underway in China, with the country leading the EV revolution. This will be its way forward.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=360188>

### **Academicians from Pak-China participate in bio-health agriculture symposium**

Islamabad : The 6th International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health Agriculture and China-SCO National Bio-Health Agriculture Overseas Science and Technology Demonstration Park Construction Forum was held at Northwest A&F University (NWAUFU), China in the recent week.

Professor Mushtaq Ahmad from Quaid-i-Azam University, a member of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Professor Zhang Lixin from NWAUFU served as chairmen of the conference. Co-organizers include but not limited to the Silkroad (Yangling) Biohealth Agricultural Industry Alliance (SBHAIA), the Sino-Pak Research Center for Agro-Biological

Resources, the Sino-Pak Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Centre, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan, Shaanxi Hybrid Rapeseed Research Centre.

According to Gwadar Pro, more than 200 representatives home and abroad, from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Czech Republic, Iran, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, participated in the forum offline and online. In a keynote speech, Luo Jun, Vice President of NWAUFU, noted that all parties availed the opportunity to discuss the theme of promoting food safety through agricultural biodiversity and smart multifunctional agriculture.

Matters also came under discussion for promoting the development of biodiversity, green and smart agriculture through scientific and technological collaboration among countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

“Meanwhile, researches involved potential crops, Chinese medicinal materials and energy plant varieties, and built a technical system for biodiversity and ecological restoration, bio-healthy agricultural product production, and agricultural environmental governance are proceeding orderly, thus achieved rich results,” Luo added. “Agriculture is Pakistan’s economic pillar. Through holding such seminar, China and Pakistan should accelerate the cooperation process in agricultural talent training, establishment of joint laboratories, construction of demonstration parks, and development of smart agriculture,” emphasized Khan Muhammad Wazir, Scientific Counsellor of the Pakistani Embassy in China.

Professor Zabta Khan Shinwari, President of Federal Urdu University of Science and Technology, Pakistan, and Professor Shukhrat Shokirov, Vice President of Tashkent University of Water Resources and Agricultural Machinery Engineering, Uzbekistan, also expressed earnest desire and specific suggestions to strengthen China-Pakistan and China-Uzbekistan agricultural cooperation with NWAUFU in their speeches. A total of 20 keynote reports on biodiversity, production of bio-healthy agricultural products, as well as green and smart agriculture, has been delivered by Chinese and Pakistani representatives.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=360264>

**November 19, 2024**

**Daily Times**

**New Challenges for CPEC**

*M Alam Brohi*

Donald Trump has staged a spectacular come back. He is going to assume the US Presidency in January 2025. His widely-predicted policies on China, trans-Atlantic alliance, wars, globalization, trade wars, and protectionism would have profound impact on the current economic and strategic international order. Pakistan would be concerned on two counts: the renewed Sino-US rivalry with its potential consequences for the smaller states, protectionism or the increased tariffs on the foreign imports, the US being the second largest destination of its exports. The opportunities are always underlined by challenges for a nation. The success of a nation lies in successfully exploiting its advantageous geo-strategic position to avail of the opportunities while braving the challenges coming to its way. The China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) confronts Pakistan with daunting challenges putting to hard test its political capability for good governance and diplomacy. The Pakistan government, while bound to address the security concerns of China, would have to keep a watchful eye on the hostile countries hell-bent to sabotage the \$60billion project.

The importance of CPEC is underscored by the potential economic and trade connectivity with Central Asia and beyond. The Central Asian region, rich in hydrocarbon resources, minerals and agricultural products particularly cotton, borders with China, Afghanistan, Iran and Russia, and is landlocked and dependent on the seaports of China, Russia, Iran and Turkey and Pakistan. The Chinese and the Russian seaports are too distant to be commercially profitable for these states. The Iran's Seaport of Bandar Abbas is also located at a distance of almost 5000 kilometers while the Gwadar seaport is only 2700 kilometers from Tajikistan's capital.

This equally applies to the existing and potential oil and gas pipe lines to connect with South and South East Asia and the world market. Apart from the Soviet era pipelines carrying oil and gas from Central Asia to Europe, Russia has sponsored International South-West Transport Corridor along with Iran and some 20 Eurasian countries and India with routes and railways from Iran to the Russian Caspian port of Astra Khan. The second option with Central Asian Republics is to lay oil and gas pipelines from the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea ports of Turkey. The first pipeline (Caspian-Tbilisi-Black Sea) on this route was operationalized in 2006. The third option for the outflow of their oil and gas is to use the route to Afghanistan-Iran-Pakistan to connect with the world market.

The Asian Development Bank, in one of its reports, has estimated that after the operationalization of this economic connectivity within greater Asia, the trade between Central Asian states and Afghanistan would increase to \$12 billion with the creation of some 7,50,000 jobs. The GDP of Xinjiang would increase by three percent. The Eurasian Bridge being constructed by China beyond its Xinjiang region to open direct trade links with Europe by overland transportation via Central Asia would considerably reduce the transit and freight charges of containers. The road transportation of containers from China transiting through Xinjiang and Central Asia to Rotterdam would reduce transit time to 11 days from the present 20-40 days taken by the seaborne consignments with a considerable decrease in freight charges. This will give a tremendous boost to trade between Asia and Europe.

Strategically, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan enjoy vitally important positions than the other contenders in the new economic great game being played out in the Central Asian region. The CPEC has well placed Pakistan to benefit enormously from the economic and commercial connectivity with Central Asian region and the overland trade with Europe due to its connectivity with Xinjiang through Gwadar deep seaport. The short transit period, short distance and reduced freight are important factors in promoting trade and transportation of commercial goods. The Gwadar port will potentially attract bulk of the cargo transiting through Xinjiang to Europe.

The economic Great Game in the Central Asian region contextualizes the vital importance of the CPEC as a game changer for both China and Pakistan. It links Pakistan directly with Xinjiang, Central Asian States and Europe giving a fillip to its geo-economics. It would help

China achieve its long term economic objectives to mainstream its Xinjiang region and address the unrest in the Uighur Muslim population. China has been relentlessly following some well-defined foreign policy objectives in the Asian region through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to ensure political stability and security at home and in the region; to create an alternative transport corridor to Europe through Central Asia; to curb ethno-religious extremism and separatism.

The Western Pacific nations have been looking at the BRI with trepidations. Although China has since been stressing the importance of BRI as an economic initiative to sustain its earlier GDP growth, the Western analysts decline to believe in what the Chinese leadership says and see more to it. The grand project was launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping at the heels of the USA President Barak Obama's 'pivot to Asia' policy pronounced in 2011. The Western countries impart a strategic objective to BRI viewing it as an attempt to counter US 'China containment' policy. Therefore, Pakistan would come under the US pressure on CPEC if the Sino-US rivalry intensifies in the coming years.

The economic benefits of the CPEC are enormous, and the foreign policy challenges formidable too. We have to review our bilateral relations with Iran and Afghanistan. The absence of peace and stability in Afghanistan has so far prevented this vitally important project to realize its potential. The fast changing geo-economic and geo-political situation make it imperative for us to fully support international and regional endeavors to create inclusive governing structures in war-ravaged Afghanistan. While seconding China to include Afghanistan and Iran in CPEC, we also have to neutralize the hostilities to the CPEC from within and without. The security of the routes would be the main factor for Gwadar to flourish.

The author was a member of the Foreign Service of Pakistan and he has authored two books.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1240788/new-challenges-for-cpec/>

**November 20, 2024**

**Pakistan Observer**

**BRI, APEC and Trump's presidency: A way forward**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

THE Chinese BRI is achieving new heights of trans-regional connectivity promoting integrated transport systems, rails, seaports, developing new avenues of productivity in terms of digitalization, modernization and innovation and, mostly importantly, facilitating to overcome incidents of poverty, unemployment, undergrowth, sluggish national capacity, poor social development through immense community development, nurturing human capital, skill development, holistic and comprehensive people's friendly policies creating win-win situation and befitting propositions for all.

Thus Chinese wisdom of global shared prosperity is gearing Xi's global development, security and civilizational initiatives through the BRI in Asia, Africa, Central Asia, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and rest of the world. The joining of more than

155 countries with the BRI, 25-30 international organizations and completion of over 3,000 projects within the last ten years is a good omen for the regional as well as international economy.

According to many published reports, the BRI has emerged as a mega development initiative with a US\$4 trillion investment spanning over 155 countries, encompassing 1,590 projects worth \$1.9 trillion under the BRI and 1,574 projects involving \$2.1 trillion in Chinese investments. However, concerns have arisen that with Trump's electoral victory, the BRI could face significant challenges in the future. The ongoing US policies of decoupling and de-risking, coupled with the unilateral imposition of socio-economic, trade, technological and punitive legal measures, are expected to intensify, creating numerous obstacles for the expansion of the BRI.

Since we live in an era of economic globalization and international cooperation, which demands a fair, free, transparent and equitable world order, maintaining a balance between competition and cooperation is essential for the future bilateral relations between the USA and China in politics, economy, and technology. The recent meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping at APEC clearly reflected China's willingness to work with President-elect Trump, which is a positive sign for both countries and the global economy. Moreover, global interdependence requires healthy competition and cooperation, rather than economic protectionism, isolation and the unilateral imposition of socio-economic, investment, technology and industrial measures. Meaningful engagement, constant negotiations, political consultations, economic cooperation and diplomatic sustainability should be the way forward under Trump's presidency.

There are concerns that unhealthy competition resulting from expected economic, trade and technological measures, along with high tariffs (60 percent) against China, could derail the economic, manufacturing, and industrial development of both the US and the world, undermining the prospects for greater regional and global socio-economic prosperity. Therefore, sanity must prevail, as good relations between these economic superpowers have significant socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic implications. Their constructive competition could drive regional and global economic growth, create new opportunities for investment, science and space cooperation, promote hybrid agriculture and generate other beneficial propositions for global markets.

Easy and smooth inflows of trade and commodities guarantee regional as well as global trading systems which must be protected and progressed between the USA and China. Stability of China-US relations disseminates message of stability, sustainability, progress, prosperity, positivity and participation promoting economic cooperation, brightens chances of investments, joint ventures, industrial cooperation, artificial intelligence, digitalization, e-commerce, and other befitting fields producing a win-win situation for both the countries.

China is a global leader in new technologies such as lithium batteries, wind and solar manufacturing, hydrogen power generation, hybrid agriculture, health, vaccines, and transport systems, all of which have significant impacts on connectivity between the Global South and North, green transformation, agricultural productivity, economic diversification, and community development. Therefore, the stability of China-US relations is crucial. To

ensure global economic growth is not hindered by economic instability, political tensions, industrial non-cooperation, or investment sanctions, stability, sustainability, peace, and harmony must be prioritized. China's contribution to global GDP, which accounts for 30 percent, remains a key growth engine for the world and should be recognized and regulated.

China is a key engine of global growth and a stabilizing force in the world economy. China's economy is progressing steadily despite economic fluctuations around the world. China's role in the world economy is increasing, and it will play a greater role in the development of the world economy.

In summary, the looming threats of climate change are affecting economies, communities, manufacturing capacities, and basic human survival, putting the systematic response at risk. The stakes are high and must be addressed through cooperation, coordination, and collaboration between China and the USA. Cooperation on climate change, health, and human services should be the priority for both countries, as failure to do so could jeopardize economies, communities, humanity, the environment, biodiversity, blue economies, agriculture, and global health. The Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech in the just concluded APEC disseminated the message of development, economic cooperation, openness, modernization, digitalization, qualitative industrial cooperation and last but not least, green transformation through structural reforms, producing win-win situation and forming bilateral or trilateral befitting propositions gearing all the regional as well as world economies towards greater stability, sustainability, innovation and diversification brightening the chances of quick economic recovery. Thus economic globalization instead of America First and international cooperation instead of conflicts should be the mantra of the US and China countries. Xi Jinping's advocacy for openness, transparency, fair, free, and equitable economic cooperation is essential for greater development, integration, progress, prosperity, and peaceful persuasion of equal opportunities. These efforts should be accelerated and achieved collectively for the wellbeing of all countries and communities around the globe. The Chinese President's proposals for a fair, free, transparent, and equitable trading system will further enhance and expand the scope, utility, and importance of regional economic integration, which must be actively pursued to achieve a shared global future and prosperity. It seems that Xi's suggestions are timely, integrated, interactive facilitating a positive, productive and participatory trading system producing win-win situations for every country. The US and China are the custodians and guarantors of global economic stability and sustainability therefore their good ties would translate a message of hope encouraging industrial cooperation and investments producing favourable conditions for money, stock markets and manufacturing units. Let us hope that the President-elect Trump will triumph his own instinctive obsession of containment of China and jointly work for a better world, better for all people, producing better equations against global warming, unbridled role of AI and last but not least unrestricted self-glorification & gratification of his hawkish team against China and the Global South.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-apec-and-trumps-presidency-a-way-forward/>



## **CPEC: Truly a blessing for Pakistan's economy**

*Engr Muhammad Usman*

THE Chinese-style modernization is a great creation in the history of human development. The cooperation between countries under the Belt and Road Initiative is helping both sides achieve win-win results. "The Communist Party of China is concerned about the future and destiny of mankind and will work hand in hand with all progressive forces in the world. China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of international order!" General Secretary Xi Jinping demonstrated the world's largest ruling party's feelings at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. The "Belt and Road" initiative proposed by China benefits the countries along the route, benefits the people and is recognized by the countries along the route. It is a relationship of cooperation, equality and mutual benefit. The construction of the Belt and Road has achieved fruitful results and gratifying results, highlighting the vigorous vitality of the "Belt and Road" cooperation.

The joint construction of the "Belt and Road" initiative is a development demand that conforms to the trend of the times and the actual conditions of various countries. It has received strong support from the international community and has brought tangible benefits to the developing countries. Thanks to the joint construction of the "Belt and Road", the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was officially launched. Subsequently, a large number of energy, transportation and livelihood projects have continued to emerge under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China and Pakistan have joined hands in the development path, building a vibrant development belt and gradually turning the corridor blueprint into reality.

The Communist Party of China is a party that seeks happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation and is also a party that seeks progress for mankind. The "Belt and Road" initiative is a grand decision made by General Secretary Xi Jinping based on his profound thinking about the future and destiny of mankind and the development trends of China and the world. At the same time, General Secretary Xi Jinping made a series of relevant statements, highlighting that the theme of building the Belt and Road together is to promote infrastructure construction and connectivity in countries along the route, strengthen economic policy coordination and development strategy docking, promote coordinated and linked development, join hands in the development path, achieve common prosperity among countries, build a vibrant development belt and strive to create a development path with policy communication, facility connectivity, unimpeded trade and people-to-people connectivity.

Over the years, the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has made rapid progress and has entered a new era of high-quality development and green development from laying the foundation and coordinating projects. Looking to the future, China and Pakistan will adhere to the goals of high standards, green development and benefiting the people, expand and deepen cooperation, create new highlights of cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, information technology, renewable energy and other aspects and build a vibrant development path.

CPEC, part of the Beijing Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), not only stands as a symbol of Pakistan-China cooperation and a tool for bilateral development, but it also serves as a tool for multilateral cooperation, inviting countries from the neighbouring regions to actively participate and benefit from this multi-billion-dollar initiative. While addressing the members of the SCO on the first day of the SCO Summit held in Islamabad in October this year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, highlighted the importance of CPEC and China's BRI in regional stability and development. He remarked, "Flagship projects, like the Belt and Road Initiative of President Xi Jinping, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is in its second phase and the International North-South Transport Corridor should be expanded, focusing on developing road, rail, and digital infrastructure that enhances integration and cooperation across the region,...Let's not look at such projects through a narrow political prism and invest in our collective connectivity capacities, which are crucial to advancing shared visions of an economically integrated region."

