



For Better Understanding on
China-Pakistan and
CPEC
Gleanings from the
National Press

December 16-31, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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December 16, 2021

Business Recorder

China: PM's intervention sought to enhance rice quota allocation

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Advisor Abdul Razak Dawood has sought Prime Minister's intervention to enhance rice quota allocation to China due to bumper crop, official sources told Business Recorder.

Dawood, who is facing criticism from the top brass of government due to less growth in exports and higher imports, floated this proposal at a recent meeting of the federal cabinet.

The export of Pakistani rice to Kenya is facing issues, whereas some hurdles were also witnessed in Europe, which have now been sorted out.

During discussion, one of the cabinet Members pointed out that the entire crop basket needed to be considered as an increase in area under cultivation of one crop would result in decrease of others.

The Minister for Food Security & Research, Syed Fakhar Imam, explained that the growth was primarily driven by the yield effect and the changes in areas under cultivation were marginal.

The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment, apprised about the efforts of Commerce Division to tap non-traditional markets to fully realize the export potential of surplus rice. He; however, requested the intervention of Prime Minister for enhancement of quota allocated to Pakistan by China.

It was pointed out that China was currently importing rice mostly from Vietnam and India and there was a potential for Pakistan to export one million tons of rice to Chinese market.

Another cabinet Member suggested to divert the subsidy from urea to the imported DAP fertilizer, whose prices had risen exceptionally, as the farmers did not have appetite for substitution. The need for projecting a thriving rural economy, due to agriculture sector interventions by the government was also highlighted.

The cabinet was also informed about financial impact of better crops on the country's Gross Domestic Production (GDP) and additional income to the farmers.

It was apprised that additional income to farmers from wheat, cotton, rice, maize and sugarcane has been calculated at Rs 399 billion of which Rs118billion was from wheat, Rs 136 billion from cotton, Rs 46 billion from rice, Rs 3billion from maize and Rs 96 billion from sugarcane.

The cabinet was briefed that import substitution of wheat was of \$ 917 million, cotton \$ 877 million, maize, \$ 17 million and sugarcane \$ 803 million. The potential for additional export of cotton and rice was \$ 2 billion each, totalling to \$ 4.620 billion.

The government has claimed that it took following initiatives to support the country's agriculture sector: (i) Prime Minister National Agriculture Emergency Program (NAEP) in 2019-20 (Rs 277 billion);(ii) Agriculture Transformation Plan(Rs 48.586 billion) in 2020-21;(iii) enhanced target for agri-credit (up to Rs 1,500 billion, an increase of 23.5 per cent;(iv) track and traceability of certified seed; (v) subsidy on fertilizers (Rs 148 billion);(vi) gas for fertilizer plants (Rs 132 billion);(vii) subsidized LNG to two fertilizer plants(Rs 8.1 billion); and (viii) direct subsidy to the farmers of Rs 8 billion.

According to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, minimum support/indicative prices of following crops have also been increased, i.e., wheat Rs 1800/ 40 kg (2020-21), cotton Rs 5,000/40 kg(2021-22) and sugarcane Punjab & KP Rs 225, Sindh 250/40 kg.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/16/1-page/911563-news.html>

PIA transports 15m doses of Sinovac vaccines from China

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has transported fresh consignments of 15 million doses of Sinovac Covid-19 vaccines by five special flights from the Capital International Airport Beijing to Islamabad, PIA Country Manager, Qadir Bux Sangi said on Wednesday. The national flag carrier launched special flights PAK-6852, PAK-6853, PK-6856, PK-6857 and PK-6858 respectively and airlifted fresh consignments of Sinovac vaccine from December 10 to December 15, he said.

He informed that a PIA special flight PK-6858 carrying three million doses of Sinovac Covid-19 vaccines left the Chinese capital here for Islamabad.

Last week, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque had thanked China for standing by Pakistan during testing times, including the fight against COVID-19.

The vaccine campaign which is going [on] in Pakistan, the 90 percent of it is being done through vaccines provided by China, he said.

In a recent statement, a Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson remarked that the China-Pakistan joint fight against Covid-19 pandemic had achieved a positive progress and set a good example for the world.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/16/3-page/911584-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese internet based B2B platform to invest \$50m in Pakistan

Chinese internet based B2B platform, Global Building Material (GBM) has announced its plans to invest whopping US\$50 million in Pakistan. Under the investment plan, GBM will open its

first branch in Lahore (Pakistan) during the current month to introduce its new one-stop shopping experience for Pakistani building material retailers, and for the purpose it will launch an app for businessmen dealing in building material. Additionally, GBM is going to make comprehensive digital port zone in Karachi which includes a warehouse, digital centre, data center plus logistics center.

David Wei, the General Manager of GBM Pakistan, and his team made this announcement while talking to a group of journalists on Tuesday.

“Lahore is the most suitable city for the development of GBM and it completely fits GBM’s positioning. We hope to take Lahore as a good start for Pakistan, and empower building materials retail stores in Pakistan, so as to make their business bigger and more profitable with the wings of the Internet,” David told the reporters.

David Wei informed the media that he arrived in Pakistan in early October and visited the Ministry of Housing and Works, Ministry of Commerce, Board of Investment and other government agencies to discuss GBM’s investment plans. After a one-month market investigation, GBM finally choose to set up the branch in Lahore, he added.

“Retailers can check the supply of goods and place orders at home through the GBM app. If there is any problem, retailers can also directly consult online and have special before and after sales service being offered by GBM. Sourcing low prices and high quality Chinese hardware and building materials with ease is the unique feature of GBM,” the general manager of GBM Pakistan informed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/855487/chinese-internet-based-b2b-platform-to-invest-50m-in-pakistan/>

Dunya News

Learning From China and Bangladesh

Hamza Malick

People mostly confabulate about education with degrees in which the importance of knowledge often gets hidden or ignored. Today, we have millions of students holding Master’s degrees in miscellaneous subjects but their lack of knowledge and dexterity in their relevant subjects is hampering them to reach the top echelons in their lives. That is why our degree holders owing to extreme unemployment are bound to work in factories, mills and shops with peanut salaries which are not adequate for living a healthy and sedate life because of the rising inflation and poverty inflicted by the incumbent government.

We all know that education without knowledge has no more value than a single sheet of paper. Considering universities as engines of progress and prosperity, China is extremely careful about who gets admitted. At the level of language, reasoning and math skills, Chinese students are expected and encouraged to comprehend everything that American students learn but better. For

the time being, we have thousands of teachers holding PhD degrees from foreign as well as indigenous universities and some of them are HEC certified professors with hundreds of research publications but they would not clear today's gaokao – the cheating-free university entrance exam. Gaokao is considered to be the toughest in the world and it has beaten even that for various renowned IITs (Indian Institute of Technology).

An unpleasant truth is that China obtained freedom two years after us and see where it is today. When Bangladesh appeared on the map of the world in 1971, it was expected to fail but it proved the world that it had far more potential than the neighboring countries. In the initial years of its inception, its currency (taka) had least or no more value in the world. People of this country used to travel to Pakistan with the aim to earn their livelihood because Pakistan had a robust and strong economy at that time and its currency was more valuable. But the story has changed today.

Bangladesh has left Pakistan far-behind on many fronts, including passport ranking, literacy rate, women empowerment, human development index and poverty alleviation. Moreover, In 1971, the population of Bangladesh was around 70 million compared to Pakistan's 60 million.

According to current statistics, the population of Bangladesh is 164 million compared to Pakistan's 220 million. It took some effective measures to control its rising population. Today, Its literacy rate, currency value and life expectancy in Bangladesh is far better than Pakistan and India.

With the inception of Caliph Umar bin Khattab era (634-644 AD), Early Muslims had been endowed with a knowledge-based economy. However, the wisdom and acuity of Hazrat Umar was astonishing, if viewed in the context of the political economy, state and governance, and social justice. It arises out of his peerless understanding of religion. The area ruled by Hazrat Umar was more than eight times larger than Pakistan and at that time there were no technologies and innovations and it was impossible for the criminals to impersonate themselves or get off free from the legal punishment after committing a crime. But the bitter reality is that Hazrat Umar had no educational degrees but he was God-fearing, extremely strict on Islamic canons and very generous to the needy. But the question is how knowledge could empower anyone? The answer is simple but impressive we make different designs, procedures and methodologies with the help of knowledge and disseminate them with the world. That is how knowledge empowers Nations and makes them rich and prosperous.

As knowledge leads to wisdom, the world has excelled so much in every field of life. Today, we have technologies and mind-boggling innovations such as airplanes to travel abroad, internet to help connect people from across the globe just because of knowledge. The culture, the tradition and the civilization of any country can also be preserved with the help of it. Education without knowledge is just like a body without soul. Education sans knowledge is just like a blank page which has no influence without ink. The success of any country largely depends on knowledge because it leads to progress, prosperity, enhances and promotes literacy rate in the world. In short, after every five years, we have a new Pakistan but with the same old problems. Our

country's government only reads newspapers, watches television only with aim for what is happening in the country and hears good speed news of other countries only to praise and articulate them in their statements instead of learning from them.

<http://blogs.dunyanews.tv/28547/>

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar 'GDA grand mosque' for prayer services

Among multiple major developments taking place since Gwadar port became operational run by China Overseas Holding Company (COPHC) in collaboration with Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), an epic mosque "GDA Grand Mosque", sole largest mosque in the history of port city, is almost constructed and ready for prayer services.

With blue tombs and white-colored building, its single tower is also set to be structured in few days. Some allied facilities, after approval of PC-1, will also be made part of mosque building.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, GDA Executive Engineer Shaukat Ali said that "GDA Grand Mosque" is now top grand mosque in Gwadar as per its size and occupancy for Muslim prayers. With its total capacity standing around 7,000 Muslims, he said, GDA Mosque is ready to function.

Presently for the entire Gwadar population estimated to be 1.38 million as per 2020 census, there are 45 small mosques.

One mosque named "Bilal Mosque" has somehow reasonable size but after the construction of GDA Grand Mosque, it has receded to the second number in Gwadar city.

Shahid Baloch, a resident of Gwadar City, said that Gwadar port premises has already a fully-functional mosque for the staff of COPHC as well as GPA testifying the gesture that Chinese company respect and care the religious obligations of Muslims.

"The construction of "GDA Grand Mosque" is a new magnificent addition that will facilitate Muslims to offer prayers not only in routine days but also at the time of big congregation especially for Friday prayers and Eid prayers," he added.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-gda-grand-mosque-for-prayer-services/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China firms to bolster ties

Eye cooperation in potato starch processing, embroidery products

CHINA: Pakistani and Chinese enterprises have expressed their intention to cooperate in the deep processing of potato starch, at an online business-matching meeting jointly held by the Ruzhou International Trade Enterprise Association and the trade mission of Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing.

“On the occasion, our enterprises have agreed to import 100 tons of potato starch from Pakistan as we need the product locally. And this is the first step of cooperation,” said Huang Jianle, Secretary-General of the Ruzhou International Trade Association, a trade body based in China’s central province of Henan, in a written interview with China Economic Net.

According to Jianle, enterprises from both countries have also shown keen interest in collaborating on textile products.

As a powerhouse for embroidery products in China, Ruzhou is home to the Ruzhou Embroidery Industrial Park, which has provided high-quality embroidery products since its inception in 2015.

Back in July this year, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moinul Haque made a visit to Ruzhou, where he expected companies from both countries to strengthen cooperation in agriculture and embroidery.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334077/pakistan-china-firms-to-bolster-ties>

Deadlines for 5 projects extended

CPEC Schemes facing delays due to overall slowdown of work, Covid disruptions

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has finally extended project completion deadlines of five Chinese power plants having a generation capacity of 3,600 megawatts amid slow progress on other issues hindering new Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The commercial operations dates of 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, 720MW Karot Hydropower Project, 330MW Tel project at Thar block-II, 330MW ThalNova Thar block-II and 1,320MW Thar block-I have been extended.

The decision was communicated during the 4th Pak-China Relations Steering Committee meeting, chaired by Planning Minister Asad Umar on Wednesday. The ongoing projects under CPEC and the issues being faced by their investors were discussed in detail in the meeting.

The Power Division secretary informed the meeting that the issue of commercial operation date (COD) extensions for five power projects had been resolved, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Planning and Development.

The government had fixed end of August as the deadline for the Power Division to devise a policy to deal with the delay in the start of commercial operations of five CPEC power projects, having generation capacity of 3,600 megawatts.

The projects are falling far behind the dates of commissioning agreed between the government of Pakistan and Chinese investors due to overall slowdown of work on CPEC projects, Covid-related delays and strikes at some projects.

The steering committee also took up the issue of lack of availability of electricity in Gwadar, which is also one of the problems highlighted by the local people protesting in the port city for the last one month.

The steering committee was informed that an initial 132 KV line was being built to provide electricity from the national grid to meet Gwadar's electricity demand, stated the Ministry of Planning. In addition, provision of solar panels to 3,000 households of Gwadar and other short-term measures are also being initiated to ensure additional supply of electricity to the city.

Pakistan has been supplying electricity to Gwadar by importing it from Iran.

The committee was informed that work on some sections of another CPEC project ie Quetta-Zhob Road project had been halted due to a stay order from the Islamabad High Court.

The committee was also briefed on the Karakoram Highway Thakot-Raikot section realignment project but no major progress was made. The only notable development was the constitution of a technical joint working group to oversee the feasibility study of the project.

The issues related to visas of Chinese nationals and new investments could not be addressed despite repeated deadlines given by the committee.

The Chinese companies have again complained that the process of work visas was not smooth and workers had to apply for business visas, which resulted in imposition of penalties and banning of entry of Chinese citizens to Pakistan, said the sources.

They said that about 90,000 Chinese visa applications were pending for a decision.

Planning Minister Asad Umar "directed the Ministry of Interior to coordinate with Chinese companies operating in Pakistan if they still face any issues," according to the official handout. He suggested that the companies' letters may be demanded as proof for work visas to resolve the problems.

The Ministry of Planning said that issues related to industrial cooperation were discussed in the meeting. The Industries Department of Government of Punjab updated the committee on the steps taken to resolve the investors' pending issues, it added. It was also informed that the process for the appointment of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) CEO would be completed soon. The board of the company has already been reconstituted.

The meeting was informed that due to non-resolution of many issues, over \$900 million Chinese investment in Special Economic Zones could not materialize fully. For instance, the Easy Prefabricated Private Limited Company has paid for electricity and gas connections but the services have not been provided yet.

Similarly, the La He Trading International Private Limited has manufactured electrical bicycles and tricycles but their products cannot be brought on the road due to absence of road policy. The company was also facing issues in securing loans from the banks due to lack of land entitlement.

The Snow White Lavation Private Limited applied for allotment of land in Allama Iqbal Industrial City over four months ago but did not get any response from the government of Punjab. Other Chinese companies were facing problems in getting electricity and gas connections in these zones for months.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334073/deadlines-for-5-projects-extended>

The Nation

China eyes opportunity in Pakistan's textile sector: Zhang Xi'an

BEIJING - Vice President of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT), Zhang Xi'an said on Wednesday that both China and Pakistan enjoy their own competitive edge in the textile and garment sector and Chinese businessmen are willing to strengthen trade and investment cooperation with Pakistan in textile industry.

Bilateral trade has been increased since the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement came into effect in 2020, and more Pakistani products have been able to enter the Chinese market.

Tariffs on some 75 percent of goods from both sides have been gradually reduced to zero since 2020, which has provided access to China for more high-quality products from Pakistan.

“This agreement is not only a turning point for China-Pakistan trade and economic cooperation, but also a new opportunity for China-Pakistan textile industry cooperation,” Zhang said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

“On the one hand, China's textile industry has accelerated the pace of investment all over the world these years. On the other hand, Pakistan has also provided incentives for Chinese enterprises investing in Pakistan,” he explained.

For example, in order to highlight to Chinese investors the comparative advantage of Pakistan's textile sector, CPEC authority on December 1, organised a meeting with CCCT and leading Chinese textile companies and investors. Zhang Xi'an pinpointed the potential for China-Pakistan cooperation in textile. Take home textiles for instance. Pakistan is a major cotton producer in the world with a long history. In 2020, Pakistan exported home textiles worth \$3.8 billion, accounting for 28 percent of its total textile and garment exports.

Pakistan is the third largest supplier of home textile products to the United States and the second largest supplier to the European Union. It occupies an important position in the supply chain of the international home textile industry and has a high share in the international home textile market with strong competitiveness.

“China is willing to share advanced technology, and experience in research, design, manufacturing, management, marketing and brand building with our iron-clad brother Pakistan,” Zhang Xi'an informed, adding that Pakistan enjoys a cost-effective raw material supply and

abundant human resources; therefore, both sides can step up cooperation in trade, investment and resource integration, and jointly explore international markets.

Established in October 1988, China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT), as part of Ministry of Commerce, China, is the largest textile and apparel trade agency both in China and the world.

Its member companies comprise the majority of Chinese textile and apparel enterprises incorporating domestic manufacturers, export and import enterprises as well as jointly-funded operations, the trade volume of which accounts for 70 percent of the total export and import volume of Chinese textile and apparel industry as a whole.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-16/page-8/detail-2>

Pak diplomat in China facing sexual harassment charges

Mateen Haider

ISLAMABAD - A senior Pakistani diplomat posted in China is facing high level inquiry by Pakistani Foreign Ministry for allegations of sexual harassment, misconduct with a local Chinese staffer and financial embezzlement at the Pakistan Consulate General in Chengdu.

Chengdu is a sub-provincial city which serves as the capital of the Chinese province of Sichuan. Pakistan has strong industrial links with Sichuan province and every year thousands of Pakistani businessmen and officials visit this city for official business activities.

According to credible reports, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received reports against Mehmood Akhter Mehmood, Acting Counsel General, from its embassy in Beijing of alleged sexual harassment of a local female Chinese staffer, whose name is not being disclosed. Mehmood was earlier serving in Pakistan embassy in Qairo.