By offering vital infrastructure and enhanced trade routes, CPEC provides landlocked Central Asian countries, such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, with direct access to international markets through Pakistan's ports. This access boosts regional trade, fosters economic interdependence, and creates new investment opportunities. For Pakistan, CPEC has become a crucial means to diversify its trade routes, reduce dependency on limited markets, and strengthen its economy through increased exports and international partnerships. The route serves as a corridor for trade and energy supply. CPEC is promoting Pakistan's national economic and trade development, such as infrastructure investment such as road construction, solve the facility obstacles in its economic development, and improve Pakistan's construction environment. The Matiari-Lahore DC transmission project realizes the transmission of electricity from the south to the north, effectively solving the regional imbalance between power supply and demand. The promotion of these favourable projects can enable Pakistan to quickly join the industrial chain of economic globalization.

Now, China-Pakistan cooperation has entered a new era. In the past, China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation were mainly based on state-level assistance. What is needed in the new era is a market-driven mechanism of cooperation, exchange, common development, mutual benefit and win-win. Driven by the new model of China-Pakistan cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan has been stable in recent years, and the investment environment and business environment have gradually improved.

In addition to the bilateral strengthening of bonds, both countries agreed to strengthen communication and coordination on high-level international issues. They agreed on the need for the resolution of all standing disputes that threaten to disrupt the peace of the region and oppose unilateral decision-making and action. Pak-China further agreed to strengthen their communication and coordination on the issues plaguing security in Afghanistan. They also expressed mutual concerns over the escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict in the Middle East.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-truly-a-blessing-for-pakistans-economy/>

**November 21, 2024**

**Business Recorder**

**CPEC: 38 projects worth \$25bn already completed**

ISLAMABAD: A total of 38 projects worth over \$25 billion have been completed and 23 development projects at cost of \$2.1 billion are currently under implementation in various sectors under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to documents available with this correspondent which were presented in a meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiative that met with Syed Abdul Kadir Gilani in the chair at the Parliament House on Wednesday, completed projects include 17 projects in energy sectors at the cost of \$18 billion, seven projects in infrastructure sectors, five projects pertaining to Gwadar, and nine projects are related to socio-economic development.

The Minister for Planning held fortnightly meetings with concerned stakeholders to review the progress of CPEC projects and took decision to resolve any impediments.

About the energy sector, all 17 development projects (mode of financing) are related to independent power producers (IPPs). The energy projects are Sahiwal Coal Power (1320 MW) of \$1.912 billion, Port Qasim Coal Power (1320 MW) of \$1.912 billion, China-HUB Coal Power (1320 MW) of \$1.912 billion, Energy Thar Power and Mine (660 MW) of \$995.4 million, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park (400MW) of \$520 million, UEP Wind Farm (100MW) of \$250 million, Three Gorges Wind Power (100MW) of \$150 million, Sachal Wind Farm (50 MW) of \$134 million, Hydro China Dawood Wind (50 MW) of \$113 million, HVDC + 660kv Matiari-Lahore T Line of \$1,698 million, 7.8 MTPA TCB-II Mine of \$850 million, 720 MW Karot HPP (720 MW) of \$1.698 billion, Thar Energy Limited (330 MW) of \$497.7 million, Thal Nova Thar Power (330 MW) of \$497.7 million, Shanghai Electric (1320 MW) of \$1.912 billion, Thar Block-I (7.8 MW) of \$990 million and Suki Kinari HPP (884 MW) of \$1,991 million.

Many projects of other sectors are Orange Line Metro Train Project (27 KM) of \$1.6 billion, Havelian-Thakot Section Phase-II (120km) of \$1.3 billion, Eastbay Expressway of \$683.22 million, Gwadar Port and Free Zone of \$300 million, etc.

Currently, 23 development projects are under construction are Awaran-Naal Road of \$107.46 million in Balochistan, New Gwadar International Airport at cost of \$230 million in Balochistan, Zhob-Quetta Road (298 km) \$391 million, Rashakai Special Economic Zone of \$146 million in KPK, Dhabeji Special Economic Zone of \$27 million in Sindh and Smart Classrooms for Higher education of \$14.34 million etc.

Earlier, the committee also reviewed development projects under the Public Works Department (PWD), seeking clarity on fund flow, disbursement, and project execution.

Members voiced dissatisfaction with the information provided, highlighting concerns over transparency and effectiveness.

The committee members protested for not providing details of funds of on-going development projects of PWD. Committee member Dawar Khan Kundi said that the Planning Commission did not provide details of on-going development projects of PWD. Major Tahir Iqbal (retired) said that the committee in its last meeting had asked to give the details of the funds of the development projects of PWD. The committee chairman directed the planning secretary to submit detail of funds of the development projects of PWD in the next meeting. The committee received a presentation on Emerson College, Multan, highlighting the urgent need for a new academic block to address emerging trends in artificial intelligence (AI) and information technology (IT). The members discussed potential funding avenues to ensure the timely execution of this critical educational initiative. Key questions were raised regarding illegal recruitments and encroachments in the capital city. The absence of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman drew strong disapproval from the committee, resulting in the deferment of related agenda items until his attendance is ensured. During a briefing on the CPEC projects, members emphasised the strategic importance of prioritising the western route. Tahir Iqbal said that the government should sign agreements with China on latest technology for the benefit of the country. He said that Pakistan's local industries could be affected due the products of Chinese industries in our local market. He said that China should establish industries in Pakistan only for export to other countries not for the local markets of Pakistan. To review the status of a project aimed at providing essential medicines to cancer patients, supported by Roche International. The committee emphasised the need for expediting such critical public welfare initiatives without delay. The meeting was attended by Tahir Iqbal, Dawar Khan Kundi, Akhtar Bibi, Farhan Chishti, Ahmad Raza Maneka, Zulfiqar Bachani, and Muhammad Moazzam Ali Khan. Senior officials from the Ministry of Planning and Development, the CDA, and the vice chancellor of Emerson College were also present.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/11/21/4-page/1016530-news.html>

### The News

#### **Pakistani trader held for cheating Chinese company**

*Afzal Nadeem Dogar*

KARACHI: The Cooperative Crime Circle of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested and registered a case against a businessman for sending soil and gravel in 60 containers instead of a mineral to a Chinese company for Rs115 million. According to FIA officials, a case has been registered under sections 406, 420, 468, 471 and 109 against Syed Zeeshan Afzal Bilgrami, owner of M/s Danzo Traders, in the Corporate Crime Circle, Karachi.

The FIR has been registered following an inquiry, which was initiated on a complaint from Ms Corin Chen of a Chinese import company.

According to the case, Bilgrami and the Chinese import Jiangsu Provincial Foreign Trade Corporation signed an agreement on January 17, 2024 under which Danzo Traders Karachi was to export 1,500 metric tonnes of chrome ore to the company in China. In February, Danzo Traders shipped a shipment of 60 twenty-foot bulk containers from Karachi Port to

Xingang China Port. In these containers, instead of the precious metal chrome ore, soil, gravel and stones were filled.

According to the case, before the shipment reached China, the accused fraudulently executed the said LC held in his company's bank account. He submitted fake and bogus documents of an inspection certificate of quality and weight deposit in the bank. According to the case, the accused not only committed export fraud but also committed banking fraud by submitting fake, forged and bogus documents for the execution of LC in his favour. He not only cheated the Chinese importer but also defamed the country. According to officials, the accused was arrested from his office on II Chundrigar Road, Karachi.

Chrome ore is a naturally occurring mineral that contains chromium, iron, and oxygen, and is used to make ferrochrome, an important component in stainless steel.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=361372>

### Express News

#### دفاعی نمائش: پاکستان اور چین میں دفاعی ساز و سامان کے معاہدے

کراچی: دفاعی نمائش کے دوران پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دفاعی ساز و سامان کے معاہدے ہوئے۔

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق آئیڈیاز 2024ء دفاعی نمائش ایکسپو سینٹر کراچی میں جاری ہے، جس کا آج تیسرا دن ہے۔ اس دوران کئی بین الاقوامی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ معاہدے اور مفادہمتی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے جا چکے ہیں، اسی سلسلے میں پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دفاعی ساز و سامان سے متعلق بھی معاہدے ہوئے۔ مفادہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط چین کے مسٹر ڈنگ اور پاکستان کے بریگیڈیئر ندیم احسن نے کیے۔ یہ معاہدہ پاکستانی کمپنی ہیوی انڈسٹریز ٹیکسیلا اور چینی کمپنی نورکو کے مابین ہوا ہے۔ اسی طرح دوسرا معاہدہ چناب انجینئرنگ ورکس اینڈ فاؤنڈریز کے ساتھ ہوا۔ اس موقع پر مفادہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط پاکستان کے بریگیڈیئر ندیم احسن اور چناب کمپنی کے احمد احسن نے دستخط کیے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2734218/defence-expo-ideas-2024>

### Nawaiwaqt New

#### چین کے ساتھ جی ٹوجی مشترکہ تعاون میں مزید تیزی لانے کی ضرورت: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال کی زیر صدارت ماڈل سٹیٹل اکنامک زونز کے لیے جگہوں کی نشاندہی اور چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان منتقلی کے لیے پالیسی فریم ورک پر اجلاس میں بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کے حکام نے بریفنگ دی۔ احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ جی ٹوجی مشترکہ تعاون میں مزید تیزی لانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پاکستان چینی صنعتوں کو زمین فراہم کرے گا، جبکہ انفراسٹرکچر، مارکیٹ اور ان زونز کا انتظام وہ خود کریں گے۔ سب سے پہلے ماڈل صنعتی زونز کے لیے دستیاب زمین کی مقدار کا تعین کیا جائے اور ان زونز کے قرب و جوار میں بنیادی سہولیات کی دستیابی کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا جائے۔ صنعتی زونز کے حوالے سے پالیسی کی تیاری کے لیے ایک جامع کنسپٹ نوٹ تیار کیا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-11-21/page-8/detail-21>

**November 22, 2024**

**Daily Times**

**Pakistan and China sign defence equipment agreements at IDEAS 2024**

\* MOU signed by Mr. Ding (China) and Brigadier Nadim Ahsan (Pakistan) between Heavy Industries Taxila and Norinco

Pakistan and China have signed defence equipment agreements during the ongoing IDEAS 2024 exhibition in Karachi.

The IDEAS 2024 defence exhibition is taking place at the Expo Centre in Karachi, now on its third day.

Several international companies have signed agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs), including defence equipment deals between Pakistan and China.

The MOU was signed by Mr. Ding from China and Brigadier Nadeem Ahsan from Pakistan. The agreement was made between Pakistan's Heavy Industries Taxila and China's Norinco.

Another agreement was made with Chenab Engineering Works & Foundries. Brigadier Nadeem Ahsan from Pakistan and Ahmed Hassan from Chenab Company signed the MOU during the event. Yesterday the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir visited the ongoing IDEAS 2024 defence exhibition at the Expo Centre in Karachi, lauding the active participation of friendly nations, the military's media wing, ISPR, stated on Wednesday. During his visit, General Munir engaged with foreign military officials and defence delegates attending the event. He commended the efforts of international defence manufacturers for showcasing their innovations and fostering collaboration. Meanwhile Karachi's Sea View beach is hosting the Karachi Air Show as part of the ongoing defence exhibition IDEAS 2024.

The event will feature live demonstrations from all three armed forces of Pakistan, highlighting their professionalism and state-of-the-art military assets.

Notable displays include the Pakistan Navy's Sea King helicopters, which will demonstrate combat readiness, as well as a stunning aerial fly-past by the Pakistan Air Force's JF-17 Thunder and F-16 jets.

The show will also showcase the prowess of the elite Special Services Group (SSG) Commandos, who will leap from thousands of feet to the ground, displaying their precision and training.

This event will provide an opportunity for both local and foreign dignitaries, including ambassadors and military attachés, to witness the capabilities of Pakistan's armed forces.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1241599/pakistan-and-china-sign-defence-equipment-agreements-at-ideas-2024/>

## Dawn News

### **Delay in Gwadar airport's commercialisation criticized**

ISLAMABAD: The New Gwadar International Airport, developed with a \$230 million grant by China, remains largely inactive due to the failure of aviation and port authorities to market the facility internationally or engage consultants for its commercialisation.

Presiding over a review meeting, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal was flabbergasted over a two-page presentation that showed mostly paperwork about various facilities at the airport inaugurated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang last month.

He “strongly criticised the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) and Pakistan Airport Authority (PAA) for delays in developing a comprehensive plan to commercialise the airport”, an official statement said.

The Civil Aviation and Airport Authority officials said that approvals had been accorded for allotment of space to government departments, PIA, ground handling agents, and other stakeholders for cargo sheds, courier services and traffic guidance systems in the administration block while the tender was being issued for cold storage.

Also, the meeting was told that expressions of interest had been invited for warehouses for commercial entities, setting up of the hotel, and maintenance-repair-overhaul (MRO) facilities on lease at the airport while space had been allocated to Pakistan State Oil for a fuelling facility.

Talking about the three-year plan, the meeting was told that steps would be taken to initially complete the process for the award of essential facilities, passenger facilitation, etc., and more commercial concessions would be operationalised depending on the passenger flow and flight operations.

This did not go well with the minister, who expressed his displeasure and dissatisfaction and observed that these arrangements, along with a commercial plan, should have been started two years before the completion of the airport capable of handling large aircraft like Airbus A380s and Boeing 747s.

He said China had built the airport according to international standards, but there has been total disappointment and zero progress on Pakistan's side.

Mr Iqbal observed that the relevant aviation and airport authorities should have operationalised the facility within six months of its completion and should have approached the international airlines and governments to explain the strategic and economic benefits of using Gwadar Airport for shorter distances compared to other long-haul flights or flights using multiple stopovers to reach long distances like African destinations.

He said the best international firms should have been engaged to design marketing plans, including discounts and incentives.

Mr Iqbal highlighted the critical importance of positioning Gwadar as a hub for international airlines. He stressed that if airlines are not attracted within six months of inauguration, the likelihood of success diminishes over the years.

To incentivise long-haul flights from regions such as South Africa and Australia, the minister proposed providing attractive rates for at least five years, emphasising technical landings as a key strategy, an official said.

Modern facilities, limited progress

Constructed with a \$230m grant from the Chinese government, Gwadar Airport features a 3,648-metre runway and a 14,000-square-metre passenger terminal equipped with auxiliary facilities, including air traffic control, community hospital and utility services.

The airport has an annual passenger capacity of 400,000, expandable to 1.6m.

PAA Additional Director General Air Vice Marshall Zeeshan Saeed explained safety evaluations and airfield regularisation, assuring operational clearance by December. Project Director Faiz Ullah Khattak and PCAA Director General Commercial Abdul Basit provided updates on ongoing initiatives, including allotments for government departments, warehouses and tenders.

“However, the minister expressed disappointment at the two-year delay in commercialisation planning and directed the PCAA to expedite efforts to attract airlines, develop air cargo facilities, and establish business partnerships with an international focus,” the statement said.

Highlighting the need for a market-driven approach, the minister emphasised that a market analysis should have been conducted before the airport’s inauguration.

He pointed out that international airlines currently using Oman and Dubai for technical landings could find Gwadar a cost-effective alternative and instructed officials to position Gwadar Airport accordingly.

In addition to passenger traffic, the minister stressed the urgent need to establish air cargo facilities, directing the PCAA to engage global logistics companies such as DHL and FedEx to kickstart operations and prioritise cargo utility.

To enhance airport utilisation, the minister urged the development of commercial facilities such as restaurants, duty-free shops and recreational amenities. Citing examples like Bangkok’s Don Mueang Airport, which features a golf course between runways, he proposed leveraging unused airport land for similar innovative projects to attract travellers and businesses alike. The minister concluded the meeting by setting a three-week deadline for PAA officials to present a comprehensive commercialisation plan, including clear timelines and strategies for engaging stakeholders.