FO in Islamabad holding probe, will submit report for action

The female Chinese staffer, who was facing continuous harassment by Mehmood Akhter was first scared of losing job if she spoke against him. However, she decided to disclose it and shared details through email with the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The Chinese Foreign Ministry shared details with Pakistan Ambassador to Beijing Moeen ul Haq who later sent the case to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad for investigation.

The sources said the Chinese ministry took strong exception to the issue and sought an action report against the officer from the Pakistani government.

The foreign ministry set up an inquiry body against the officer. The sources told The Nation that the matter is being probed.

There is no counsel general in Chengdu and Mehmood Akhter is serving as acting counsel general there. The inquiry committee has approached both the victim and the accused in

connection with the inquiry and collected details. The sources said the Chinese staffer has provided strong and valid information which makes the case against Mehmood Akhter stronger.

Audit officers also found financial irregularities in the consulate which are under probe by the foreign ministry. The maximum punishment under the amended civil service rules on sexual harassment is dismissal from service and imprisonment and imposition of fine. The matter has been brought to the notice of top government officials who also expressed their displeasure over the incident and directed the Foreign Office to conduct the inquiry purely on merit.

"The incident is most shameful for the Pakistani government, which is why there would be no compromise on the Sino-Pak friendship," a senior official commented.

The sources said the inquiry committee is expected to complete the report by January 2022 which would be submitted to the foreign secretary for final decision.

It's not the first time that Pakistani diplomats are facing such cases and inquiries. Two grade-19 officers of the foreign service were dismissed from service in 2020 and 2019 for misconduct and financial corruption which was later proved through investigation committees.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-16/page-12/detail-6>

K2 Daily

سی پیک منصوبہ 2030 تک مکمل ہوگا، خالد منصور
گواہی رپورٹ پر کام جاری ہے جلد ایل دن کا افتتاح ہوگا
چینی سرمایہ کاری کو دیگر ممالک سے زیادہ مراعات دے دیں تقریب سے خطاب
اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) وزیراعظم کے 2030 تک مکمل ہوگا اس کے بعد پاکستان دنیا
معاہدہ خصوصی برائے سی پیک خالد منصور نے کہا ہے۔ میں کامیاب کر رہا ہوں اور اسے گاہ۔ بین الاقوامی
کریسیٹک روکنے کی باتیں نکل رہی ہیں سی پیک اسلامی یونٹوں (ہائی سطر 6 بجے نمبر 49)

بقیہ 49

اسلام آباد میں تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر
اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے سی پیک خالد منصور کا
کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ 2015 سے 2020
تک تھا تقریباً مکمل ہو چکا دوسرا فیز شروع ہے جو
2025 تک مکمل ہوگا جبکہ تیسرا مرحلہ 2025 سے
2030 تک مکمل ہو جائے گا جس کے بعد پاکستان
دنیا میں کامیاب کر رہا ہوں اور اسے گاہ۔ خالد منصور کا
کہنا تھا کہ دنیا میں بہت سے ممالک کو سٹے سے کھلی پیدا
کر رہے ہیں قریشی ادارے پاس کوٹے کے واقع
ڈھانڑ ہیں اس میں 17 ہزار میگا واٹ بجلی کی ضرورت تھی
بجلی کے منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے مگر پر کام جاری ہے
قریشی کے دو منصوبے مکمل ہونے چاہیے ہیں۔
وزیراعظم کے معاون خصوصی خالد منصور کا
کہنا تھا کہ گواہی رپورٹ پر کام جاری ہے تقریب
ایل دن کا افتتاح ہونے چاہا ہے بلکہ
ممالک کی ترقی سی پیک کے حوالے سے پیش نظر ہوگی
9 سیکشن آگیا کہ دونوں میں گواہی رپورٹ
آگیا کہ دونوں جلد از جلد مکمل کرنے کی کوشش
کر رہے ہیں کہا چینی سرمایہ کاری کو دیگر ممالک
سے زیادہ مراعات دے دیں۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified

December 17, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese energy saving solution provider upgrades Pak industries

Chinese energy saving solution provider accelerating upgrade of industries in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Recently, the coal-fired units in the project of 1*30MW coal-fired power station plus 1*10MW waste heat captive power station of DG Khan Hub in Pakistan contracted by Sinoma Energy Conservation Ltd. passed the 72-hour performance assessment smoothly and obtain the acceptance certificate.” Our projects are all completed this year, providing direct energy guarantee for owners to save electricity output and reduce production costs”, said Ji Lei, Head of Sinoma Energy Conservation Pakistan, in an interview with CEN.

In June 2019, DG Khan Cement signed a deal with Sinoma Energy Conservation for upgrades at the integrated Hub cement plant. The agreement includes a 10MW waste heat recovery (WHR) unit and a 30MW coal power plant. According to Ji, the 30MW coal power plant employs a high temperature and ultra-high-pressure (uHPHT) primary reheat thermal system at home and abroad for the first time, which will greatly improve the overall thermal efficiency of the power plant, reduce coal consumption and the overall production cost.

Compared with the conventional high-temperature and high-pressure system, the uHPHT system is expected to reduce the standard coal consumption by about 10400 tons, and the estimate carbon dioxide emission will drop by 23700 tons. In addition, total cement output will be increased by 18100 tons after the completion of the project.” During the 72-hour performance assessment, our performance indicators were better than the contractual guaranteed values, and our emissions indicators were lower than Pakistan’s local emission standards.

It can be said that we have made due contributions to the energy conservation and consumption reduction of the local cement industry. At present, more than half of the cement plants in Pakistan’s cement industry have adopted Sinoma Energy Conservation’s waste heat power generation system.” In addition, we have also done a lot of detailed planning in photovoltaics, biomass energy, wind power, hydropower, and small and medium-sized self-supplied power plants

In the field of renewable energy, we undoubtedly have a very broad scope for cooperation with major industrial and commercial enterprises in Pakistan,” noted Ji. On the other hand, Sinoma Energy Conservation currently has four project departments in Pakistan, with a total of about 20 local employees. “During the epidemic, we adopted a combination of on-site training and online guidance to train employees on energy conservation.

Under normal circumstances, we generally arrange them to train in China for one to three months.” The reporter learned that energy conservation programs in Pakistan has greatly stimulated the increase in the employment rate around the project location. In the future, China-Pakistan cooperation in energy-saving construction will not only contribute to the global carbon neutral goal, but also contribute to local employment.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/855898/chinese-energy-saving-solution-provider-upgrades-pak-industries/>

NBP to provide banking facilitation to Chinese investors

Chief Representative of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in China, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq said on Thursday that his bank was committed to providing maximum banking facilitation to the Chinese business community during the second phase of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

NBP has provided maximum banking facilitation during the first phase of the CPEC and is committed to providing all-out assistance to the Chinese business community during the second phase of the flagship project, he said while addressing the participants of the China-Pakistan Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum and Signing Ceremony held at the Pakistan Embassy Beijing.

He said that banks play a pivotal role in any economic activity and the economic growth is closely related to easy access to finance and the NBP is all set to facilitate the Chinese businessmen and investors.

While commenting on the progress of the CPEC projects, he observed that the first phase of the flagship project of the Belt and Road has successfully been completed, adding, the projects completed during the first phase have laid a solid foundation for industrial cooperation.

Shaikh Shariq also congratulated the companies which have signed cooperation agreements, and the confidence that such agreements and joint ventures established between the companies from China and Pakistan would make the second phase of CPEC a success story also.

He pointed out that the cooperation would create a win-win situation for both countries as Pakistan can offer several advantages due to its strategic location, cheap labor, low cost of business, quick access to the Middle East and European markets. The Chinese investors can enhance profitability by reducing the cost of business and expanding to South and Central Asian markets, he added.

The Chief Representative also briefed the audience about the history of the NBP and the provision of commercial banking and related services in Pakistan and overseas.

He said, NBP, the largest state-owned bank in Pakistan was established in 1949 under the National Bank of Pakistan Ordinance, 1949 and is listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Having its Head Office in Karachi, the bank is engaged in providing commercial banking and related services in Pakistan and overseas. International operations exist in South and Central Asia, the Middle East, Western Europe and North America.

NBP also handles treasury transactions for the Government of Pakistan as an agent to the State Bank of Pakistan, he concluded.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/856133/nbp-to-provide-banking-facilitation-to-chinese-investors/>

Pakistan Observer

China to work with Pakistan for high quality CPEC development

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote the high-quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) so that it will drive growth and benefit people's livelihood, and play a bigger role in promoting regional connectivity and economic integration, a Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said on Thursday.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote the high-quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC),” Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in a written reply in response to a comment made by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi about the BRI and CPEC.

Addressing the Margalla Dialogue 2021 organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank recently, Qureshi said that the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will bring prosperity for people across the world through generating global integration. The BRI, with the CPEC as a flagship project, utilizes the economic geography and enhances the connectivity of Asia, Europe and Africa, he added.

The spokesperson said that as Foreign Minister Qureshi pointed out, the Belt and Road cooperation has removed infrastructure bottlenecks facing many regions along the route.

“It promotes connectivity, and makes important contribution to global trade facilitation and economic growth,” he added.

Wang Wenbin remarked that the CPEC is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote the high-quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) so that it will drive growth and benefit people's livelihood, and play a bigger role in promoting regional connectivity and economic integration, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-work-with-pakistan-for-high-quality-cpec-development/>

UAE to invest \$15 million in Faisalabad SEZs: Razak

Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood on Thursday informed that United Arab Emirates (UAE) energy group, 'Brothers Gas' has announced investment worth US\$15 million in Faisalabad Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

The first of the three phase investment will include installation of an Aerosol Propellant Gas (APG) plant, the Adviser Commerce said on his official twitter account here. Adviser said the local manufacturing will help reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported APG.

The plant will also enable manufacturing of refrigerant gasses and ADNOC lubes for the first time, he said.

Razak Dawood said the actualization of foreign investments is showing a conducive business environment which is supported by friendly government policies.

"I appreciate BOI's role in investor facilitation", he said.

Adviser also appreciated the team's Krave Mart (E-Commerce store) startup for securing Pakistan's highest \$6 million in pre-seed funding.

As I always say, Pakistan needs more young entrepreneurs and local brands, he said.

He said that it is very heartening to see that just in one year; our startup ecosystem has garnered such attention. This is the right time to invest and start a business in Pakistan, he said.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/uae-to-invest-15-million-in-faisalabad-sezs-razak/>

The Express Tribune

Our existential threats

Pakistan's Afghan problem including the TTP will continue to haunt medium to long term stability

Far from the maddening inflation and the resulting poverty that has touched all segments of the society there are some issues that continue to bedevil Pakistan's future. Unless resolved those will soon outweigh our collective capacity to navigate out of the enveloping morass. Four of those in the political/security domain pose an existential challenge to our collective wisdom.

Pakistan's Afghan problem including the TTP will continue to haunt medium to long term stability. The world has abandoned Afghanistan and we are fighting a rearguard battle to somehow avoid a devastating consequence. Afghanistan has been thrown in our lap as world's largest refugee camp of 35 million people who await being fed and helped — we were fearing adding a million more to the three million that call Pakistan home. Similarities in ethnic stock and our recurring proclivity to influence what happens in the neighbouring state means we will also carry a part of the ticket. What it means to our political, security, economic and social milieu is best exhibited by what has occurred since we first got involved with Afghan issues. The

Godzilla is out and about to envelop us. Imagine the task of feeding the 35 million with wheat, sugar and dollars and the pressure on our social structures whether education, health or simply law and order. We are already knee-deep in each of these strands of the labyrinth.

Add TTP to it all which bases out of Afghanistan and retains a loose union with the Afghan Taliban. This translates into an unintended leverage that Afghan Taliban can use to shape Pakistan's responses to their debilitating state. Issues such as the diplomatic recognition they want Pakistan to push, open borders and free trade through the Pakistan territory without much control and scrutiny, thus gets a prioritised attention by Pakistan in return for the Afghans mediating a conflict that shouldn't even exist. Collectively their added nuisance is enough to keep Pakistan engaged and wary till a way out to the Afghan quagmire is found. Talk of strategic depth in reverse.

Internally the rise and normalisation of the TLP as an equal opportunity player in the increasingly complex maze of Pakistani socio-politics means that both politics and the society are in a state of flux. Which way will this behemoth settle is to be seen but the recognition granted to it by accepting its political bona fides will now be difficult to walk out of once the die is cast. Whatever, it shall be tumultuous and consequential and entirely incongruous to a stable future. The days ahead are fraught with uncertainty. The confluence of these forces exercises its own dynamic in an already unstable environment. Thwarting these will further our strife while submitting before them will weaken the state and bestow unmatched capacity to these forces to alter our socio-cultural character. We are in for a ride of our lifetimes.

The unrest in the coastal belt of Balochistan including Gwadar and in Kharan and Awaran is another aggregation of disquiet among a robust segment of the society which has challenged the state over time on rights issues without finding the requisite attention of the political and administrative authorities in the province. Recent agitation in Gwadar has conflated multiple fault-lines bringing to the fore the disconnect between the power wielders and the people on basic matters of day-to-day lives. People seem to have been neglected even as the state sought broad-based strategic development through projects like CPEC. Including common citizens for early harvest of benefits would have paved the way for the necessary sustainability of the larger purpose in wide-scale development. Political and representative authority has somehow remained cocooned in capital Quetta never touching the lives of the ordinary citizen. It is time for this power instituted through popular processes to move out to the people to engage them and deliver to them what people expect of their leaders. Unless resolved in earnest it has the founding of a core around which disparate groups can find common purpose. A state in a lag already will then be unable to catch up as events propel beyond its control.

The fourth factor endangering medium to long-term stability is a foreign policy which appears in a state of suspended animation. Stuck somewhere between idealism of sovereignty and acute real-world restraints it essentially remains faltering and void of useful purpose. Sloganeering hasn't been able to relieve bedeviling socio-political issues while rhetoric has centred around external objectives in Kashmir, India and Afghanistan. All this while the state has neglected what

brewed within in menacing proportions gaining force and momentum with the capacity to impact state behaviour. Such ceding of space by the state lowers its credibility among international players. The nation remains bracketed with dependent nations heavily burdened by external assistance and friendly donor states, each with their own agenda, imperatives and preference.

Relations with China and the US have come to a head forcing a hiatus on Pakistan which can only be dangerous if it remains unaddressed. China, Pakistan's iron-brother, brought her its largest foreign investment in decades. Our compulsion to take the Chinese hand without first ensuring own interests was tantamount to resigning our sovereignty for escaping economic direness. We trumpeted ourselves into the union falsifying our dependence and vulnerability with slogans of trashing the US as we delivered ourselves to the Chinese lap. We have a great amount of unfinished business with the US — it happens to hold the keys to most international financial arrangements and is Pakistan's largest export destination outside of the EU. She did not take lightly to such jingoistic characterization far from reality and put on hold whatever was left of the US-Pakistan association. As Pakistan struggles out of the self-inflicted imbroglio China too has held off further overtures of closeness between the two. CPEC lies in a state of inattention and is effectively stalled while the US is gauging if at all Pakistan factors in its future plans. One may call such recourse in foreign policy juvenile adventurism of ideational impulse.

One other factor critical to our long-term health as a nation is how the politics of the Middle East is changing and how we still seem to be stuck in the past in terms of our paradigm of engagement with the Middle East nations. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have set themselves on a different level in political, economic and security direction by breaking the chains which held them back in traditionalism and conservatism. If indeed Pakistan hopes to retain relevance with most Middle East nations it shall have to gallop into the new world and change its paradigm of engagement with these nations which in the last decade have turned greatly more liberal and progressive. First we will need to belong there and then be relevant enough in compatible levers of engagement in the new world of the Middle East. We have failed to appreciate the need for such wholesale change to our approach and the content we bring to a prospective relationship.

We will progress to view the economic and social challenges in the coming weeks.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334213/our-existential-threats>

Prospects bright for Pak-China biogas cooperation

Expert points out Pakistani rural areas have huge biomass reserves

CHENGDU: Pakistani rural areas have huge biomass reserves, producing 12 million cubic metres of methane per day but the realization of the full potential of biogas is slow and uptake is occurring at different rates depending on the available sources.

This was stated by Farooq Khurum Shehzad, a PhD graduate in chemistry from the Beijing University of Chemical Technology and currently Assistant Professor at the University of Engineering and Technology, Multan.

“As a result, the biogas energy supply is generally very low compared with other sources of energy,” he said.

It has been the second time for Shehzad to participate in the training workshop on biogas promotion and management, organised by Biogas Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (Bioma), China. Twelve Pakistanis from universities, government departments, research institutes and enterprises took part in the workshop, an indication of expedited cooperation between the two countries in biogas technology.

“Biogas has not become the subject of interest to many because we have natural gas reserves and access to the world’s largest natural gas reserves in Qatar and Iran, which are cheaper than biogas,” explained Shehzad.

However, biogas has its irreplaceable advantages. Apart from being burnt in boilers as natural gas, it can also produce electricity and heat and be used as fuel for vehicles and bio-manure for crops after treatment. Compared with natural gas, which mainly comes from oil and coal mine exploration, biogas is a renewable resource with continuous production-and-use cycle, and it generates zero net carbon dioxide.

By consuming waste and producing energy at the same time, it is acclaimed as “the only zero-carbon fuel in the real sense of all renewable sources”.

Pakistan has over 5,000 installed biogas plants across the country which save an average of Rs455 million annually in terms of kerosene oil, wood, liquefied petroleum gas and bio-fertiliser.

“But the cost of biogas technology is nearly double that of natural gas. While the monthly fee of natural gas per household is about RMB 10-25, for biogas it may reach RMB 50-65,” he said.

In this regard, he recommended mutual solutions by the global community. “The environment is shared by all. Pollution is a global problem and requires concerted efforts,” he told China Economic Net. As energy shortage and climate change have become global ailments, Pakistan-China cooperation in bio-technology is gaining pace.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334239/prospects-bright-for-pak-china-biogas-cooperation>

The Nation

Zaidi terms CPEC strategic economic enterprise to benefit entire region

ISLAMABAD - Closing Ceremony of 4th Maritime Security Workshop 2021 (MARSEW-4) organised by Pakistan Navy was held at Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC), Lahore, said a Pakistan Navy press release received here on Thursday.