He reiterated the need for immediate and collaborative action to establish Gwadar Airport as a strategic hub for regional and global connectivity, ensuring its contribution to Gwadar’s economic development and Pakistan’s broader growth ambitions.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1874033>



## Nawaiwaqt New

### گواڈر ایئرپورٹ کے تجارتی استعمال کا منصوبہ تاحال تیار نہ ہو سکا

حال ہی میں افتتاح کیے جانے والے گواڈر ایئرپورٹ کے حوالے سے معلوم ہوا ہے کہ حکومت پاکستان نے ابھی تک اس حوالے سے کوئی تجارتی منصوبہ بندی کی ہی نہیں ہے۔

جبکہ اس ایئرپورٹ کا انتظام کرنے والے ادارے کا کہنا ہے کہ گواڈر ایئرپورٹ اس وقت تک قابل منافع نہیں بن سکے گا جب تک گواڈر بندرگاہ اور اس سے ملحقہ فری زون تکمیل تک نہیں پہنچ جاتے۔

واضح رہے کہ گواڈر ایئرپورٹ چین کی جانب سے فراہم کیے گئے 23 کروڑ ڈالر کی لاگت سے تعمیر کیا گیا ہے۔

اس حوالے سے وزارت منصوبہ سے جمعرات کے روز جاری ہونے والے ایک اجلاس کے بعد جاری بیان میں وزیر منصوبہ احسن اقبال نے شہری ہوا بازی کے ادارے (سی اے اے) اور پاکستان ایئرپورٹ اتھارٹی (پی اے اے) کو تنقید کا نشانہ بنایا اور کہا ہے دونوں ادارے ابھی تک گواڈر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ کے حوالے سے کوئی بھی تجارتی اور کاروباری منصوبہ تیار نہیں کر سکے ہیں حالانکہ انھیں اس بارے میں گزشتہ دو سالوں سے احکامات جاری کیے چکے تھے۔

دوسری جانب پی اے اے انتظامیہ کا کہنا ہے کہ گواڈر انٹرنیشنل ایئرپورٹ کو اس وقت تک مکمل طور پر فعال نہیں کیا جاسکتا جب تک گواڈر پورٹ اور گواڈر فری زون تکمیل تک نہیں جاتے۔

جبکہ احسن اقبال کا موقف تھا کہ انتظامیہ گواڈر کو سیاحتی مقام کے طور پر فروغ دے تاہم امن وامان کی مخدوش صورت حال اور سیاسی انتشار کے باعث ایسا ہوتا نظر نہیں آ رہا۔

اپنے بیان میں احسن اقبال کا کہنا تھا کہ گواڈر ایئرپورٹ کے افتتاح کے چھ ماہ کے اندر اگر بیرون ممالک کی ایئر لائن کمپنیوں نے یہاں کارخ نہیں کیا تو پھر اس منصوبے کی کامیابی کے امکانات کم ہو جائیں گے لہذا ان کی تجویز تھی کہ یہاں کارخ کرنے والی بین الاقوامی پروازوں کو ابتدائی پانچ سالوں کے دوران مراعات اور سہولیات فراہم کی جائیں تاکہ اس منصوبے کو فعال اور کامیاب بنایا جاسکے۔

احسن اقبال نے اس موقع پر ایئرپورٹ سے متعلق تجارتی اور دیگر امور کی منصوبہ بندی میں دو سال کی تاخیر پر مایوسی کا اظہار کیا اور کہا کہ اس وقت بین الاقوامی فضائی کمپنیاں تکنیکی سہولیات کے لیے امان اور دبئی کے ایئرپورٹ استعمال کر رہی ہیں اور گواڈر کو فعال بنانے کی صورت میں انہیں وہیں تکنیکی سہولیات سستے میں یہاں سے مل سکیں گی۔ اجلاس کے دوران احسن اقبال نے سول ایوی ایشن اتھارٹی کے حکام کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ گواڈر ایئرپورٹ سے ایئر کارگو کے آغاز کے لیے بھی کام کا آغاز کریں اور اس سلسلے میں بین الاقوامی ایئر کارگو کمپنیوں سے رابطہ کیا جائے تاکہ اس پر جلد سے جلد کام کا آغاز ہو سکے۔

اس موقع پر وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے متعلقہ حکام کو اس ضمن میں تمام منصوبہ بندی تیار کرنے کے لیے تین ہفتے کی ڈیڈ لائن دی۔

اجلاس کے دوران پاکستان ایئرپورٹ اتھارٹی کے ایڈیشنل ڈائریکٹر جنرل ایروائس مارشل ذیشان سعید کا کہنا تھا اس وقت گواڈر ایئرپورٹ کے حوالے سے حفاظتی انتظامات کے علاوہ فضائی حدود اور دیگر انتظامی امور پر کام ہو رہا ہے اور دسمبر تک اسے مکمل کر لیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2734331/gwadar-airport-ke-tijarti-istemaal-ka-mansoobah-ta-haal-tayyar-nah-ho-saka>

## پاکستان کی چین میں 20 نئے تجارتی عہدوں کی منظوری

پاک چین سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کے لیے ایس آئی ایف سی کی سہولت کاری سے پاکستان نے چین میں 20 نئے تجارتی عہدوں کی تعیناتی کی منظوری دے دی۔ وزارت کامرس نے اس سال 5.5 ارب روپے تجارتی مشنز کے لیے مختص کیے ہیں۔ نئے عہدے برآمدات بڑھانے اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرنے کے لیے ہیں۔ غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کے لیے اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی سے 226.7 ملین روپے کی گرانٹ منظور کی گئی۔ چین پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار ہے اور پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات 2.56 ارب ڈالر ہے۔

ایس آئی ایف سی کے تعاون سے چین کے ساتھ اقتصادی تعلقات کی مضبوطی خوش آئند ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2734351/pakistan-approves-20-new-trade-posts-in-china>

**November 23, 2024**

### **Business recorder**

#### **Takeaways from CPEC investment**

At the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) performance review meeting called this week by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiative, it was stated that a total of 38 projects worth over USD 25 billion have been completed, whereas, 23 development projects at cost of USD 2.1 billion are currently under implementation in various sectors under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The completed projects include 17 projects in energy sectors at a cost of USD 18 billion, seven projects in infrastructure sectors, five projects pertain to Gwadar, and nine projects are related to socio-economic development. The funds for the projects were provided by the EXIM Bank of China under a well-defined payback mechanism.

Although it is important to be informed about the projects completed and the funds deployed on them, the priorities of the nation extend beyond knowing only these numbers. It wants transparency and seeks to know what benefits such high costs to the exchequer have brought to the economy and the people of Pakistan.

Understandably, such a large loan exposure, in so short a time, was undertaken by the government of Pakistan and granted by the government of China under the proviso that the deployment of funds would result in the exponential growth of Pakistan's economy by providing the country with abundance of affordable energy and an infrastructure to support the logistics of the country towards better business outreach. This did not happen, and instead the nation got itself stuck in a debt trap. Moreover, it has to acquiesce to the dictates and macro management of its fiscal and economic discipline by the IMF (International Monetary Fund). How could this happen? A short answer could be the adoption of ad hoc and aimless economic priorities by the economic managers of the country, resulting in much waste of the good money.

This brings into question the feasibility of the projects on which the funds were deployed, the business model of revenue generation and the loans payback mechanism adopted.

Let us start with the energy sector, on which the bulk of funding of USD 18 billion is reported to have been deployed. In question are the imported coal-based four power plants of a total capacity of 4300 MW installed at a cost of USD 6.2 billion. Furthermore, USD 990 million was deployed at Thar to generate 990 MW of power. Moving from fossil fuel to coal is by no means a cost-effective and a sustainable option. At the recent environment global warming conference at Baku, twenty-five countries at the COP29 climate summit have pledged not to build any new unabated coal-power plants, in a push to accelerate the phase-out of the highly polluting fossil fuel. Moreover, USD 1.4 billion was deployed to generate 400 MW of solar power and 300 MW of wind power. What impact, if any, this green energy mix is having on the grid not in public knowledge as yet. Of interest and perhaps benefit is power generation of two hydropower plants of 720 MW and 884 MW installed at a total cost of USD 3.7 billion. The installation of HVDC 660 KV transmission line at a cost of USD 1.7 billion is a long-term strategic investment. Its payback will be derived from electricity wheeling tariffs, which is missing in the electricity regime of the country. The government did succeed in enhancing the power generation capacity by around 7500 MW but at an unaffordable tariff. Much of this capacity is lying unutilised as there are no takers and the investment did not support the economic growth of the country. The CPEC investment of USD 1.6 in Orange mass transit system at Lahore, USD 2 billion in road network and USD 300 million at Gwadar free port and free zone are long-term strategic investments and the government must have deep pockets to sustain its payback. The dire economic situation does not support this investment. Also, the under-progress project of Gwadar airport at a cost of USD 230 million and road network in Balochistan at a cost of around USD 500 million are also long-term payback projects, requiring deep pockets to sustain them. Special Economic Zones constitute another important sector under CPEC. Last week, the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives stressed the urgency of enhancing government-to-government (G2G) collaboration with China and directed the concerned authority for immediate identification of land for proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and called for a detailed evaluation of the existing facilities in these areas. A high-level meeting was held this week to review the identification of locations for model Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the policy framework for relocating Chinese industries to Pakistan. The possibility of relocating Chinese industries to Pakistan appears to be still in its initial planning stage, and not much is expected out of it in the foreseeable future. CPEC projects could have significantly contributed to the economic growth and fiscal sustainability of the country if the priorities had been set right based on a feasible business models, which guaranteed revenue generation with the ability to retire loans and profitability as is the prerequisite in any business model, more so if it has loan liabilities.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/11/23/4-page/1016852-news.html>

## Pakistan Observer

### **Pakistan approves 20 new trade posts in China to boost investment**

Pakistan has approved the establishment of 20 new trade positions in China to strengthen economic ties and promote investment, with the facilitation of the State Investment Facilitation Center.

The Ministry of Commerce has allocated 5.5 billion Pakistani rupees for trade missions this year, aimed at boosting exports and attracting foreign investment. A grant of 226.7 million rupees has also been approved by the Economic Coordination Committee to promote foreign investment.

China remains Pakistan's largest trading partner, with Pakistan's exports to China valued at \$2.56 billion.

The creation of these new positions is seen as a strategic step to further enhance bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

The collaboration with SIFC is expected to help streamline the process and improve the effectiveness of trade and investment initiatives with China.

Recently, Pakistan and China signed defence equipment agreements during the ongoing IDEAS 2024 exhibition in Karachi. The IDEAS 2024 defence exhibition is taking place at the Expo Centre in Karachi, now on its fourth day.

Several international companies have signed agreements and memorandums of understanding, including defence equipment deals between Pakistan and China, according to Express News.

The MOU was signed by Mr. Ding from China and Brigadier Nadeem Ahsan from Pakistan.

The agreement was made between Pakistan's Heavy Industries Taxila and China's Norinco.

Another agreement was made with Chenab Engineering Works & Foundries. Brigadier Nadeem Ahsan from Pakistan and Ahmed Hassan from Chenab Company signed the MOU during the event.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-approves-20-new-trade-posts-in-china-to-boost-investment/>

### **Terrorism surge & Chinese safety: A way forward**

*Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

TERRORISM is gaining momentum in the country raising certain questions about our national narrative and response capacity against deadly onslaught from different terrorist groups mainly TTP, BLA and MB eroding our brighter economic prospects and producing dints to seeking foreign direct investment. So far 55 security personnel have been killed in the first 20 days of November compared to 30 during the same period last month. Sixty-three terrorists were also killed in clashes with security forces in the past 20 days. Additionally, in October, security forces lost 62 personnel, marking the highest number of such casualties in any month this year, data from PICSS showed, with 32 killed in the last 10 days of October

alone. Thus the canvas of terrorism is on the rise creating doubts about the national narrative of safety and security of the Chinese and CPEC projects in the country. Thus cosmetic statements and clichés are not alluring Chinese to make investment because of increasing terrorist incidents in Balochistan and KPK provinces. Unfortunately, urbanization of terrorism has become an alarming situation in the country.

Unfortunately, Pakistan endured 785 terrorist attacks over the past 10 months of 2024, resulting in 951 deaths and 966 injuries, reflecting a persistently high level of violence across the country. The TTP presence and support from Afghanistan is one of the main reasons for the surge in terrorism. The TTP has claimed responsibility for several recent attacks inside Pakistan. It seems that the Afghanistan factor, local terrorist networks and recent changes in the global security situation are behind the surge in violence in Pakistan. Moreover, the unprotected porous border between the two countries served as a major advantage for terrorists. It augurs well that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his government is taking all possible measures to strengthen safety and security of the Chinese in the country but somehow their sincere efforts are not producing desired results indicating some necessary readjustment, restructuring, redrafting, re-operationalization and re-channelization in our national resolve against terrorism. There is an urgent need to overhaul our national capacity apparatus and in this regard seeking crucial assistance from the Chinese counterpart would be a right step in the right direction. Joint safety efforts, policy coordination, timely information sharing, regular drills, anti-terrorism equipment, drone surveillance and joint border management at Afghanistan and Iran are vital to curbing terrorism. Trilateral coordination among Pakistan, Afghanistan and China, combined with joint policing, hybrid systems, robotic task forces, AI operations and enhanced security tools, offers a holistic strategy. Establishing anti-terrorism research centres in key regions with stakeholder collaboration and engaging religious scholars and social influencers is crucial for effective operations and lasting results.

Remapping of socio-ethnic analysis of terrorist hit areas, reformation of human surveillance partnership on the models of Iraq & Libya, re-settlement of the Chinese nationals, especially in the KP and Balochistan on the patterns of Turkiye and Israel, re-census of red zones mainly in Gwadar, Quetta, Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar, Gilgit-Baltistan and, mostly importantly, rechecking of provincial police and security personnel real identities to achieve a valid and functional safety and security system in the country. On the strategic level, rigorous diplomatic efforts are badly needed to minimize chances of spillover repercussions of proxies, clandestine operations, alleged sponsorship & funding through a vast network of so-called NGOs in these provinces by some of the foreign missions and unwanted diplomatic movements may also be curtailed. In this regard, the RATS mechanism under the flagship of the SCO would be a value addition. The role of FIA, CID and local police is paramount which must be reorganized and redirected to check breeding hatcheries.

It is a good sign that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has once again reiterated that safety and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan remains a top priority of his Government and it is taking all possible measures. Even the spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Lin Jian, during a briefing showed his country's strong commitment to support Pakistan in its

fight against terrorism, adding that both countries had the resolve and the capacity to foil any attempts to harm the bilateral relationship. On the tactical level, reformation of national narrative against terrorism is a burning issue which must be prioritized because some reliable reports clearly indicate that some foreign countries are investing hugely to undermine progress on the CPEC and Pak-Sino relations. There is a pressing need of a group of real Sinologists, nationalistic think-tanks (not money minting machines), patriotic media group/personnel and social marketing strategists in the country backing and supporting policies of the government and defence forces against terrorism and terrorists in the country.

In summary, policymakers must prioritize the 3S framework—safety, security, and systematic overhauling of the national narrative—coupled with capacity building to counter terrorism, which threatens survival, stability, sustainability, and prosperity. Special Forces safeguarding CPEC projects require grassroots readjustments, vertical and horizontal reorganization, and operational reforms to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals. Intensified military operations in Balochistan, KP, and Southern Punjab, along with revitalizing Azm-i-Istehkam and establishing National and Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Centres, are critical. Community development, socioeconomic uplift, people’s empowerment, and meaningful political dialogue can reduce sympathies for terrorists. Furthermore, the state must engage the Afghan Taliban to prevent Baloch insurgents from finding sanctuary in Afghanistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/terrorism-surge-chinese-safety-a-way-forward/>

### The News

#### **Pak-China joint academia-industry liaison to be set up**

LAHORE: China-Pakistan Industry-Education Dialogue has taken place offline and online first time in the history of Pakistan and China marking a milestone onset for establishing robust relationship between education institutions and Industries.