The theme of nine-day workshop was ‘Blue Economy - Future of Pakistan.’ Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi graced the occasion as chief guest. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi was also present at the ceremony.

On the same occasion, Pakistan Navy War College also celebrated its golden jubilee and commemorated successful completion of fifty years of inland PN Staff Courses in Pakistan.

The press release said that two panels comprising officers from PNWC and participants of MARSEW-4 presented academic papers on Blue Economy and Maritime Policy Formulation, highlighting pertinent recommendations to the august gathering.

While addressing the audience, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi lauded the efforts of Pakistan Navy in organising the Maritime Workshop that was much needed for enhancing maritime awareness and mitigating sea blindness. He acknowledged that Pakistan's prosperity is deeply linked to the sea and economic hardships of the country need to be propelled through exploring new economic avenues in sustenance of ocean resources. He underscored the importance of CPEC as strategic economic enterprise that will benefit the entire region. The chief guest praised efforts of panellists for recommending concrete way forward to accrue maximum dividends from maritime sector of Pakistan. He also shed light on various initiatives and projects being successfully spearheaded under the ambit of Ministry of Maritime Affairs. Towards the end, the chief guest awarded certificates to the participants of MARSEW-4.

Earlier, during the welcome note, Commandant Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Shifaat Ali Khan expressed his gratitude to the Federal Minister for his worthy presence at PNWC. The Commandant highlighted various activities of MARSEW, underscored benefits achieved by the participants and envisaged role of Maritime Centre of Excellence in promoting Blue Economy and policies concerning maritime domain.

During the course of workshop, the participants visited important organisations of maritime sector including Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KSEW) and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC). The participants were also afforded feel of sea where they witnessed different naval exercises while onboard Pakistan Navy Ship during the sea trip. The participants were also taken to Jinnah Naval Base (JNB) Ormara where they were given detailed briefing on CPEC maritime related projects and Pakistan Navy's reforms and initiatives in socio-economic uplift of coastal community in health and education sector.

The 4th Maritime Security Workshop was organised in two phases and was attended by parliamentarians, senior bureaucrats, academicians, industrialists and representatives from media besides senior officers from the armed forces of Pakistan. In the first phase, academic sessions on 'Security dynamics in Indian Ocean Region: Challenges and Opportunities in Pakistan's Maritime Sector', 'Blue Economy & its Contribution Towards Pakistan's Economic Prosperity' and 'Development of Gwadar Port within China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)' were held at Pakistan Navy War College. For the second phase, the workshop members visited Naval Headquarters (NHQ) Islamabad, various Pakistan Navy installations at Karachi, coastal and Creeks Area for orientation and familiarisation.

The closing ceremony was attended by senior civil, military and foreign dignitaries, the press release said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-17/page-4/detail-5>

Pakistan getting benefits of China's energy saving options

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is fast getting benefits of China's energy saving options as Chinese energy saving solution provider is accelerating upgrade industries in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Recently, the coal-fired units in the project of 30MW coal-fired power station plus 10MW waste heat captive power station of D G Khan contracted by Sinoma Energy Conservation Ltd passed the 72-hour performance assessment smoothly and obtain the acceptance certificate.

“Our projects are all completed this year, providing direct energy guarantee for owners to save electricity output and reduce production costs”, said Ji Lei, Head of Sinoma Energy Conservation Pakistan, told the CEN.

In June 2019, D G Khan, Pakistan's leading cement producer, signed a deal with Sinoma Energy Conservation for upgrades at the integrated Hub cement plant. The agreement includes a 10MW waste heat recovery (WHR) unit and a 30MW coal power plant.

According to Ji, the 30MW coal power plant employs a high temperature and ultra-high-pressure (uHPHT) primary reheat thermal system at home and abroad for the first time, which will greatly improve the overall thermal efficiency of the power plant, reduce coal consumption and the overall production cost.

Compared with the conventional high-temperature and high-pressure system, the uHPHT system is expected to reduce the standard coal consumption by about 10400 tons, and the estimate carbon dioxide emission will drop by 23700 tons. In addition, total cement output will be increased by 18100 tons after the completion of the project.

“During 72-hour performance assessment, our performance indicators were better than the contractual guaranteed values, and our emissions indicators were lower than Pakistan's local emission standards.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-17/page-4/detail-7>

The News

Chinese national found dead at Port Qasim

KARACHI: The body of a Chinese national was found from a private company's compound at Port Qasim on Thursday.

On being informed, the police and rescuers reached the scene and shifted the body to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center for post-mortem.

According to the police, the deceased was identified as Chinese national Li Wenzhang, 53, working for a private power supply company for the last five years. He had returned to Karachi after visiting his family in China some six months ago. Police said the deceased used to live in a

container house provided by the company. Police suspected that the deceased had committed suicide. However, further investigation was underway.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=35824>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International

December 18, 2021

Business Recorder

Dasu hydropower project incident

Govt, Chinese co yet to reach consensus on compensation package

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan (GoP) and Chinese company M/s China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) have reportedly not yet evolved a consensus on compensation package ranging from \$ 37 million to \$ 76 million meant for the deceased and injured Chinese working on Dasu hydropower project, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

Construction work on the project was suspended on July 14, 2021 in the aftermath of tragic terrorist attack on Chinese convoy of M/s CGGC (main works Contractor) wherein 14 people (10 Chinese, four Pakistanis) lost their lives and 27 people (26 Chinese, one Pakistani) were injured.

A sub-committee comprising officials of different ministries and Wapda is working on the compensation package. In first meeting of sub-committee held on October 22, 2021 different options to workout rational compensation package were deliberated. It was decided that based on the discussions held, Wapda will submit detailed working in next meeting of sub-committee. During the second and third meeting of sub-committee held on November 26 & 29, 2021 respectively Wapda presented its working which was deliberated upon by the committee members.

Dasu hydropower project will have total installed capacity of 4,320 MW with 12 generating units. Project will be implemented in two stages. Each stage with 6 units will have capacity of 2,160 MW. About 12 billion units per annum would be generated on completion of Stage-1.

Wapda has held numerous rounds of discussion with M/s CGGC, high ups of CGGC International and Chinese ambassador in the aftermath of July 14 incident wherein matters regarding compensation, security arrangements and commercial/ contractual issues were discussed at length.

Regarding security arrangements, consensus on the enhanced security measures/plan was developed and improvements to strengthen the security made.

The sources said that the contractor for main works, M/s CGGC resumed work at site after 103 days - from October 25, 2021 albeit in a phased manner and is expected to get fully mobilized during first quarter of 2022.

Project was delayed due to non-availability of land as District Administration could not acquire the land as the affectees kept demanding an increase in land rates approved by the ECNEC in August 2015.

During 14th Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting held in March 2019, the issue was ultimately resolved as PSC endorsed the proposal of enhancement of land rates (40% flat increase for all land categories) submitted by a committee under Commissioner Hazara Division. The enhanced land rates were approved by the ECNEC and Cabinet Division in October-November 2019.

The government has disbursed Rs 17.64 billion to affectees against acquired land. Remaining land was 866 acres, with the majority comprised of land rationalized due to change in alignment of KKH-01 and KKH-02. Revenue record preparation/ GIS verification of rationalized land is in progress.

The sources said disbursement of compensation package is moving at very slow pace. At present, Rs 107 million against 31 files has been transferred in DC account whereas only Rs 38 million against 11 files has been disbursed to the affectees.

On December 16, 2021, Federal Minister for Water Resources, Moonis Elahi chaired a meeting of PSC, which was attended by high level officials of World Bank, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ministry of Energy, and Wapda. The committee was briefed that 4185 out of 5051 acres of land has been successfully acquired by the district administration and land acquisition collector Dasu, for the project.

The committee discussed update on transmission line required during construction - to start from Dubai Khwar to Dasu.

The committee directed to complete the acquisition of remaining 866 acres, up to June 30, 2022. The representatives of World Bank also expressed their satisfaction that the project

authorities and district administration have removed the bottlenecks in resuming the work at Dasu HPP, in the aftermath of the security incident of July 14, 2021.

The committee took notice of the pending resettlement dues of affectees of Dasu. The minister for Water Resources directed the district administration and Wapda to resolve the issue within the period of three months.

Elahi also directed Wapda to ensure fool proof security arrangement in collaboration with relevant stakeholders at Dasu Project site. The minister maintained that the rightful demands of the local residents of district Kohistan should be met on immediate basis, in accordance with the relevant rules and policies.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/18/5-page/911865-news.html>

Daily Times

Nong Rong, Zaidi discuss CPEC energy, Gwadar development projects

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong and Federal Minister Syed Ali Haider Zaidi on Friday discussed the CPEC energy projects and Gwadar development in a meeting held at Maritime Ministry. In meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interests of Pakistan and China with the Ambassador Nong Rong.

The projects including Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ), Solar Panel Installation at Gwadar, the completion of EastBay Expressway and functioning of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar were under discussion. Both Minister and Ambassador agreed upon expediting the work on these projects to get the maximum benefits for both the countries, said a press release here. Minister underscored that people of Gwadar would get immense benefits from these projects including huge employment opportunities, quality roads, housing, healthcare as well as educational facilities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/856325/nong-rong-zaidi-discuss-cpec-energy-gwadar-development-projects/>

Pakistani, Chinese students paint Sino-Pak friendship of new era

Chinese and Pakistani students held here a painting exhibition on Sino-Pak friendship of new era, China Economic Net reported on Thursday.

The report says, 2021 is the 70th year since China and Pakistan established diplomatic ties. Students from both countries depicted the precious friendship in their heart via a great many paintings at the ‘Art Exhibition of Chinese-Pakistani Students for Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of China-Pakistan Diplomatic Relations’.

Displayed at Henan Normal University in China, University of Sargodha and Roots Millennium Schools in Pakistan, Chinese and Pakistani students’ paintings impressed people of the two countries a lot.

Through these artworks, people can get a glimpse of the younger generation's understanding of each country's culture and people, and their recognition of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s positive role and the friendship keeping pace with times." China-Pakistan relations remain unshakable and become even firmer as time goes by. CPEC not provides a powerful impetus for the green and sustainable development of Pakistan's economy and society, but also promotes China-Pakistan cultural and educational exchanges and cooperation.

Art is beyond national boundaries. As a link of cultural exchanges between students from the two countries, the art exhibition is bringing our youth closer," Pang Chunxue, Minister of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. Xu Hengzhen, Secondary Inspector of the Education Department of Henan Province, Chen Guangwen, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Henan Normal University Committee, Dr. Fazal ur Rahman, Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies at University of Sargodha, and Faisal Mushtaq, CEO of the Millennium Education group Pakistan, etc. attended the ceremony.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/856347/pakistani-chinese-students-paint-sino-pak-friendship-of-new-era/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan's leather exports have great prospects

Industry recovers owing to relaxation in lockdowns, prudent government policies

ISLAMABAD: Stakeholders from the leather sector have cherished the surge in exports of their products following relaxation of lockdowns in foreign countries.

"This year's exports were really good. Our exports have increased up to 14%," said Highways Creations Private Limited owner Danish Khan, adding that the export of leather garments was at the top of the list followed by leather gloves.

He is not alone. With significant relaxations in lockdowns at various destinations and the government's prudent policies, the leather industry is witnessing steady recovery.

According to the Pakistan Tanners Association Annual Report (2020-21), foreign shipments of leather and leather products from Pakistan increased by 8.86% from \$765.35 million in fiscal year 2019-20 to \$833.19 million in fiscal year 2020-21, which is a great source of satisfaction for the leather exporters.

Former Pakistan Tanners Association chairman Agha Saiddain lamented that in 2007-08, the leather exports stood at \$1.25 billion per year and now, they had declined to \$833 million.

With regard to the structure of leather export, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, around 20% of total exports in fiscal year 2020-21 comprised finished leather, 34% leather garments, 31% gloves, 13% footwear and 2% leather goods.

“It is a strange thing that the export of footwear is less and leather garment is more,” Saiddain said. “The global figures are not like that. In the world, footwear makes up 65% of total leather exports.”

He added that Pakistan had not worked on footwear segment and there were no joint ventures. Besides, the law and order situation in Karachi was unsuitable for big brands, he said.

Citing that China was the largest producer of footwear and leather goods and Pakistan produced excellent leather for big brands with lower labour costs, he was of the view that there was immense potential for cooperation between the two countries to create a win-win situation. He also suggested inclusion of joint ventures in the Special Economic Zones under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He added that tanneries could process raw material from all over the region in Pakistan including those imported from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

“Currently, we are utilising only 50% of our tanning capacity and 50% more capacity exists. It takes no time in increasing the capacity,” he said.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334423/pakistans-leather-exports-have-great-prospects>

The News

Power projects in line with national needs: SAPM CPEC

KARACHI: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Khalid Mansoor has said that power generation projects are in line with the country’s growing needs and not over and above the national requirements, which is being propagated to be the major cause of circular debt trap and capacity payment issues. The SAPM was talking to anchorperson Shahzeb Khanzada in his Friday’s show on the Geo News. The power generation was increased by the previous government considering the country’s expanding industrialisation needs. Mansoor said all the projects were set up in line with the NEPRA policy.

Rejecting the allegations of corruption in the power projects, the SAPM on CPEC said the Chinese side, as well as the IPPs, strongly protested when the government raised the spectre of massive corruption and kickbacks in the power projects, which disturbed them and sought an explanation for the unfounded allegations being raised in the media.

Mansoor said as president Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry comprising 192 MNCs, he would ask them why they were not investing any further in the country. They would say every time due to massive load shedding and power crisis, any further investment and production increase is not possible. He said as a rule of thumb, globally 30-35 percent surplus power is critical prerequisite to ensure sustainable and uninterrupted power supply.

Mansoor said that since now we have adequate surplus power, we are focused on providing that to the Special Economic Zones. We are persuading the Chinese in particular and other investors in general to utilise the huge incentives, including fiscal ones being offered in the SEZs so as to turn the country into a huge industrial hub.

To a question about the ties between the countries, the SAPM dismissed the impression of any souring of relations between Islamabad and Beijing, and said, “I have cordial relationships with all those working on CPEC from the Chinese side, and also regularly meet the Chinese ambassador too.”

It's worth mentioning here that the government has repeatedly claimed that extra power plants were installed and as result we are drowned under the circular debt.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=36122>

Nawaiwaqt News

‘سی پیک سے متعلق معلومات اور نوائے وقت

روزنامہ ’نوائے وقت‘ لاہور کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل آپریشنز لیفٹیننٹ کرنل (ر) سید احمد ندیم قادری (تمغہ امتیاز) سے میری پہلی بالمشافہ ملاقات ایڈیٹوریل انچارج سعید آسی صاحب کے توسط سے 2019ء میں اسکے دفتر میں ہوئی۔ آسی صاحب ایڈیٹوریل لکھنے کی تیاری کر رہے تھے کہ بغیر اطلاع دینے میں اسکے دفتر پہنچ گیا تاکہ ٹینگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ نظامی صاحبہ سے ملاقات ہو سکے۔ اپنی اس خواہش کا اظہار جب آسی صاحب سے کیا تو انہوں نے بتایا کہ میڈم اپنی بعض مصروفیات کی بنا پر آج دفتر تشریف نہیں لائیں البتہ کرنل قادری صاحب دفتر میں موجود ہیں۔ میں نے قادری صاحب سے ملنے کی ہاں کر دی۔ آسی صاحب نے کرنل صاحب کو اطلاع دی اور انہوں نے کمال محبت کا ثبوت دیتے ہوئے مجھے اور آسی صاحب کو دفتر بلوا لیا۔ اپنے دفتر میں گر جو شئی سے استقبال کرنے کے بعد انہوں نے اچھی خاصی توضیح کر ڈالی۔

ملکی سیاست، برطانوی صحافت، دنیا کے بدلتے اخباری حالات اور جر نلزم کے شعبہ میں شدت سے بڑھتی بے روزگاری سمیت ہم نے عالمی حالات حاضرہ پر سیر حاصل گفتگو کی۔ انہوں نے میرے کالموں کی تعریف کی۔ کرنل صاحب کی عسکری حوالہ سے گفتگو ایسی تھی کہ جی چاہ رہا تھا کہ یہ سلسلہ جاری رہے مگر مجھے محترم آسی صاحب کی ذمہ داری کا بھی احساس تھا کہ انہوں نے ابھی ایڈیٹوریل لکھنے اور کاپی کی ڈیڈ لائن کے امور کو بھی حتمی شکل دینا تھی اس لئے میں نے کرنل صاحب سے اجازت لینا چاہی۔ وہ مسکرائے اور ساتھ ہی انہوں نے میرے لئے نوائے وقت کے سنڈے میگزین میں سلسلہ وار شائع ہونی والی اپنی قدیم شاہراہ ریشم سے جنم لینے والی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کی پیش قدمی اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری پر لکھی اپنی اقساط کی خوبصورت کاپیاں بطور گفٹ پیش کر دیں۔ خوبصورت ترین میگزین میں شاہراہ ریشم کے حوالے سے کی گئی انکی یہ غیر معمولی تحقیق نئی نسل کیلئے ہی نہیں، سی ایس ایس کرنے اور سیاحت میں دلچسپی رکھنے والے غیر ملکی شائقین کیلئے بھی بلاشبہ معلومات کا خزانہ تھی۔ چنانچہ میں نے انکی تمام اقساط پڑھنے کا وعدہ کرتے ہوئے ان سے اجازت لے لی۔ میرا خیال تھا کہ اپنے اس تحقیقی سلسلہ کو بڑھاتے ہوئے چھ یا 7 اقساط میں وہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سے سی پیک کا احاطہ کر لیں گے مگر میری حیرت کی انتہاء نہ رہی جب انکی 32 ویں قسط مجھ تک پہنچی، حسن اتفاق سے اپنی کتاب ’ولایت نامہ‘ کی تقریب رونمائی کے سلسلہ میں چند روز کیلئے مجھے لاہور آنپڑا۔ گورنر پنجاب چودھری محمد سرور کا یہ حسن ظن کہ کتاب کی رونمائی کیلئے انہوں نے گورنر ہائوس کا ’در بارہال‘ منتخب کیا۔ جن 60 معزز شخصیات نے میری حوصلہ افزائی کی، ان میں کرنل صاحب بھی شامل تھے۔ قادری صاحب نے مسکراتوں میں ہی سوال کر دیا کہ ابھی تک شائع ہونی والی میں انکی کتنی اقساط پڑھ پایا ہوں، تب میں نے ان سے دوبارہ وعدہ کر لیا۔ یہ جانتے ہوئے بھی کہ ایسا ایک وعدہ اپنے محترم قیوم نظامی صاحب سے بھی کر چکا ہوں مگر اگلے روز کرنل قادری صاحب اور انکی لکھی اقساط میں معاونت کے فرائض ادا کر نیوالے سینئر صحافی خاور سندھو صاحب کے بارے میں یہ خبر پڑھی کہ پاک چین دوستی کے حوالے سے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے توفیق یافتہ لاہور میں منعقدہ خصوصی تقریب میں انہیں ’فرینڈ شپ ایوارڈ‘ برائے 2021ء سے نوازا گیا ہے تو کرنل صاحب سے کیا وعدہ فوراً یاد آ گیا۔ انہیں ملنے والا یہ ایوارڈ بلاشبہ نوائے وقت کے تمام کارکنوں، صحافیوں، کالم