According to a press release issued on Friday, Pasand Khan Buledi, Chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority of Pakistan, Yu Bo, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding (Pakistan) Co., Ltd., Ahmed Manzoor, Principal of the Pakistan-China Vocational and Technical College, Zhong Jingzhi, Deputy Director of the Vocational Education Office of Shandong Provincial Department of Education, Zhang Baozhong, Director of the China Peace Development Foundation, and Zhang Zhidong, Secretary of the Party Committee of Shandong Business Vocational College, among other leaders, attended the event and delivered speeches.

Besides, inaugural ceremony of the Pakistan-Ban Mo Academy (hereinafter referred to as ‘Ban Mo Academy’) was also held simultaneously in Gwadar Port, Pakistan, and Jinan, Shandong on 19th November. The Pakistan-China Vocational and Technical College, the Gwadar Port Authority of the Pakistan Maritime Department, and China Overseas Ports Holding (Pakistan) Co., Ltd. signed a memorandum of cooperation to jointly build the ‘Pakistan-Ban Mo Academy simultaneously in Pakistan as well as in China.

Principal of Pakistan-China Vocational and Technical College Gwadar Mr Manzoor affirmed the milestone achievements of the Pakistan-China Vocational Institute and expressed gratitude for the support provided by Shandong Business Vocational College in professional construction, teacher training, and online teaching. He mentioned that in August, more than 60 students from the Pakistan-China Vocational Institute had graduated smoothly and entered local enterprises and government institutions.

Currently, the Pakistan-China Vocational Institute has completed the enrolment of the second batch of three-year degree students in majors such as e-commerce, software technology, and port management. He expressed hope to use the 'Ban Mo Academy' platform to provide more digital educational resources and technical skills training for local youth in Gwadar and Balochistan.

He stated after the completion of teacher training project in Pakistan, local teachers will join the teaching team of the Pakistan-China Vocational Institute in the spring semester, allowing Chinese vocational education wisdom and experience to benefit more local students in Pakistan. Yu Bo, Chairman COPHC shared the significant changes in Gwadar area, stating that COPHC attaches great importance to cooperation with Shandong Business Vocational College and will fully support and cooperate with all aspects of the 'Ban Mo Academy'.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=362019>

## **Chinese steel giant threatens to withdraw investment**

*Mehtab Haider*

ISLAMABAD: In a major blow to foreign investment in Pakistan, Century Steel Group — one of the largest Chinese giants — has warned that it will close down its operation and withdraw investment.

A letter written by the Century Steel Group CEO Li Chunjian to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said they had decided to cease their business and withdraw investment from Pakistan due to several issues that could not be resolved by various government entities responsible for handling foreign direct investment in CPEC Rashakai Special Economic Zone in KP.

“This will be our last notice to the Government of Pakistan; if the above problems are not resolved immediately, we will start dismantling the plant from the RSEZ,” the letter said.

When contacted, a top government official told The News Friday night that the prime minister had constituted a committee led by Aleem Khan to resolve all grievances of the company.

The committee comprises members from the federal and KP governments.

The company said they came to Pakistan with big dreams and planned to set up the largest steel mill at the first CPEC - Rashakai SEZ in KP province in three phases.

The investment of the first phase of the project was \$82 million out of which over \$30 million investment was already on the ground with a planned annual output of 500,000 ton steel products.

The remaining two phases would also bring over \$200 million investment in Pakistan for downstream steel products production by transferring state-of-the-art steel technology from China to Pakistan.

The ultimate steel products capacity would reach 1.5 million tons within five years.

“We aimed to contribute to the GDP of Pakistan and also to create thousands of jobs as well as build exports of steel products to the regional markets. However, due to the following unresolved issues for over five years, we have finally decided to exit from Pakistan and report this matter to the Chinese government/embassy and the international press as a last resort.

“We have been waiting for the last five years at RSEZ and maintenance of our staff and expenses has caused us big losses to the tune of \$7.5 million.

Plot purchase agreement couldn't be signed with KPEZMC despite our various exchanges and meetings and long-time has passed.

Extremely high land prices at RSEZ are impacting our capital investment costs. Power supply, which is the most critical matter for any steel mill operation, couldn't be arranged by the RSEZDOC due to their pending issues with Nepra for distribution license.

We required 100MW stable and cost-effective power which remains elusive despite long-time has passed.

We are now forced to look for arranging our own power from other means like investment into solar power plant nearby RSEZ increasing the overall capital investment away from our core steel business.

The SEZ policy is extremely weak with no incentives for FDI despite several government and team changes in the bureaucracy. Continuous rise in the price of power has made the business un-viable and we foresee further increase in power prices.

Taxes applied on steel industry are adding insult to injury, as two large scale steel mills in Pakistan have already shut down (Amreli Steels/Agha Steels) after failing to sustain the steel industry taxation.

Despite incentives and waiver on import duties/taxes given to the small steel mills at FATA/PATA, their substandard steel production is spoiling the market in Pakistan, leaving large scale mills out of business.

There is no strict implementation of quality steel production in Pakistan and the responsible departments are not bothered about the sub-standard steel being sold across Pakistan.

The management and security of CPEC RSEZ instead of helping has created a burden for us forcing us to bear the security personnel expenses and uncalled-for demands.

Free movement of our personnel for day to day needs is not possible and even our sick employees cannot go and seek medical attention outside the RSEZ.

Some of our in-house employees were put on the black list by the agencies for reasons unknown to us despite our requests for resolving this matter.



Overall, the demand for steel has contracted in Pakistan due to several factors including high inflation, currency instability and economic downturn.

The government has no focus on the special economic zones success and nothing is being done to protect the already arrived foreign direct investors from China.

The recent orders for security protocols have significantly increased the business costs and impacted the business.

Lastly, the local banks do not cooperate even on approved SBP Policy of FOC for plant and machinery imports and ask us to deposit large sums of money in their accounts.

We are forced to bring all the above to your notice so that you are in knowledge of what really is happening to the Chinese foreign direct investment coming to Pakistan and take immediate corrective measures. We would request to meet you in person at your earliest convenience to discuss the above in detail, it concluded.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=362007>

### K2 Daily



[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_GB&Page=Back\\_Page&Date=2024-11-23](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-11-23)

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-11-23](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-11-23)

**November 24, 2024**

### Pakistan Observer

## **President Xi Jinping's visits to Peru & Brazil**

*Sultan M Hali*

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's state visits to Peru and Brazil hold significant strategic and economic importance for China and the respective host countries. In Peru, Xi's visit elevated the China-Peru comprehensive strategic partnership to a new level. This included deepening political mutual trust and expanding cooperation in various fields such as mining,

infrastructure and trade. China has been Peru's largest trading partner for over a decade. The visit underscores ongoing and future projects, including the inauguration of the Chancay Port which is expected to enhance trade connectivity.

Xi's attendance at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima highlights China's commitment to regional economic integration and cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region. His visit to Brazil marks a significant step in strengthening the China-Brazil strategic partnership, emphasizing a shared future and cooperation in various fields such as sustainable infrastructure, energy transition and digital economy. The two countries signed nearly 40 agreements covering diverse sectors such as agriculture, trade, investment, infrastructure, and technology.

China has been Brazil's largest trading partner since 2009. Both countries emphasized their roles in promoting a more just and equitable international order. They discussed cooperation on global issues like climate change, sustainable development and peace initiatives. Both nations committed to promoting a more just and equitable international order, addressing global issues like climate change, sustainable development and peace initiatives. China and Peru signed multiple agreements aimed at enhancing trade and investment. According to a report released by the United Nation Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean last month, the annual trade in goods between China and Latin America increased 35 times from 2000 to 2022. By comparison, the region's trade with the rest of the world rose four times in the same period.

The rapid expansion of trade between China and Latin America can be attributed to several key factors. China's industrial growth has driven a high demand for raw material and commodities which Latin America is rich in. Countries like Brazil, Chile and Peru export significant amounts of minerals, soybeans oil and other raw materials to China. Conversely, Latin America imports a wide range of affordable consumer goods, electronics and machinery from China, creating a mutually beneficial trade relationship. China has invested heavily in Latin American infrastructure, including ports, railways and energy projects, under initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). These investments facilitate smoother trade flows and enhance connectivity.

China has signed several free trade agreements with Latin American countries, reducing tariffs and trade barriers which have significantly boosted trade volumes. Latin American countries have sought to diversify their trade partners beyond traditional markets like the US and Europe. China's growing economic presence offers new opportunities for export growth and economic diversification. These visits reflect China's broader strategy to enhance its influence and partnerships in Latin America, fostering mutual economic growth and addressing global challenges collaboratively. Strengthened diplomatic ties and high-level visits between Chinese and Latin American leaders have created a conducive environment for trade and investment. Participation in regional forums and organizations, such as the China-CELAC Forum, has facilitated dialogue and cooperation on economic and trade issues. To address the concerns of trade imbalance and

the potential negative impact of Chinese imports on local industries and jobs in Latin America, several strategies can be implemented. Governments can implement policies that

support local industries, such as subsidies, tax incentives, and grants for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This helps enhance their competitiveness against imported goods. Investing in R&D can foster innovation and improve the quality and efficiency of local products, making them more competitive in both domestic and international markets.

Providing training programs to upskill the workforce can help workers transition to higher-value industries and reduce the impact of job losses in sectors affected by imports. Investing in infrastructure, such as transportation and digital networks, can improve the efficiency and productivity of local industries. Latin American countries can diversify their export markets to reduce dependency on a single trading partner. Exploring new markets in Africa, Asia and Europe can help balance trade flows. Encouraging the production and export of value-added products rather than raw material can increase export revenues and create more jobs. Promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in local industries can create a competitive advantage and appeal to global markets that prioritize sustainability.

Conducting social impact assessments for major trade and investment projects can ensure that the benefits are widely distributed and that negative impacts on local communities are mitigated.

By implementing these strategies, Latin American countries can address the challenges posed by trade imbalances and protect their local industries and jobs. This approach not only fosters economic growth but also ensures that the benefits of trade are more equitably distributed across society. The Chancay Port has the potential to be a transformative project for Peru and the broader Latin American region.

By enhancing trade efficiency, boosting economic growth, and increasing regional connectivity, it can play a pivotal role in the economic and strategic landscape of Latin America. However, addressing security concerns and ensuring inclusive benefits will be key to its long-term success.

President Xi Jinping's signed article published in Peru and the China-Peru joint statement have mentioned that China is ready to launch more "small and beautiful" livelihood projects in Peru. Some notable examples of "small and beautiful" projects highlight the growing cooperation between China and Latin America.

These include Cauchari Solar Park solar energy projects in Argentina. Chinese companies like Huawei have been involved in projects to improve telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas of Peru. Chinese firms have partnered with Brazilian agricultural companies to introduce smart farming technologies.

These initiatives include the use of drones, AI, and IoT (Internet of Things) to improve crop yields and sustainability. Latin American countries can benefit from Chinese expertise and technology in areas such as cybersecurity, surveillance, and military hardware. Enhanced security cooperation can contribute to regional stability, which is beneficial for both Chinese investments and the economic development of Latin American countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/president-xi-jinpings-visits-to-peru-brazil/>

## Positive vibes from China

*Majyd Aziz*

AS I disembarked from the plane on a Sunday morning (03 November 2024) and entered Beijing Daxing International Airport, I had an ambivalent feeling of a tinge of trepidation and a heart-warming elation. It was in 2010 when I last visited China, and I was thrilled to be on Chinese soil again. The uneasiness was that just a month ago, near the Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, desperadoes had attacked and targeted the Chinese staff of the Port Qasim Electric Power Company. Two Chinese died and a third was injured while seven Pakistanis were injured. I was having this anxiety that the immigration officer and others would be uncooperative, with scorn written all over their faces. I had this feeling that my joy on being in China would be short-lived and much more negative sentiments would be expressed.

How wrong I was. There was a welcome look on the officer's face, and within no time, I was on way to the baggage carousel. My three colleagues (ex-PML MNA from Sheikhpura, Animal Husbandry Commissioner from Federal Ministry of National Food Security & Research, and Vice Chancellor of Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Bahawalpur, along with the energetic, dynamic, go-getter Andy Liao of Han Gen Group who manages an industry in Gwadar), quickly picked up our luggage and ran downstairs to catch two trains and then the high-speed (375 kmh) to Jinan Station in Shandong Province. The first pro-Pakistan reception we witnessed when the uniformed persons let us pass without checking our passports.

As soon as we stepped out of the train, there was a welcoming party of about a dozen people, led by the Chairman of Han Geng Group. Fabulous bouquets were presented and many photos clicked (we are still waiting for these). The scene was reminiscent of two long-lost families meeting after decades. Then came the long ride on a coaster to Dong'e County in Liaocheng City. We were guests of China Resources Group which is among the top 70 companies in the world, having revenue exceeding \$126 billion, assets of \$370 billion, nearly 400,000 employees, and ranked 23rd in the 2024 Fortune China 500. CRG is very powerful in Dong'e, and it seemed liked they owned everything. We checked into the 78 Hotel (yes, owned by ČRG) and went to the Conference venue where we had a private session with Mr Chen Ping, the Deputy Governor of Shandong Province. He, along with a dozen high officials welcomed us and we had a 40 minutes session with them. In fact, among the delegates from twenty countries, only Pakistani delegation was accorded this honour. The very humble, smiling, and affable Governor was keen to develop a communication and cooperation mechanism between Shandong and Pakistan and highlighted trade and investment opportunities. He informed that the Chinese Agriculture University is keen to establish cooperation between agro-based industries of both countries. I presented an Ajrak to him and he gifted a

painting to me. There was a grand pre-conference dinner attended by the delegates. I was pleased when Mr Wang Xiangming, Chairman of CRG, located me and we exchanged pleasantries. He invited me to visit Hong Kong two weeks later for a Conference and discuss business opportunities with CRG. I went around the front tables and met some of the high officials who we had earlier met in the meeting with Mr Ping, The delegation from Benin,

Africa was the largest and I had a long meeting with them, primarily centred on imports of soyabean from Benin. We also had an exclusive meeting with Mr Lu Bo, Director of Shandong Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau and his team. We discussed among other subjects, aqua culture and research cooperation on vaccines

and immunization of animals. The Conference next day was dazzling. Name

cards were placed in the first three rows and the program went smoothly. We had all come to attend the 9th International Donkey Industry Development Conference, in a city famous for donkey and Ejiao (gelatine from donkey hides). Pakistan is the largest exporter of donkeys to China for the past ten years and hence this group of ours (business, academia, political, and government) was present to hear, see, and learn about the development of donkeys and understand the future of this industry for Pakistan. The theme of the Conference was “Advancing the Donkey

Industry for a Win-Win Future”, and this is, and should be, the guideline for Pakistan donkey industry too.

The foreign delegates also visited the Dong’e Ejiao (DEEJ) Donkey Farm and Museum inside the Farm. Mostly breeding of black donkeys was done there. I saw one donkey that was as tall as a horse and even looked like a horse. We saw donkey meat, donkey milk, and even something like a black toffee that had sesame in it too. They even had a modern lab for donkey semen etc, The Donkey Museum had everything to do with donkeys including its history and role in the world. We then went to another Museum that was so large that it just did not seem to end. The history of China was marvellously presented there. It was an educational trip for me. Henry Kissinger once remarked that “China has had a long and complex history and has managed to evolve its own culture for 4,000 years. It is therefore not necessarily true that we know exactly what is

best for the internal structure of China.” During the two day Conference, many Chinese, mostly youth, would come up to me and request a selfie or picture. Although I was probably the only foreign businessperson there, and I was sure they did not know my field, I kept getting requests.