نگاروں، ایڈیٹوریل اور ایڈمنسٹریٹو سٹاف کیلئے بھی ایک بڑا اعزاز ہے جس کا تمام تر کریڈٹ نوائے وقت گروپ کی نیچنگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی صاحبہ کو جاتا ہے۔ اس بارے میں چینی سفیر عزت مآب جناب نوگ روگ نے نوائے وقت کی خدمات اور پاک چین مثالی دوستی کی کورتج کو بھی خصوصی طور پر سراہا۔

کرنل قادری صاحب کی اب تک شائع ہونے والی 32 قسطوں کا اگر عمیق نظری سے جائزہ لیا جائے تو ایک بات صاف عیاں ہے کہ بحیثیت سابق فوجی آفیسر تحقیق کا جس طرح انہوں نے آغاز کیا وہ آسان معرکہ نہیں تھا۔ پاک چین مثالی دوستی میں اس طرح حصہ ڈالنا اور اقتصادی راہداری میں دونوں ممالک کی قربانیوں اور حصول معلومات کیلئے تاریخ کی ورق گردانی کرنے کے بعد تمام تاریخی واقعات کو یکجا کر کے مکٹسٹ میں ڈالنا اور بھی مشکل کام تھا جو انہوں نے کر دکھایا۔ شاہراہ ریشم سے شروع ہونے والی ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ اور پھر آگے سی پیک کے تاریخی منصوبے کیلئے کرنل صاحب کو یقیناً مزید مرحلے طے کرنے ہونگے کیونکہ عظیم شاہراہ ریشم کی تاریخ یہی بتاتی ہے کہ یہ شاہراہ عظیم دوسری صدی قبل از مسیح معرض وجود میں آئی۔ اسی طرح ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ کی پیش قدمی بحیرہ روم میں اب خاص اہمیت کی حامل ہے اور یہی وہ بنیادی مقام ہے جس سے بحیرہ روم کے ساحل سے تین براعظموں شامل ہوتے ہی ان براعظموں کے 22 ممالک مل جاتے ہیں۔ اسی طرح 21 ویں صدی کا یہی وہ بنیادی روٹ ہے جس سے پاکستان کی بندرگاہ گوادر سمیت دیگر معروف بندرگاہوں سے نقل و حمل اور تجارت کے وسیع تر سلسلے کا آغاز ہونے والا ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ یورپی سیاح مارکوپولونے بھی 1254-1324ء تک انہی آبی راستوں سے سفر کیا تھا۔

مصر میں بھی متعدد بار جاچکا ہوں۔ یہاں کی 48 بندرگاہوں میں سے مچھلی بکڑنے کی 6 بندرگاہوں سمیت مصر کی سب سے قدیم بندرگاہ الیکزینڈریا جسے اسکندریہ بھی کہتے ہیں، بہت قریب سے دیکھ چکا ہوں۔ اوپر اسکندریہ شہر اور نیچے ماریٹ جھیل کے درمیان دریائے نیل کے مغربی کنارے پر یہ اہم ترین بندرگاہ 160 مربع کلومیٹر سے زائد تک پھیلی ہوئی ہے، یہی وہ جگہ ہے جہاں چین نیٹریٹل تعمیر کر رہا ہے۔ ٹرمینل کی تعمیر سے مصر اور چین کی تجارت اور دیگر ممالک کی تجارت میں کئی گنا اضافہ ہو گا۔ اسکندریہ بندرگاہ کی تاریخ بتاتی ہے کہ 331 قبل از مسیح سکندر اعظم کی سربراہی میں اسکی فوج نے یہاں بحری اڈہ بنانے میں غیر معمولی اقدامات کئے جبکہ پہلی جنگ عظیم کے دوران برطانوی بحری افواج نے یہاں مہماتی مشقیں کیں۔ مگر آج وقت تبدیل ہو چکا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کی لازوال دوستی دنیا کے کسی ملک میں آج قطعی ڈھکی چھپی نہیں، البتہ پاکستان اور چین کے مضبوط سٹریٹجک اتحاد سے امریکہ اور بعض یورپی ممالک ضرور پریشان ہیں۔

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے منصوبہ کی تکمیل سے جہاں جنوبی ایشیا اور وسطی ایشیا کے متعدد ممالک میں خوشحالی کی راہیں کھلیں گی وہیں پاک چین مثالی تعلقات آئندہ آئیو الی تاریخ کا حصہ بن جائیں گی۔ سرمایہ کاری سے پیدا ہونے والی خوشحالی اور اقتصادی استحکام سے پاک چین کی لازوال دوستی کا آئیو الی نسلیں بھی اقرار کریں گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-18/page-10/detail-3>

December 19, 2021

Business Recorder

‘CPEC Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference’ on 21st

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BOI) in collaboration with the Government of Punjab is organizing “CPEC Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference” in Lahore Pearl Continental Hotel on 21st December 2021, said a press release.

Minister of State and Chairman BOI Muhammad Azfar Ahsan and Secretary BOI Fareena Mazhar will be the keynote speakers at the conference and Chief Minister of Punjab Usman Buzdar will grace the occasion as the chief guest.

Other speakers at the event will include SAPM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moinul Haque, and Minister of Industries and Commerce Punjab Mian Aslam Iqbal.

This is the Punjab edition of the conference in the series of countrywide conferences initiated by BOI early this year. The first conference was held in Peshawar as KP Chapter in March 2021, which received an overwhelming response of Pakistani and Chinese private sector enterprises. The conference aims to promote CPEC-related Special Economic Zones (SEZs), facilitate public private projects, matchmaking of Pakistani and Chinese enterprises for successful B2B Joint Ventures (JVs) and Showcasing Punjab's public sector projects.

The priority sectors being focused in conference as per their significance from Punjab's context include textile, agriculture and livestock, IT, housing and construction and green energy. Few MoUs between private companies are also being signed on sidelines of the conference.

The conference is hybrid in nature with options of both physical and virtual participation. Many companies will be joining online from China to present their project proposals for which they are seeking JV partners in Pakistan.

The BOI will be holding such conferences in future in other provinces with the next ones in Karachi and Gwadar.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/19/5-page/911957-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Thanks to China, Pakistan is now a power surplus country

China has launched a number of power projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to help Pakistan meet its domestic and industry energy needs.

Some of these projects are completed and contributing 5,920MW of electricity to the national grid, while work on some plants with 3,870MW capacity is underway.

Another 3,244MW project is being contemplated. The power projects completed under CPEC are somewhat an energy mix, but the coal-fired plants dominate both in terms of numbers and quantum of the power generated.

As power transmission system also needed an improvement and refurbishing, so a project of 4,000MW evacuation capacity (Matiari-to-Lahore 660KV HVDC transmission line) was also completed.

The addition of thousands of megawatts of additional electricity to the national grid has transformed Pakistan into an energy-sufficient country from an energy-deficient one, thus opening new vistas of industrial growth in the country. Especially, with the initiation of work on industrial zones along CPEC route in the second phase of the multi-billion-dollar project and foreign direct investment coming in the growth in power sector would help bring economic turnaround in the country.

According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20, the installed electricity generation capacity reached 37,402MW in 2020. The maximum total demand of residential and industrial sectors stands at nearly 25,000MW, whereas the installed transmission and distribution capacity is

approximately 22,000MW. This leads to a shortfall of about 3,000MW when the demand peaks. This additional 3,000MW requirement cannot be transmitted even though the peak demand of the country is well below its installed generation capacity of 37,402MW. With the commissioning of power projects initiated under CPEC in the first phase, some 5,920MW of power was added to the national grid. As per the data shared by CPEC Authority, which operates directly under the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, the major chunk of power generation came from four coal-fired projects, which collectively generated 4,620MW, while 1,000MW were contributed by two solar energy units and the rest of 300MW came from three wind-based power plants.