The Chinese escort girl finally revealed that most of them thought I was some Governor or Chief Minister from Pakistan and that they were itching for a photo-op with me. Even if they were in a group, each wanted an individual photo with me. I wished I had taken their number and could have requested them to forward the photos to me. During the group photo of all delegates, the Pakistani team was requested to stand in the front row in the middle. Another moment of respect. respe

What was really interesting was that wherever we went, and where passports and ID cards were to be presented at checking points, they would not check our passports when they found out we were from Pakistan. At the Jinan Railway Station, where we were to take the fast train to Beijing, we were sitting in the lounge of one of the Banks. When the call was announced, two girls from the Banks took our luggage and dragged it to the platform. This was something new for me. We were not customers of the Bank, but they were giving Pakistan the honour. Unbelievable! I also went to visit the Ministry of Industries and Information

Technology in Beijing, where eight businesspersons (including one lady from a big law firm that had over 5,000 lawyers on its rolls) were present. Each of them either gave a power point presentation or verbally introduced their company. I presented my point of view with a request to the senior government official to convey my wish list to relevant authorities. This was a very productive four-hour meeting, and I learnt a lot about their companies. The possibility of working with some of them is very much on the cards.

During the morning before our departure for home, we made a short tour of the Forbidden City. Here too, our passports were not checked or scanned. Many thousands of Chinese citizens as well as foreigners were sightseeing inside the Forbidden City. Here too, six or seven Chinese wanted a picture with me. One thing odd I saw. Among the thousands, less than twenty women, plus me, were wearing sunglasses. No one else. It seems their eyesight is superb, maybe thanks to donkey milk. All in all, a spectacular trip. While we were in China, we received another tragic news.

A guard at a textile plant in SITE Karachi (less than a kilometre from my factory) shot two Chinese inside the plant. Fortunately, they survived. Surprisingly, no one mentioned this tragic event to us. My trepidation had vanished by the time I entered the plane, but my elation had quadrupled. Chinese look towards the future, and they know who their friends are. As Confucius said: "Within the four seas, all men are brothers".

-The writer is Former President, Employers Federation of Pakistan, based in Karachi.

<https://pakobserver.net/positive-vibes-from-china/>

## **Lessons from China**

*Naveed Aman Khan*

THE killing of 42 innocent people in Kurram district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is a profound tragedy. Additionally, 30 individuals sustained serious injuries in this horrific incident. In response, the government and Pakistan's defense forces have issued unequivocal directives to eliminate terrorist groups immediately. The recurrence of terrorist incidents across Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa highlights significant lapses in the state's writ and security apparatus. The Kurram attack also sends a troubling signal to potential foreign investors, potentially leading to severe consequences for the region's stability and economic prospects. We also have to provide foolproof security to the citizens of Pakistan as well as the foreign investors also. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become the economic lifeline of Pakistan. Thousands of Chinese engineers, technicians and workers are working in Pakistan on CPEC-related projects. Their security should be made fool proof across the country. It is the prime responsibility of the government of Pakistan to provide fool-proof security to all the Chinese working across the country so that they can fulfil their responsibilities on CPEC projects spread in different economic zones across the country without any fear. Enough is enough. Now the time has come to eradicate terrorists mercilessly from Pakistan with an iron hand. Terrorists are the open enemies of Pakistan's economic development. Various projects spread across the country are the guarantors of Pakistan's economic stability. Thanks to these projects, Pakistan is progressing. But elements hostile to the development and prosperity of Pakistan do not want the completion and

production of these mega projects in Pakistan so that the country cannot move forward briskly. We will have to crush the element of the country's development without wasting any more time so that they cannot stand in the way of our development and economic stability. The state of Pakistan has taken a very important and pivotal decision by issuing orders to make the security foolproof of Chinese experts and workers working on various projects across the country. Pakistan is already decades behind the rest of the world in terms of development. Now, when the time has come to reap the crop of CPEC, terrorists have enhanced attacks in multiple directions of the country. We will have to secure our development and prosperity by providing foolproof security to Chinese experts and workers. We will have to further develop our long-standing relationship with China by making the CPEC mega projects successful, ensuring the security of the Chinese working in Pakistan. The friendship between Pakistan and China is unbreakable, Even today, efforts are being made by enemies to create a big gulf between Pakistan and China bound in diplomatic, political, economic and cultural relations. But the state of Pakistan should take more important decisions to destroy these country-jolting intentions of the enemies forever. Ending terrorism and ensuring the security of Chinese citizens in Pakistan will lead to the promotion of investment from other countries. The government needs to prepare new plans to make the security of the Chinese residents more effective, including providing them with bullet-proof vehicles. For more than thirty years, China has sought to manage its domestic terrorism problem in its Xinjiang province through a strategy that rests on enhanced regional economic growth, stronger internal security capabilities and deepened controls over ethnic and religious activities. For decades, China faced terrorism but has successfully overcome the monster. Xinjiang province of China has been worst-hit by the terrorists. Presently, Pakistan is the only terrorism-hit atomic power. Pakistan has been facing terrorism for the last more than three decades but still completely unsuccessful to crush terrorists. Pakistan needs to keep in mind China's evolving perception of terrorist threats, strategy and policies for combating terrorism, the institutional infrastructure that executes their counter terrorism policies, their evolving approach to international cooperation in counterterrorism and challenges of countering terrorism. Pakistan needs to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to counter terrorism. Quite some time back, we strangely initiated a dialogue process to give terrorists a chance to lay down their arms and let their misled followers de-radicalize and return to the national mainstream. It remained counter-productive Terrorists are terrorists. Once they make their minds and hold weapons for terrorism they hardly change their agenda. Terrorists in Xinjiang province of China never changed their minds for peace. They are successfully crushed by the government of China with an iron hand. The government of Pakistan will have to crush terrorists' networks and will have to address issues in deprived regions of the country. The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees fundamental rights such as food, education, health, employment and many others to its citizens. It is the government's responsibility to uphold these rights while eradicating terrorism. Drawing inspiration from China's success in controlling terrorism, Pakistan must act decisively to eliminate this menace and ensure the prosperity and security of its people. -The writer is author of several books based in Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/lessons-from-china/>

**K2 Daily**

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_GB&Page=Back\\_Page&Date=2024-11-24](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2024-11-24)

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-11-24](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2024-11-24)

**November 25, 2024**

**Business Recorder****Aleem apprised of challenges facing SEZs**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has directed that the problems being faced in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the country should be resolved on priority basis.

He added that especially in the industrial zones of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the pending issues for the past years should be resolved immediately.

He further directed the Peshawar electricity authorities to make the grid connection of the industrial zone functional within three days while the governor State Bank should to appoint a focal person for investors so that the outstanding issues can be resolved.

Aleem Khan said that we are all sitting here to resolve the complexities and concerns being faced by investors, especially the provision of electricity to them should be materialised as soon as possible. He directed that the issues of Century Steel Group in Peshawar SEZ, in particular, be resolved on a priority basis and said that this particular aspect has been directed by the prime minister.

He directed senior officials of the Board of Investment to take the KPK provincial government and relevant institutions on board for the industrial zones of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and also include Chinese diplomatic officials in the next meeting so that the problems can be resolved in a coordinated manner.



Aleem Khan said that the Board of Investment will provide complete facilities to Chinese investors and especially the sale, transfer of land in Special Economic Zones and redress CRBC complaints in this regard.

The high-level meeting was briefed on the features of the Economic Zone Policy, tax holidays and import duty exemptions, among other issues to which Aleem Khan said that the prime minister is aware of all these issues and that there should be no negligence in the future by rectifying the mistakes of the past.

The Governor of the State Bank, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Directors of CRBC, Federal Secretary Privatization Board and concerned senior officers presented the meeting with details on the Special Economic Zones related to NEPRA, the provincial government, the Board of Investment and other departments and said that these issues were pending for the last five years which are now being dealt with expeditiously in the light of special instructions of Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan and this meeting will be breakthrough in this regard.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2024/11/24/1-page/1016916-news.html>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **‘China at 75’: Karachi seminar spotlights Sino-Pak economic milestone, robust future**

KARACHI – Chinese Consulate General in port city of Karachi organized seminar “China at 75” which was attended by a large number of dignitaries, professionals and media persons from the print and electronic media.

HE Mr. Yang Yundong, Counsel General of China, Dr Junaid Ahmad, author of recently published book “China Leads” Dr Zhang Jiegen, Prof. of Fudan University and Dr Guo Xuetao, Prof of Shanghai University of International Business and Economics on video link and by Dr Muhammad Ali Sheikh, former VC of SMIU attended the event.

Chinese Counsel General said China has achieved remarkable economic and social development growing at 8.9% per year for the last 45 years. This has made China World’s largest industrial manufacturer, largest trading nation, largest foreign exchange reserve holder and the second largest economy. China has achieved this in a few decades which the Western countries took several centuries.

Beijing is still far from being a developed country, and in the last National Congress of CPC, it has been decided that in spite of all economic development China will always be a member of the developing world, striving for the common rights and interests of the vast number of developing countries.

Currently, China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship is everlasting and ever-refreshing. The Pakistan-China relationship is of strategic significance. Both sides firmly support each other’s core interests and development paths, the China-Pakistan relationship has always been a priority in China’s foreign relations. Any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China

cooperation is bound to fail. The two sides will continuously strengthen practical cooperation across various fields, Mr. Yang Yundong said.

Dr Junaid Ahmad, author of China Leads shared his candid views that China has never invaded any countries. He showed a comparison of China with 5 other leading countries (Russia, USA, Canada, Brazil and India) in the areas of infrastructure, productive and social sectors. He showed many slides and tables showing the superiority of China over the other 5 leading countries. He emphasized that China has been a true friend to Pakistan, who has helped Pakistan in many areas and has never interfered in the internal affairs of the country. Pakistan should align itself with China directly and closely.

The two Chinese professors explained the path followed by China to achieve its present state of development and as to how it plans to improve further.

Former vice chancellor of SMIU, Dr Muhammad Ali Shaikh, stressed the need for enhancing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of education. He presented an overview of the education systems prevailing in China and Pakistan, highlighting their convergences and divergences. He was of the view that Pakistan can learn a lot from China's vibrant technical and vocational education programs, which paved China's way towards industrial development. He said that Pakistan can also learn from China who achieved almost 100 percent enrolment in compulsory education while Pakistan was still struggling with the second largest number in the world of out of school children. He said the relations between two brotherly countries can best be strengthened through people to people contact through education.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-at-75-karachi-seminar-spotlights-sino-pak-economic-milestone-robust-future/>

**November 26, 2024**

**Daily Times**

### **Pak-China stepping up cooperation to safeguard digital corridor**

As digital traffic surges along the CPEC corridor, we are working with China in the establishment of a computer emergency response team (CERT) to safeguard the growing flow of data.”

This was stated by Ammar Jaffri, Director General of Pakistan Center of Information Technology said in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

Once put in place, it will provide a “single window” for responding to cyber incidents along the corridor, Jaffri said.

“As China and Pakistan are jointly establishing technology zones, safeguarding this growing communications has become a priority. Chinese technologies, including those in AI, big data, and quantum computing, could play a transformative role in Pakistan's IT sector,” Jaffri noted.

According to the World Internet Development Report 2024 released last week at the World Internet Conference held in Wuzhen, China, Pakistan ranks 43 out of 52 countries surveyed in terms of Internet Development Index, a comprehensive indicator based on evaluation of the countries' information infrastructure, digital technology and innovation, digital economy, digital government, cyber-security, and cyberspace international governance.

Pakistan ranks 50, 38, 43, 49, 44, and 39 respectively by the above six indicators.

Jaffri highlighted the role of AI in bilateral IT cooperation as more challenges will come from AI tools.

“CPEC-CERT will leverage open-source tools to stay aligned with advancements in AI,” Jaffri said, adding that the rapid shift from Current Computing to Quantum Computing will demand CPEC-CERT's skilled workforce to respond effectively.

Jaffri pointed out the challenge of language barriers in IT training cooperation, but he believes that with more training for Pakistanis in Chinese language and culture, particularly among students-as more than 26,000 of whom are currently studying in China and vocational education cooperation is stepping up in the IT sector-the gap will be narrowed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1242667/pak-china-stepping-up-cooperation-to-safeguard-digital-corridor/>

### **CPEC coal-fired power plant emission level at bare minimum level**

At a critical juncture of time when Punjab, is grappling to wriggle out of smog dilemma, Sahiwal coal-fired power plant built and operated under CPEC is keeping emission level at bare minimum level through advanced technologies such as Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP) and Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) systems.

These cutting-edge technologies effectively capture and remove particulate matter and sulfur dioxide from the exhaust gases, ensuring that emissions are significantly lower than the minimum standards set by Pakistan's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the World Bank, and Chinese regulations.

“Additionally, the plant has taken significant steps to reduce emissions within its own operations. One of the most effective and environmentally conscious strategies employed is the shift to electric vehicles for internal transport, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

The use of electric cart vehicles has been strictly mandated for moving personnel and goods within the plant premises, eliminating the need for fuel-powered vehicles that contribute to air pollution,” Sahiwal power plant media coordinator Umair Shahid said this during a research survey conducted by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) in collaboration the environmentalists and university researchers.

“This transition to electric carts significantly reduces the emission of greenhouse gases, particulate matter, and other air pollutants, helping to improve the overall air quality within the plant and in its immediate surroundings.

The move not only addresses local pollution but also aligns with the plant's broader commitment to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint,” he replied to a question

during survey. Moreover, survey revealed that the plant has embarked on an ambitious and ongoing plantation drive to increase the green cover within and around its premises.

“This initiative is a vital part of the plant’s anti-smog strategy, as trees and plants play a crucial role in improving air quality. The plantation drive is carried out regularly, with employees actively participating in tree-planting activities creating a more environmentally friendly workplace. By increasing its green footprint, the Sahiwal Power Plant is contributing positively to its local ecosystem and setting a valuable example for other industrial entities to follow,” IIRMR survey laid bare the facts. IIRMR research survey revealed that ensuring higher standards in maintaining best ecosystem, values of the hazardous gases of SO<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and mercury, Sahiwal coal-fired power plant which was built by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy (Limited) Sahiwal project a joint venture of Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company and Shandong Ruyi Group, with an investment of about \$1.8 billion, has been keeping lower than the emission values set by World Bank, Japan, EU since operationalization of plant in 2017 till date. “It has also set up a Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) for monitoring the Particulate Matter (PM). In order to strength the Environmental Monitoring Protocols, Project Company has hired EPA Certified Third party Environmental Monitoring Company to follow Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) and submit monthly the Environmental Reports.

The Company has also installed Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station to keenly monitor the air quality and to make sure quality air in accordance to NEQS,” survey said.

IIRMR survey made more revelation that 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, located in the heart of Punjab, Pakistan, has also recognized the critical need to save its employees from this ongoing smog threat.

“One of the most significant measures introduced at the Sahiwal Power Plant is the mandatory wearing of protective masks by all employees working within the plant premises.

During the smog season, all employees wear high-quality masks that are capable of filtering out harmful particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and other pollutants that are prevalent in smog.

This measure is critical because exposure to these pollutants can lead to serious respiratory issues and exacerbate pre-existing health conditions.

By ensuring that all workers are equipped with the necessary protective gear, the plant is prioritizing the health and safety of its workforce, while also setting an example for other industrial facilities in the region.”

Alongside these physical measures, survey added that the plant has implemented a comprehensive educational program to raise awareness about the dangers of smog among its employees.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1242668/cpec-coal-fired-power-plant-emission-level-at-bare-minimum-level/>

**November 27, 2024**

**Daily Times**

**Pak-China sign MoUs on fostering JVs in animal fodder, fruit processing sectors**

Pakistani and Chinese companies on Tuesday signed 13 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) valued at US\$ 250 million on fostering joint ventures and investment partnerships in the animal fodder and fruits and vegetables processing sectors.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi witnessed the signing ceremony held at the conclusion of a day-long B2B Matchmaking Meeting on Animal Fodder and Fruits and Vegetable here.

Pakistan Embassy Beijing, in collaboration with the Board of Investment (BOI), successfully hosted the third in a series of sector-specific B2B matchmaking meetings.

This event, focused on fostering joint ventures and investment partnerships in the animal fodder and fruits and vegetables processing sectors. The event featured insightful presentations, individual B2B meetings, networking opportunities, and the signing of 13 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) valued at approximately USD 250 million.

Over 150 productive B2B meetings, including 30 virtual engagements, took place, providing a robust platform for Pakistani and Chinese companies to explore partnerships and expand trade in these priority sectors.

In his remarks, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi highlighted the strong trade ties between Pakistan and China and emphasized the strategic importance of agriculture and food processing sectors.

He noted that the event underscored Pakistan's ongoing efforts to bolster its trade relationship with China, focusing on creating opportunities for direct connections and long-term partnerships.

Ambassador Hashmi also underscored Pakistan's position as a leading producer of a variety of fruits, vegetables, and animal products, pointing out the country's vast agricultural resources.

He highlighted Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, such as 100% foreign equity ownership, zero tariffs on plant and machinery imports, and profit repatriation, as compelling incentives for Chinese companies to explore joint ventures.

Reflecting on the agriculture sector's immense potential, the Ambassador emphasized the growth of Pakistan's animal fodder industry, including a 12 percent surge in maize production from 2017 to 2022, and the expansion of its poultry feed market, now valued at USD 2 billion. Similarly, he praised the fruits and vegetables processing sector for its contribution to value-added manufacturing, noting a substantial vegetable yield and a vibrant export portfolio including processed juices, jams, and pickled foods.

The presence of Mayor Liu Jianjun of Weifang, Shandong Province, added further significance to the occasion. Mayor Liu underlined the growing agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and Weifang, especially in the aftermath of Ambassador Hashmi's earlier visit to the city.

Mayor Liu lauded the Embassy of Pakistan for their efforts in facilitating such impactful engagements and emphasized the importance of fostering deeper ties in agriculture and food processing.

Wang Qihui, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs at MOFCOM, also commended the initiative and expressed confidence in the outcomes of the B2B meetings.

He highlighted the event's role in building trust and providing a meaningful platform for Pakistani and Chinese entrepreneurs to develop their businesses further.

Commercial Counsellor, Ghulam Qadir in his presentation highlighted investment potential in animal fodder, fruits and vegetables processing sectors in Pakistan.

The B2B matchmaking meeting is part of a larger initiative, following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China earlier this year. Upcoming sector-specific events include focus areas such as textiles on 4-5 December, surgical instruments on 20 December and plastics in early January 2025. These initiatives aim to sustain the momentum of Pakistan-China collaboration and facilitate high-impact engagements across various sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1242887/pak-china-sign-mous-on-fostering-jvs-in-animal-fodder-fruit-processing-sectors/>

## **Militarization of South China Sea**

*Muhammad Adan Shawal Akbar*

The South China Sea (SCS) is an important water body for the international trade. It connects the East Asian states with Europe and the rest of the world for trade and energy supplies. The South China Sea is crucial for Japan, China, the Philippines, and other ASEAN states for their economic growth. China is the state with the best military, the highest economic growth, and ambition for regional hegemony, and it is militarily active in the South China Sea.

China has invested around \$50 billion in the construction of artificial islands and enabling them for military capabilities. China argues that its actions are legitimate by emphasizing its 'nine-dash line' on maps and historical ties to the region.

The South China Sea is strategically very significant as \$3.4 trillion in trade passes through it annually. The South China Sea is rich in fisheries which is the livelihood of millions of people in neighboring states. The sea also holds 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. These resources are the centre of conflict between states.

China has converted submerged reefs into artificial islands and deployed military assets necessary for defensive and offensive purposes. This posture is a high point of concern for the USA because of its security pacts and agreements with Japan (QUAD), Taiwan (Mutual Defense Treaty), and the Philippines. Other states like Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei

and the Philippines also have claims over these islands and cite UNCLOS due to violations of their exclusive economic zones (EEZs) by China.

There are many tiny reefs in the South China Sea scattered in distances. According to the Asia Times report, China has transformed seven reefs in the Spratlys into artificial islands. The distinctive method involves extracting coral from the reef core, pulverizing it, and piling it up to create elevated land to host various facilities.

These include China's three largest artificial islands, Mischief Reef, Fiery Cross Reef, and Subi Reef, which create a triangular defence position against USA bases in the Philippines (Asian Times). These islands have military capabilities including radar systems, anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles, fighter jets, surface-to-air missiles, airstrips, communication arrays, and naval berths. This provides China with an edge to control and show its power in the sea. The Philippines and Vietnam also claim some of the reefs and islands near their exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and territorial waters.

This brings the legal Framework in this dispute defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS). UNCLOS defined that 200 nautical miles from the state coastline are States EEZs and have rights over resources in their respective EEZs.

The Philippines filed a case against China in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) for violating the UNCLOS. The 2016 PCA ruling invalidated China's territorial claims, declaring them inconsistent with international law and norms. Beijing dismissed the ruling as null and void by citing the 'nine-dash line' asserting historical control over the region based on ancient maps and records. The Philippines and Vietnam are increasing their military and defence capabilities by joining alliances with the USA and Australia. The presence of USA bases in the Philippines and Taiwan involved the risk of global conflict over the South China Sea. Since 2020, the USA has conducted several freedom of navigation operations (FONOPs) in the South China Sea, sailing warships through disputed waters to challenge China's excessive claims. In March 2023, the USS Milius operated near the Paracel Islands, the region claimed by China, Vietnam, and Taiwan. The US conducts FONOPs to affirm the principles of international law under the UNCLOS. China protests against these FONOPs, accusing the USA of violating its sovereignty. This includes the risks of accidental clashes, which can escalate and lead to global conflict. These interactions are complex and can cause conflict due to misunderstandings between the USA and China.

The ambition of China is to dominate the region by militarizing the artificial Islands. However, this poses a great danger to regional stability due to non-adherence to International law. To overcome the risk of global conflict between China and the USA, the global community must prioritize multilateral dialogue to avoid any misunderstandings. All states including China and ASEAN must comply with legal frameworks, like UNCLOS to ensure peace and security in the South China Sea. The tensions in the South China Sea are a stark reminder of the dangers posed by unchecked geopolitical rivalries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1243018/militarization-of-south-china-sea/>

## Pakistan Observer

### **BRI, Trumponomics and World Trade War-II**

The victory of Donald Trump as the US President-elect has rattled many capitals around the world, fearing the start of World Trade War-II in the next year further marginalizing their socio-economic integration, trans-regional connectivity and economic stability because of the expected projection of America First Policy, imposition of high tariffs, economic protectionism, isolation and onslaught of new kind of economic recipe due to which true spirit of economic globalization, international cooperation and even functionalities of global governance would be in the line of fire.

On the other hand, the Chinese BRI stands for true proponent of regional cooperation, trans-regional connectivity, quick global economic recovery, innovation, qualitative industrialization, digitalization and, above all, deepening relations between the Global South and the Global North making bridges of better understanding on common issues pressing for joint efforts to achieve SDGs goals pertaining to eradication of poverty, generation of new jobs, women empowerment, community development, health, education and fight against global warming through rigorous green technologies.

Unfortunately, even latest inauguration of the Peruvian port of Chancay funded and built at a cost of US\$3.5 billion, which will halve the shipping time from South America to Asia, from 45 days to 23 days, boosting trade and commerce between the two continents has been dubbed as China's smart geopolitical maneuvering to enter in the backyard of the USA in South America spoiling the true colours of BRI and China's positive, productive and participatory role in the world creating a win-win situation and befitting propositions for all and connecting people, communities, continents and countries towards greater stability, sustainability and prosperity around the world. South America has now become a connecting hub of the BRI, fostering hopes of innovation, modernization, digitalization and openness. Thus BRI stands for integration not separation which is a good omen and one of the last resort of quick economic recovery.

It offers a chance for participant nations to shape an innovative and sustainable future. Alongside infrastructure development, a knowledge revolution is underway. The BRI integrates science, technology, and enhanced education to equip young people as future entrepreneurs and leaders, fostering better relationships and understanding among nations, as well as between Chinese and other cultures. Policymakers in China should create a "BRI's Corridor of Young Entrepreneurship" to empower youth in the Global South and beyond, driving economic stability, sustainability, and supporting the global supply chain. This initiative could mitigate the effects of Trump's World Trade War-II and promote economic, industrial, technological and trade equilibrium.

In Africa, the BRI has revolutionized its economies, communities, countries by providing some of the development tonic. According to the International Monetary Fund, BRI funding is filling many of the continent's long-standing infrastructure gaps and generating positive ancillary benefits. Chinese railway projects in East Africa are one example, with the Nairobi-



Mombasa and Addis Ababa-Djibouti lines opening potential for a flow of international investment.

The CPEC is one of the salient components of BRI to date. This network of projects, together forming the single-biggest BRI program with financing and infrastructure worth more than US\$60 billion, connects western China to Gwadar. The corridor will provide a new trading route, opening up the country to multiple industrial and trading opportunities.

Additionally, in Southeast Asia, BRI infrastructure projects in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia have upgraded their railways, ports, industrial capacities and manufacturing productivity. Even numerous BRI's sponsored industrial parks have become symbols of innovation, digitalization and modernization promoting green technologies, hybrid agriculture and engineering products in these countries.

According to the US Chamber of Commerce, the Biden administration is set to unveil new export restrictions on China as soon as next week. The new regulations could add up to 200 Chinese chip companies to a trade restriction list that bars most US suppliers from shipping goods to the targeted firms.

The commerce department, which oversees US export policy, plans to publish the new regulations prior to the Thanksgiving break. The update, if accurate, shows the Biden administration is plowing ahead with plans to further crack down on China's access to semiconductors even as the start of Trump's second term in January approaches.

Biden has imposed a raft of export controls on China, aiming to halt its technological advances due to concerns that the technology could bolster China's military, with the first round of regulations likely including restrictions on chip-making tool shipments. Additionally, the imposition of tariffs by certain countries on China's new key exports—electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products—represents an unfair, illegal, and unreasonable protectionist practice that supports Trumponomics and contributes to the escalation of Trade War-II.

China released its trade figures for the first three quarters of 2024 on Monday, showing a positive overall trend despite internal and external challenges. The “new three” items, a key pillar of China's exports, remained strong, with exports reaching 757.83 billion Yuan (US\$107.03 billion), accounting for 4.1 percent of total exports and welcomed by over 200 countries and regions. This reflects a positive omen for China's trade. However, the nomination of hawkish politicians and policymakers in the Trump cabinet signals the looming threat of Trade War-II against China and its products in the coming year.

To mitigate the expected spillover ramifications China has unveiled new measures after the victory of Trump in the recently held elections in the USA. The Chinese policy makers plan to further support its economy and its associated sectors. Trump won the US election on a platform that promised steep import taxes, including tariffs as high as 60 percent on Chinese-made goods.

The author suggests that Chinese policymakers should devise a holistic and comprehensive policy to tackle the expected onslaught of Trumponomics through BRI's diversification drive, especially in Africa, Asia, the Asia Pacific, Central Asia, South America, and the EU. This

should include innovative, integrated initiatives such as BRI's EVs Corridor, BRI's Renewables Corridor, BRI's Open Science Corridor, BRI's Health Corridor, and BRI's Safety & Security Corridor in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, promoting stable, sustainable economic development, social productivity, industrial growth, and smart, knowledge-based economies in BRI member countries. Relocating qualitative industries to BRI countries, forming new trade and manufacturing clusters, and developing Artificial Intelligence Corridors, quantum technologies, digitalization, and modernization would benefit China amid World Trade War-II.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-trumponomics-and-world-trade-war-ii/>

### **CPEC Sahiwal power plant's role in smog**

At a critical juncture of time when Punjab is grappling to wriggle out of smog dilemma, Sahiwal coal-fired power plant built and operated under CPEC is keeping emission level at bare minimum level through advanced technologies such as Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP) and Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) systems.

These cutting-edge technologies effectively capture and remove particulate matter and sulphur dioxide from the exhaust gases, ensuring that emissions are significantly lower than the minimum standards set by Pakistan's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the World Bank and Chinese regulations.

“Additionally, the plant has taken significant steps to reduce emissions within its own operations. One of the most effective and environmentally conscious strategies employed is the shift to electric vehicles for internal transport. The use of electric cart vehicles has been strictly mandated for moving personnel and goods within the plant premises, eliminating the need for fuel-powered vehicles that contribute to air pollution,” Sahiwal power plant media coordinator Umair Shahid said this during a research survey conducted by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) in collaboration with the environmentalists and university researchers.

“This transition to electric cars significantly reduces the emission of greenhouse gases, particulate matter and other air pollutants, helping to improve the overall air quality within the plant and in its immediate surroundings. The move not only addresses local pollution but also aligns with the plant's broader commitment to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint,” he replied to a question during the survey.

Moreover, survey revealed that the plant has embarked on an ambitious and ongoing plantation drive to increase the green cover within and around its premises. “This initiative is a vital part of the plant's anti-smog strategy, as trees and plants play a crucial role in improving air quality. The plantation drive is carried out regularly, with employees actively participating in tree-planting activities creating a more environmentally friendly workplace. By increasing its green footprint, the Sahiwal Power Plant is contributing positively to its local ecosystem and setting a valuable example for other industrial entities to follow,” IIRMR survey laid bare the facts.

IIRMR research survey revealed that ensuring higher standards in maintaining best ecosystem, values of the hazardous gases of SO<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and mercury, Sahiwal coal-fired power plant which was built by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy (Limited) Sahiwal project a joint venture of Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company and Shandong Ruyi Group, with an investment of about \$1.8 billion, has been keeping lower than the emission values set by World Bank, Japan, EU since operationalization of plant in 2017 till date.

“It has also set up a Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) for monitoring the Particulate Matter (PM). In order to strengthen the Environmental Monitoring Protocols, Project Company has hired EPA Certified Third party Environmental Monitoring Company to follow Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) and submit monthly Environmental Reports. The Company has also installed Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station to keenly monitor the air quality and to ensure quality air in accordance with NEQS,” survey said.

Survey in its in-depth report observed that in designing the coal yard, the company has paid special attention to environmental protection. The coal yard is equipped with water spraying guns to avoid coal dust. The catch fence is provided around the coal yard, which is 2m higher than the height of the coal pile. Ash yard is designed according to Chinese standards polyethylene geo-membrane (two cloth one membrane) of the design to (artificial barrier layer) has the equivalent permeability coefficient of  $1.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{cm/s}$  and 1.5M thick clay layer to control seepage, survey said.

IIRMR survey made more revelation that 1320 MW Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, located in the heart of Punjab, Pakistan, has also recognized the critical need to save its employees from this ongoing smog threat. “One of the most significant measures introduced at the Sahiwal Power Plant is the mandatory wearing of protective masks by all employees working within the plant premises. During the smog season, all employees wear high-quality masks that are capable of filtering out harmful particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and other pollutants that are prevalent in smog. This measure is critical because exposure to these pollutants can lead to serious respiratory issues and exacerbate pre-existing health conditions. By ensuring that all workers are equipped with the necessary protective gear, the plant is prioritizing the health and safety of its workforce, while also setting an example for other industrial facilities in the region,” survey said.

Alongside these physical measures, the survey added that the plant has implemented a comprehensive educational program to raise awareness about the dangers of smog among its employees. “Regular lectures, workshops, and informational sessions are organized, where experts discuss the causes of smog, its health impacts, and practical ways to reduce exposure. The plant leadership, including senior executives like the CEO, CFO, Vice Presidents, and Chief Engineers, actively participates in these sessions, demonstrating their commitment to the cause, survey divulged.

For instance, a survey revealed that employees are encouraged to limit outdoor activities during peak smog hours, wear protective masks when necessary, and monitor air quality levels through available tools and apps. This proactive approach helps employees better

understand the severity of the issue and empowers them to make informed decisions about their health and safety.

A further extension of the educational efforts is the plant's "Preach to Friends and Family" policy, survey maintained. "The plant recognizes that addressing smog is not only a matter of workplace safety but also a public health issue that affects entire communities. As part of this initiative, employees are encouraged to spread awareness about the dangers of smog and the steps that can be taken to minimize exposure to their friends and family members. The plant provides employees with informational materials—brochures, pamphlets and videos—that they can share with their loved ones. This initiative aims to amplify the impact of the plant's internal efforts by ensuring that the message about smog prevention extends beyond the workplace and into local communities," it added.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-sahiwal-power-plants-role-in-smog/>

**November 28, 2024**

**Daily Times**

### **Top Chinese military official lauds Pakistan's counter-terror efforts**

\* Chinese CMC Vice Chairman and COAS Munir hold discussions on regional stability

General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC), has commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts. He made the comments during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The top Chinese military official visited the GHQ along with a high-level delegation, the ISPR mentioned, where he reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship. At first, COAS Munir and CMC Vice Chairman Youxia held a one-on-one meeting, which was followed by delegation-level discussions. The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability, and enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. General Munir underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pakistan-China relations, emphasising their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation. The army chief affirmed that this historic partnership has withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS also thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment. Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, General Youxia laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm reception, including a guard of honour presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1243290/top-chinese-military-official-lauds-pakistans-counter-terror-efforts/>

## **US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during Jul-Oct 2024**

The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first four months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-October 2024-25 were recorded at US \$2037.270 million against the exports of US \$1862.086 million during July-October 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.40 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$813.441 million against the exports of US \$952.441 million last year, showing a decrease of 14.59 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$761.393 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$690.576 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US \$737.432 million against US \$624.432 million last year while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$579.141 million against US \$487.832 million last year, data said.

During July-October 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$501.316 million against \$448.260 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$394.407 million against \$409.403 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$478.883 million against the exports of US \$516.576 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$291.773 million against \$182.616 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$247.313 million against US \$192.311 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$187.222 million against US \$172.507 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$208.246 million against US \$182.989 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$245.569 million during the current year compared to US \$214.983 million last year whereas the exports to Turkiye stood at US \$113.502 million against US \$131.131 million.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1243264/us-china-and-uk-top-3-destinations-of-pakistani-exports-during-jul-oct-2024/>

### **The News**

#### **Pak-China ties based on mutual trust, cooperation: Gen Asim**

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir Wednesday underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pak-China relations, emphasizing their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation.

He made these remarks in a meeting with Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China General Zhang Youxia who visited him along with a high-level delegation.

Gen Asim affirmed that the Pak-China historic partnership withstood the tests of time and was poised to grow further. He thanked the Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of the changes in the international and regional environment.

General Zhang Youxia commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship. The Chinese guest held a one-on-one meeting with the COAS followed by delegation-level discussions.

Zhang Youxia also deeply appreciated Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership. The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability and enhancing bilateral defense cooperation.

Earlier, upon his arrival at the GHQ, General Zhang Youxia laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to the martyrs.

He was accorded a warm reception, including a guard of honour presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the army.

Meanwhile, President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko Wednesday met with the Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir here.

The discussion encompassed matters of mutual interest, prospects for defense cooperation and regional security dynamics, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

The COAS appreciated Belarus's contributions to the global and regional affairs, expressing desire to strengthen and expand the bilateral ties.

President Lukashenko praised Pakistan's armed forces for their significant role in fostering regional peace and stability, as well as their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=363367>

New CPEC playbook

Dr Hassan Daud Butt

Amidst global economic uncertainty, developing nations are striving to minimise long-term economic setbacks and foster recovery. To break free from the low-income trap and achieve sustained prosperity, these countries are prioritising productivity, technological advancement, and innovation as fundamental pillars of their economic strategies.

Emerging economies in Asia, as highlighted by the McKinsey Global Institute, have positioned themselves as leaders in technological platforms, resource management, energy solutions, and capital development. Examining the economic impact of demographics across regions reveals that Asia's urban population is expected to grow from 1.6 billion to 3.0 billion by 2030.

A prime example of how geography, a sizeable population, and connectivity can drive economic success is China's extraordinary rise. With trends like glocalisation, nearshoring, and friend-shoring reshaping the global investment landscape, Asia is poised to become the

centre of the global economy by 2050. While these global trends offer opportunities, they also bring domestic political and economic challenges, including low productivity, into sharper focus.

This is a critical time for Pakistan to reconsider its growth trajectory and align with international trends. Breaking the cycle of low income and setting the stage for a future centred on productivity and innovation will require gradual yet consistent advancements in the country's industrial and economic structure, renewable energy initiatives, and technological adoption. Over the past decade, China has been Pakistan's leading investor. Through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it has not only helped address Pakistan's energy shortages but also constructed critical infrastructure, including the Gwadar Port, a cornerstone of Pakistan's Blue Economy.

Gwadar's strategic connectivity to the hinterland via the coastal highway and its linkage to global markets through the recently operationalized Gwadar International Airport, funded by a \$230 million Chinese grant, underscores its importance. Moving forward, it is imperative to focus on establishing processing and manufacturing industries within the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the Gwadar Free Zone. This should be followed by a phase of maturity where endogenous mechanisms for sustainable growth are firmly in place. The development of Gwadar city infrastructure, as outlined in its master plan, will be crucial to realising the full dividend of the port city and addressing the genuine concerns of the local population.

The next phase of CPEC may not involve mega-projects but should feature initiatives aligned with evolving global trends, regional needs, and Pakistan's economic priorities. However, the emerging geopolitical landscape poses significant challenges to CPEC's progress, notably in the form of security concerns and narrative-related issues such as recent terrorist attacks and debates surrounding anti-CPEC/BRI sentiments within the broader context of US-China rivalry.

While discussing this new phase, it is essential to support and address the concerns of existing Chinese investors, who will play a pivotal role in attracting new private or state-owned enterprises to Pakistan. Regular engagement with these stakeholders is imperative. Strengthening security infrastructure through technology-driven solutions, particularly in critical areas like SEZs and mega energy projects, is equally important. Additionally, incremental investment and financing models must be adopted for large-scale projects like the ML1 railway project. Dividing such projects into manageable phases with clear milestones will help attract investment and ensure steady, measurable progress.

There is also untapped potential for collaboration between Chinese Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Pakistani businesses, particularly in sectors such as engineering, automotive, IT, chemicals, textiles, and agro-based industries. Encouraging Chinese SMEs and start-ups to visit Pakistan through tailored tourism and academia initiatives could serve as a precursor to investment. Simultaneously, the Pakistani business community must be motivated to seize these opportunities. Establishing a High-Tech Education City under CPEC, through partnerships with Chinese universities and research institutions, could be a transformative step forward.

Given Pakistan's resource-constrained environment, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) offer a viable model for financing large-scale projects. However, the government must enhance the capacity of officials engaged in PPP nodes, particularly at the provincial level. Offering realistic, non-financial incentives tailored to each region's unique needs will further strengthen this model.

It is essential to reflect on why Pakistan has struggled to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) at the same level as countries like Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand, despite offering competitive incentives, a favourable geographical location, and a relatively large population. Furthermore, Pakistan's investment-to-GDP ratio remains significantly lower than the regional average.

Investors, whether domestic or foreign, private or state-owned, are drawn to Pakistan's large market size and abundant human and mineral resources. What they need is a conducive environment characterised by pragmatic governance, financial security, and personal safety.

The incentives required to attract investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan cannot be the same as those for Punjab and Sindh, which benefit from superior infrastructure. Pakistan needs a tailored approach that acknowledges the heterogeneity of investment opportunities across the country and implements region-specific strategies to attract both domestic and foreign investments. A recurring challenge in Pakistan's economic planning has been the gap between policy formulation and implementation. Incentive packages must not only be well-conceived but also reliably executed to build investor confidence. An incremental approach to economic development could involve targeting one SEZ, one Integrated Tourism Zone, one Mineral Zone, and at least one CPEC Agri-Tech Zone for 2024-25. These are achievable goals, provided the plans are kept straightforward and free of unnecessary complexity.

The success of CPEC's next phase will also depend on a meritocratic approach, where officials responsible for delays and inefficiencies in project development are held accountable. Talent development will play a critical role in ensuring Pakistan's workforce is equipped to meet the demands of emerging industries, particularly in high-tech sectors such as electric vehicles (EVs), artificial intelligence (AI), and renewable energy. In this regard, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has a crucial role to play.

The road to recovery will undoubtedly be slow, but with confidence-building measures and a focus on sustainable development, Pakistan can still capitalise on emerging opportunities. Decisive action and a clear vision are essential for navigating the challenges ahead. The nation's youthful population, strategic partnerships, and potential for innovation provide a unique opportunity to build a brighter and more prosperous future.

By prioritising these efforts, Pakistan can position itself as a regional leader and a catalyst for sustainable growth and development. The time to act is now.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1255670-new-cpec-playbook>



## **Pakistan, China to promote animal feed**

Islamabad : The Embassy of Pakistan in China here hosted a China-Pakistan B2B Conference focusing on animal feed, fruit and vegetable processing industries, aiming to enhance economic cooperation and investment ties between the two countries.

With the participation of over 200 representatives from business groups in Weifang, Qingdao, Karachi, and other cities in China and Pakistan, the meeting witnessed the signing of 13 MoUs worth RMB 250 million, ranging from importing citrus, seafood, animal feed from Pakistan to China, to establishing joint ventures in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

Pakistani representatives provided detailed insights into the investment potential of Pakistan's animal feed and fruit and vegetable processing industries. Several incentives for foreign investors were highlighted, including 100% foreign ownership, unrestricted profit and dividend repatriation, and zero import tariffs on factory equipment and machinery.

According to Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan, Pakistan's competitive advantages in tariffs, labour costs, and raw materials could increase profit margins for businesses by up to 4.6% in fruit and vegetable processing. In the animal feed sector, particularly in the production of additives and supplements, profit margins could rise by as much as 3.6%.

He emphasized that the Pakistani government is committed to creating a more business-friendly environment and has already addressed issues such as remittance challenges faced by Chinese companies. "After Covid, our volume of export to China has been going up to about 700-800 metric tons of seafood annually including cuttle fish, squid, ribbon fish, croker, etc.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=363254>

**November 30, 2024**

**K2 Daily**

بقیہ 33

بڑھانے کے حزم کا اظہار کیا۔ قانون کے نفاذ کے  
کثیر جہتی اور مکمل میں انجمن کی قیادت کے لئے  
مکمل کی حمایت کی تاکید کرتے ہوئے ڈانگ شیوا  
ہوگئے کہ انجمن انجمن کے ساتھ ضروری  
رابطے کو برقرار رکھنے، مشترکہ تعاون کا خاکہ تیار  
کرنے، ملکی کامیابیوں کے ذریعے دھوکہ دہی  
اور سرحد پار جہاز کی روک تھام، ہندوستان گری،  
مظہروں کو واپس لانے اور انجمن کی باہمی جیسے  
شعبوں میں ملکی تعاون کو مستحکم کرنے، قانون نافذ  
کرنے والے اداروں کی استعداد کار بڑھانے اور  
ترتیب میں تعاون بڑھانے کا خواہش ہے۔ لیکن کی  
دہریہ حمایت پر انجمن کو متنبہ کرتے ہوئے انجمن نے  
ایک لیکن کے اصول پر انجمن کے ہندو حزم کا اعادہ  
کیا۔ انجمن نے کہا کہ انجمن قانون نافذ کرنے  
اور سکورٹی کے حوالے سے لیکن کے ساتھ ملکی تعاون  
کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے تیار ہے اور 2026  
میں ڈانگ شیوا میں ہونے والی 94 ویں انجمن  
جنرل اسمبلی کی کامیابی کو چنگی بنانے کے لئے مل کر  
کام کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ مذاقات کے دوران ڈانگ  
شیوا ہوگئے اور انجمن کے نگرانی جنرل ویٹو کی  
ارگنائزیشن تعاون کے کا مذاقات پر دھمکا گئے۔

چین اور انڈیا کے درمیان  
کلیسیوں کی ادواروں میں تعاون  
بڑھانے کا عزم

قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی استعداد کار بڑھانے اور تربیت میں تعاون بڑھانا چاہتے ہیں، ڈانگ شیوا  
انجمن قانون نافذ کرنے اور سکورٹی کے حوالے سے لیکن کے ساتھ ملکی تعاون کو مضبوط بنانے کیلئے تیار ہے، احمد ناسر انجمن  
لیون (شہر) لیکن کے ٹیٹ قنصل اور میں انجمن کریمیل پولیس آرگنائزیشن کی جس میں فریقین نے قانون نافذ کرنے والے  
پبلک سکورٹی کے وزیر ڈانگ شیوا ہوگئے لیون (انجمن) کے صدر احمد ناسر انجمن سے مذاقات اداروں میں تعاون (باقی صفحہ 6 پیج نمبر 33)

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_GB&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2024-11-30](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2024-11-30)

[https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_GB&Page=Classified&Date=2024-11-30](https://epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Classified&Date=2024-11-30)

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

#### **پاکستان، چین مشترکہ فوجی مشق وارنیر 8، آرمی چیف کا دورہ**

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) آرمی چیف جنرل سید عاصم منیر نے نیشنل کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم سینٹر پی پی کا دورہ کیا، پاک فوج کے شعبہ تعلقات عامہ (آئی ایس پی آر) کے مطابق آرمی چیف نے پاک فوج اور پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے درمیان وارنیر 8 مشق کا جائزہ لیا۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف کو مشق کے دائرہ کار اور انعقاد کے بارے میں بریفنگ دی گئی، آرمی چیف نے پاک چین مشترکہ مشق کے شرکا سے بات چیت بھی کی۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق آرمی چیف نے مشترکہ مشق کے دوران شرکاء کی پیشہ وارانہ مہارت اور بلند حوصلے کو سراہا۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق پاک چین مشترکہ مشق کا آغاز 19 نومبر کو ہوا، انسداد دہشت گردی کے شعبے میں ہر سال منعقد کی جانے والی دو طرفہ مشقوں کے سلسلے میں یہ اٹھویں مشق ہے۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق نیشنل کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم سینٹر پی پی پہنچنے پر کمانڈر راولپنڈی کور نے آرمی چیف کا استقبال کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2024-11-30/page-1/detail-39>

## *Chinese Newspapers*

**November 16, 2024**

### **Global Times**

#### **Foreign experts call for deeper coordination with Beijing on air pollution control**

#### **China's environmental protection efforts benefit whole Asia region: report**

*Fan Anqi*

China's continuous improvement of air quality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has benefited not only the country itself, but also the rest of Asia and the world, foreign scholars said Monday at an event held in Beijing, calling for more success stories like "China Blue" to spread across the Asian region and help countries reduce air pollution.

Representatives from authorities and research institutions from China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Mongolia, the Philippines, totaling nearly 50 participants, attended the event.

At the opening ceremony of the Asian Regional Exchange for Clean Air held in Beijing on Monday, Lei Yu, director of Atmospheric Environmental Planning Institute, Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, said that since the implementation of the Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan in 2013, China has implemented a series of measures, including adjustments to the energy structure, industrial restructuring, and major emission reduction projects. These efforts have led to significant progress and notable achievements in air pollution prevention and control.

"Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei is renowned for turning smog into blue skies, much like what we are seeing today on such a beautiful autumn day," Glynda Bathan-Baterina, deputy executive director of Clean Air Asia, an international NGO, said at the event, hailing China's impressive results in this regard.

The deputy executive director noted that China has achieved 40 percent reduction of PM2.5 in merely seven years, a similar feat accomplished by the US in three decades.

"We need more success stories across Asia like this and having those spread throughout the region," Glynda said.

Gantuya Ganbat, a professor of Environmental Engineering at the German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology, told the Global Times that Mongolia, particularly its capital Ulaanbaatar, is facing severe air pollution challenges due to the burning of fossil fuels, especially in winter. Insufficient financial resources, a shortage of skilled professionals, policy instability, as well as a lack of technological advancements are the major causes for the problem.

"Mongolia has a lot to learn from China's experience and expertise in environmental planning," Ganbat said. For example, Mongolia could learn how China's specialized institutions, such as the Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning, operate, the processes

they use to develop strategies, and how they approach issues like air pollution and carbon neutrality.

Sharing China's experiences and methodologies could not only support Mongolia, but also provide valuable insights for other countries, fostering broader regional cooperation, Ganbat told the Global Times.

Ririn Radiawati Kusuma, Indonesia director of Clean Air Asia, told the Global Times that in Indonesia, the main challenges regarding air pollution are the lack of government commitment and weak law enforcement.

China can coordinate with Indonesia to address these issues in several ways, Kusuma said. First, regional exchanges are essential for facilitating knowledge sharing between local and national governments. Second, partnerships with Chinese entities, including universities and institutions, can facilitate the R&D of environmental programs. Furthermore, Chinese green investments such as electric vehicle manufacturers in Indonesia can accelerate its effort to combat air pollution in the country.

A report was also released at Monday's seminar as part of the "China Air" report series. The report said that as many Asian developing countries are still in the midst of rapid urbanization and industrialization, they are facing grave challenges in air pollution control and greenhouse gas emission reduction. Being the largest economy in Asia, China's continuous improvement of air quality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has benefited not only the country itself, but also the rest of the region and the world.

In 2023, countries in East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia have shown great economic growth momentum, but this has also been accompanied by increased energy consumption and emission intensity. Countries in South Asia face more severe air pollution challenges, as PM 2.5 exposure concentration in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan have nearly doubled the global average.

China, undergoing green transition, has shown a new development trend after encountering the situations seen in other countries, the report reads. As China's GDP per capita exceeded the \$10,000 mark and crossed the inflection point, the relationship between the country's economic development and environmental quality improvement have turned from being "a compromise" to a "win-win situation," according to the report.

According to the latest data released by the MEE, in the first three quarters this year, the percentage of days with good or excellent air quality across 339 Chinese cities at the prefecture level and above reached 85.8 percent, an increase of 1.6 percentage points year-on-year. The average concentrations of PM 2.5, PM 10, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide were 27, 47, 147, and 18 micrograms per cubic meter, respectively, representing year-on-year reductions of 3.6 percent, 7.8 percent, 0.7 percent, and 10 percent.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202411/1323328.shtml>

## Global Times

### **China, Pakistan to hold joint anti-terrorism exercise in Pakistan**

Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Western Theater Command will send troops to Pakistan and conduct the Warrior-VIII joint anti-terrorism exercise from late November to mid-December, the Chinese Defense Ministry announced on Tuesday.

The exercise, which is in accordance with an annual schedule and consensus reached by the Chinese and Pakistani militaries, is themed "a joint anti-terrorism elimination and strike operation," in which the two sides plan to carry out joint mixed training across multiple levels and specialties, the Chinese Defense Ministry said in a press release, noting that the drill will organize joint planning and live-force exercises based on actual combat procedures.

It is the eighth edition of Warrior series China-Pakistan joint military exercise, and its goal is to consolidate and deepen practical exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries, as well as to strengthen their joint anti-terrorism capabilities, according to the Chinese Defense Ministry.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202411/1323378.shtml>

## **November 19, 2024**

## **People's Daily**

### **Chinese, Pakistani militaries to hold joint anti-terrorism exercise**

BEIJING, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- The Western Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army will send troops to Pakistan to participate in a joint anti-terrorism exercise from late November to mid-December, the Ministry of National Defense announced Tuesday.

Coded "Warrior-VIII," the exercise will focus on joint counter-terrorism clean-up and strike operations. The two sides will engage in multi-level and mixed training across various specialties, and organize live troop drills in accordance with the actual combat process, the ministry said.

This year's exercise is the eighth joint exercise of the series between the Chinese and Pakistani militaries, with the aim to consolidate and deepen practical exchanges and cooperation, as well as enhance the capability for conducting joint counter-terrorism operations.

The last joint exercise in this series was held in 2019.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1119/c90000-20244215.html>

**November 22, 2024**

**Global Times**

**International scholars exchange views on human rights from Chinese history**

Drawing wisdom from classics By Liu Xin in Changsha

Editor's Note: An international academic conference on the ideas of human rights in ancient Chinese classics was hosted by the China Society for Human Rights Studies, the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Hunan Provincial Committee and Hunan University at the historic Yuelu Academy in Changsha, Central China's Hunan Province on Wednesday. More than 200 scholars, officials and representatives from think tanks from China and several countries, including the US, Canada, Italy, Japan and Pakistan, attended the event and shared their perspectives on human rights.

The Global Times extracted key points from scholars' views on the human rights concepts embedded in traditional Chinese culture, the significant achievements China has made in human rights endeavors, and the differences in human rights perspectives between the East and the West.

Zamir Awan, a non-resident fellow with the Center for China and Globalization and a sinologist at the National University of Sciences and Technology

The Chinese approach to human rights is deeply rooted in its unique political ideology, cultural heritage and historical context. China places a strong emphasis on collective rights over individual rights, prioritizing economic development, social stability and national sovereignty as essential components of its human rights philosophy. This approach is shaped by the belief that development is a fundamental human right, and without a stable and prosperous society, the enjoyment of other rights becomes secondary or unattainable.

China advocates for a pluralistic view of human rights, asserting that each country has the right to interpret human rights in a way that aligns with its cultural values, historical experience and developmental priorities.

China's efforts in promoting South-South cooperation, particularly through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), are framed as contributions to global human rights by fostering development, reducing inequality and creating opportunities for shared prosperity among developing nations.

China's success in lifting millions out of poverty and advancing economic growth positions it as a key player in global human rights discourse, promoting a view that the pursuit of collective prosperity is an essential pathway to realizing human dignity for all.

A critical challenge to human rights is the political use of human rights by certain powers, particularly in the Western world, as a tool for advancing geopolitical interests. Human rights issues are often highlighted selectively, targeting rival nations while overlooking violations committed by allied countries.

For instance, the US frequently publishes reports criticizing the human rights records of countries such as China, Russia, North Korea and Cuba, portraying them as violators of fundamental rights. At the same time, countries allied with the US, such as Israel and India, despite having documented records of human rights violations, receive far less criticism. This selective approach raises concerns about double standards in the global human rights discourse.

Nations that oppose Western political agendas are often labeled as human rights violators, while those aligned with Western powers are depicted more favorably.

This politicization undermines the credibility of international human rights advocacy and creates a perception that human rights are used as a strategic tool to weaken geopolitical rivals rather than as a sincere effort to uphold human dignity.

Peter Hediger, a Swiss sinologist, historian and international security policy expert

The creators of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) have claimed that the Declaration is derived from ideas of the American and French Revolution in the 18th century. The Western powers still pretend to agree with this.

However, this view is incomplete, biased and erroneous. In various Chinese classics, written hundreds of years before the American and French revolutions, many corresponding ideas can be found which focus on the well-being of the people. It is the merit of the current Chinese leadership to rediscover and disseminate this fact.

In the course of history, China has accumulated a wealth of wisdom and ideas of good governance. Many of these thoughts may have occurred under a different label, but their contents are identical or close to ideas promulgated in the UDHR. They did not come in any judicial framework of laws, but were addressed to the rulers as binding moral obligation.

The implementation of the UDHR on a global scale relies on single member states, but here comes a dilemma. The linkage between the UDHR and the sovereignty of nations is an area full of traps and mines.

Apart from social differences and discrepancies among and within member states, the biggest inequality lies in the refusal of some influential powers to acknowledge and respect the different political systems of member states.

In today's world, a sincere and efficient implementation of the UDHR is only possible in a multipolar world order, where each nation is taking responsibility and care of its particular needs. Therefore, the West splitting the existing world into two camps – those who practice democracy and those who do not – is too simplistic. China has proven that, other than blindly following the course set by Western democracies, it has found another valid way.

Christophe Peschoux, former section chief of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

“Human rights” has been used and misused in the past decades that I think it is useful to revisit this term. Human rights have been clouded and blurred by misconceptions,

misunderstandings and above all by political manipulations to the point that they have come to be derided by many and held in suspicion.

They have been weaponized by powerful states – the US and the West – against other states to shame them, embarrass them, pressure them in attempts to weaken and destabilize them.

As the expression goes, don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. To refresh our understanding of what their value is for us, not in the abstract, but practically in our lives, concrete and spiritual, we need to look beyond the legal norms, what underpins them: the principles and values. To clarify the meaning of these terms: life is a value (we value life, we cherish it because it is precious, the most precious that we have). "You should respect life" is a moral principle. A principle is a precept to guide our life.

I am convinced that the values that underpin modern human rights norms, as expressed in the UDHR, can be found in every society, culture and civilization. The best way to make them grow and flourish on Chinese fertile soil is not by adopting them uncritically from outside, nor by transplanting them mechanically or repeating them like an article of a new faith.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202411/1323606.shtml>

### **Tianjin Consensus on the Development of World Vocational Education adopted**

The Tianjin Consensus on World Vocational Education was adopted at the 2024 World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference (WVTEDC 2024), which began on Thursday in Tianjin, North China.

During the meeting, a ministerial roundtable was held. Attended by education ministers from 32 countries, including China, the meeting discussed and adopted the Tianjin Consensus on the Development of World Vocational Education, which provides a framework for advancing vocational education globally.

The Thematic Exhibition on Vocational Education at WVTEDC 2024, hosted by Chinese Society for Technical and Vocational Education on November 21-22 attracted guests from all around the world. It built a platform for international exchange and cooperation for Chinese and more international vocational and technical colleges.

Themed Innovation Empowers the Future, Skills Enlighten New Lives, the conference hosted over 1,200 representatives, including more than 600 overseas guests from over 100 countries and regions, such as government officials, diplomats, international organization representatives, and academics.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202411/1323591.shtml>



**November 24, 2024**

**Global Times**

### **Luban Workshops: China's vocational education goes global**

Luban Workshop has garnered attention from global insiders at the 2024 World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference in North China's Tianjin Municipality, which opened on November 21.

Chinese technical and vocational education is expanding internationally, and the Luban Workshop has become a landmark cooperative project in cultivating local talents in partner countries.

During the conference, the Global Times learned that as of November 2024, over 34 Luban Workshops have been established in 30 countries and regions in the world since the first one was established in Thailand in 2016.

During the opening ceremony of the conference, Muferihat Kamil, Minister of Labor and Skills of Ethiopia, said the Luban Workshop represents a milestone in strengthening the partnership between Ethiopia and China.

"China is sharing its vocational education experiences with other countries and regions all over the world," Lü Jingquan, Director of the Expert Committee on Luban Workshop Construction, told the Global Times.

He also shared that the Luban Workshops not only provided academic education to partner countries, but also improved the local standards of living by enhancing the skills of young people in those communities.

Aamer Aziz, Director General (Operations) at TEVTA Punjab, also attended the conference. Pakistan as a whole has already benefited from the Luban Workshops, and its representative was seen paying close attention to Thematic Exhibition on Vocational Education.

After visiting the booth from Dongying Vocational College, he told the Global Times that the college's work on saline soil could be a viable solution for Pakistan's salty land, which covers 30 percent of the country.

China now has the largest vocational education system in the world, said Lü, adding that China's vocational education experiences have also attracted numerous partners globally. The Luban Workshops, a significant initiative with global outreach, have promoted the development of talent around the world and have become a bridge for cultural exchanges.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202411/1323692.shtml>

**November 28, 2024**

**People's Daily**

## **China injects positive energy into multilateral climate governance process**

*He Yin*

The 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) concluded on Nov. 24, overrunning by some 30 hours.

A package of climate agreements was reached, including decisions on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate financing and issues relating to the global carbon market mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The arrangement is expected to lay the groundwork for developing countries to undertake climate action and submit a new round of nationally determined contributions next year. It further consolidated the general trend of global green and low-carbon transition.

This once again proved that humankind is a community with a shared future, and we must unite together and jointly cope with climate challenges.

Multilateralism is the fundamental principle and the ultimate solution for global climate action. China firmly upholds multilateralism, always safeguarding the international system with the UN at the core and supporting the role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the primary platform for global climate governance. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, there will be no change in China's determination or efforts to actively address climate change.

China is resolutely implementing a national strategy of actively responding to climate change, staying committed to green development, and providing crucial momentum for the global green transition.

From actively advancing climate negotiations to officially launching the International Zero-Carbon Island Cooperation Initiative, and from establishing a "China Pavilion" to showcase its climate action experience to organizing a series of side events, China demonstrated its commitment to practical action during the COP29. By working in solidarity with all parties, China has infused positive energy into the multilateral process of global climate governance, firmly practicing true multilateralism.

Ana Toni, national secretary for Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, noted that the series of events hosted by China during the conference reflected its strong commitment to tackling climate change and its willingness to share development experiences, exemplifying the responsibilities of a major country.

Under the framework of South-South cooperation on climate change, China has consistently provided support and assistance to other developing countries. Since 2016, China has provided and mobilized more than 177 billion yuan (\$24.5 billion) financial support to bolster climate initiatives in other developing countries.

China has signed 53 memoranda of understanding with 42 developing countries and has organized 58 South-South cooperation training sessions on climate change. These sessions have trained more than 2,400 professionals in the field, offering tangible support to nations striving to tackle climate challenges.

Jeffrey Sachs, president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and professor at Columbia University, remarked that China has become a leader in the global energy transition and an indispensable force in the fight against climate change.

Addressing climate change is a shared mission for all humanity and requires collaboration among major countries. China and the United States have previously set an example by being among the first to ratify the Paris Agreement and jointly submitting their ratification documents to the UN Secretary-General. They also led the way in completing the peer review of fossil fuel subsidies under the G20 framework, making significant contributions to the global effort against this challenge.

In November last year, the Chinese and U.S. Presidents held a successful meeting in San Francisco, where advancing climate cooperation was one of the key outcomes. Guided by the leaders of both nations, the two sides have actively implemented the Sunnylands Statement on Enhancing Cooperation to Address the Climate Crisis and officially launched a Working Group on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s.

During the COP29, a China-U.S. joint research report on circular economy (2024) and other research outcomes on circular economy were unveiled for the first time, aiming to promote circular economy development and support global climate goals.

On the basis of mutual respect, reciprocity, and consideration of each other's concerns, China and the United States have strengthened dialogue and communication in the climate domain, explored mutually beneficial cooperation, and fostered a favorable "macro climate" for joint efforts to combat climate change.

The earth is the shared home of humanity, and a clean and beautiful world with bluer skies, greener mountains, and clearer waters is the common aspiration of everyone in this global village.

China will continue to work with all parties, uphold the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and advance the multilateral process and international cooperation on climate change, so as to promote harmony between humanity and nature, and make the planet cleaner and more beautiful.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1128/c90000-20247963.html>