The total cost of these projects stood at \$10.337 billion. These projects generated thousands of jobs during the course of their construction, while several thousands more were hired for the plants' regular functioning and upkeep.

<https://pakobserver.net/thanks-to-china-pakistan-is-now-a-power-surplus-country/>

The Nation

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Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, and Minister of Industries & Commerce Punjab, Mian Aslam Iqbal.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-19/page-8/detail-4>

Pak-China Bio-health Agriculture park inaugurated: Prof Zhang

BEIJING - After thirteen years of endeavor from both Pakistani and Chinese sides, the Pak-China Bio-health Agriculture Demonstration Park was finally inaugurated this year, said Prof Zhang Lixin from Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, Xianyang, China.

The concept of “Bio-health Agriculture” (BHA) was put forward by Prof Zhang Lixin in 2017 at the first International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health. It refers to a modern way of agricultural production that employs advanced biotechnology and processes and can be applied to crop cultivation, livestock farming, rural tourism, farm produce, etc.

Subsequently, Silk Road Bio-health Agricultural Industry Alliance and China-Pakistan Agricultural Biological Resources Research Center were formed in a bid to provide safe and green bio-health agricultural produce.

The recent third International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-Health draws the participation of 54 Pakistani scientists.

“The demonstration park is more than a limited stretch of land. Rather, it is a platform that facilitates Pak-China cooperation in scientific research, talent cultivation, international exchanges, and technology transfer,” Prof Zhang told China Economic Net.

“The agriculture sector in Pakistan faces major challenges like depleting water resources, lack of technology and innovation, and low quality of seeds. Therefore, bio-health agriculture practices should be promoted, as they will not only support Pakistan’s food security, but also help export to China and other countries”, analyzed Naheeda Begum, Botany Ph.D. in Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University and currently a post-doctoral candidate of Nanjing Agriculture University.”

In the universities of Lahore, Faisalabad, and Bahauddin Zakariya, demonstration sites have been established. An assortment of food, such as maize, wheat, chili, carrot, and spinach are under research. Nano and earthworm fertilizers have been introduced. For example, new wheat varieties that combine Chinese and Pakistani germplasms and have the potential to increase the yield by 2.7% per annum have accounted for 3% of the total in Punjab. For now, three Pakistani students are committed to their construction. “In the near future, more Chinese and Pakistani students will be involved,” said Prof Zhang. “The flourishing of the bio-health agriculture also requires the participation of more enterprises”.

Looking ahead, Naheeda recommends more workshops to be organized in different regions of Pakistan to raise the awareness of farmers and landowners. “Also, the modern techniques in

China like compound planting, smart agriculture gain, greenhouse and good varieties should be applied in Pakistan.”

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-19/page-9/detail-0>

December 20, 2021

Business Recorder

Sino-Pak animation film ‘Allahyar, Legend of Markhor’ screened in Beijing

BEIJING: Pakistan-China first co-produced animation film ‘Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor’ was screened here at ZYED cinema on Sunday.

Pakistan Embassy Beijing in collaboration with Xi’an Bailu Fenghe Productions organized the screening of the film.

The event was a part of the celebratory activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries; focusing on people to people and cultural exchanges.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the movie was a groundbreaking milestone as the first joint animation production of the two countries.

It shared the important message of wildlife and natural resources preservation especially with the young, he added.

The ambassador looked forward to both the countries doing more of such successful joint ventures in the future and more Pakistani films and dramas being available for the viewers in China.

In a video message, Director and Producer of the movie, Uzair Zaheer Khan expressed pleasure over screening of his film in China.

He thanked the Pakistani and Chinese governments for extending help and support and he especially thanked co-production partners in China who have worked tirelessly to make all this happen.

Uzair Khan hoped that the film would not only provide entertainment but also deliver most important message of wildlife preservation.

The movie depicts the story of a young and mischievous boy ‘Allahyar’ and his relationship with animals. Set in the northern regions of Pakistan, ‘Allahyar’ and the Legend of Markhor, aims to send across the message of the preservation of wildlife.

What sets the film apart from other animated movies produced so far is that it comprises of fine quality animation anchored in an indigenized story-line and localized characters the likes of Mehru (Markhor) and Chakku (A Snow Leopard).

The premier event was widely attended by general public, officials of China Film Co-Production Corporation, Pakistani community, media representatives and diplomats.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/20/7-page/912082-news.html>

Daily Times

AIOU providing skilled training for CPEC: VC

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Vice Chancellor Dr Ziaul Qayyum has said that his university was providing skilled training required for workers to contribute to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Qayyum elaborated that the university had planned to start a project to provide skilled training required in Industrial Zones along the route of CPEC to the people of the areas.

Initially, such setup is being arranged in Rashakai and Gilgit-Baltistan industrial zones, he said in an interview with the official media. Qayyum maintained it would be a sustainable model for the local people, adding, the university was already in process of designing a course in this regard. About the provision of free education to various segments of the society, he informed that the university was providing free education to transgender, prisoners and martyrs' children. Currently, around 30 transgenders were getting free education from the university, he remarked.

The VC underlined that the AIOU was all set to open up its full-fledged regional office in Afghanistan to promote education in the country at this much needed time.

“The office would be set up once the university gets permission from the federal government, which is already helping Afghanistan in various fields,” he mentioned. The initiative of offering helping hand to Afghanistan, he stated, paced up after the recent visit of Afghan Ministry of Higher Education delegation during which the delegates had requested the varsity to help their country in promoting education, reconstructing educational infrastructure and training Afghan teachers.

The AIOU VC underscored that the AIOU was already helping Afghan students residing in refugee camps in acquiring education from the university, adding that the visiting delegation were well aware about the operations of varsity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/857080/aiou-providing-skilled-training-for-cpec-vc/>

Pak-China peanut cooperation can be a solution to high edible oil prices

Pak-China peanut cooperation can be a solution to high edible oil prices, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

Earlier this month, the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) in Pakistan asked the Ministry of Industries & Production (MoIP) to control edible oil prices by exploring alternative options for the imported palm and soya bean oil. Shandong Rainbow Agricultural Technology

Co., Ltd in China has been planning a Pak-China peanut oil cooperation for a few years, which may meet Pakistan's demand.

“To continue China-Pakistan agricultural projects, our company registered a new company in Pakistan and appointed me as the CEO. The peanut oil cooperation is our key project,” said Babar Ijaz, overseas business manager at Shandong Rainbow Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd and CEO of Sino-Pak Agriculture Pvt. Ltd.

“Peanut oil is the world's best frying oil. Its smog point is near 260 degrees centigrade. Peanut contains more than 50 percent oil. Once we are self-sufficient in peanut production, we can produce more by-products for export. We can also reduce our import bill of edible oil,” said Muhammad Jahanzaib, scientific officer of the Oil Seed Research Program in National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Pakistan. He reveals that NARC has started to attach importance to peanut industry in Pakistan.” China is one of the world's largest peanut producers. They cultivate peanuts on raised beds, do mulching and use combined harvesters. Pak-China cooperation in peanut industry has great potential.” He added.

“Lands of Potohar region is very suitable for peanut production, but we still need to improve the land by adding good fertilizer and land preparing process. We plan to send staff there for technology transfers after the pandemic.” said Babar. In this stage, his company plans to submit the Chinese seed for registration in Pakistan, so it can be planted on a large scale in the next planting season.

“There is a famous olive oil production program in Pakistan. If the peanut oil production program in Pakistan can also be given attention, a lot of people will get involved in this industry. It will improve the economy of Pakistan.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/857051/pak-china-peanut-cooperation-can-be-a-solution-to-high-edible-oil-prices/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC to help Pakistan break free from debt burden thru wealth creation

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will help Pakistan break free from debt burden through wealth creation.

Some western media and think tanks have labeled China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a “debt trap” for Pakistan, but the situation on the ground shows that it is allowing the country to break free from the shackles of Western debts through wealth creation.

Pakistan lies at the heart of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China has committed to funding 80 percent of CPEC worth USD62 billion. However, despite such generosity and ambition, the Western media has been making propaganda regarding this project.

The mega project is being hailed as a game-changer for Pakistan. However, since 2018, the growth of CPEC has been hampered by the economic crisis.

International donors have expressed concerns that CPEC financing has resulted in massive purchases of Chinese technology and supplies, increasing Pakistan's debt load in 2018.

This shows that the "debt trap" rhetoric is misguided and a failed attempt to downplay the benefits of CPEC to Pakistan.

CPEC can alleviate Pakistan's financial troubles by providing a firm foundation for the industry by meeting the country's energy needs and establishing an effective transportation infrastructure.

China's vote of confidence in Pakistan's economy increases as it remains the greatest donor of net foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan when compared to other countries, according to recent research by Gwadar Pro.

Long-term concessional government borrowing from China is used to fund CPEC infrastructure and transportation projects. The FDI and commercial borrowing from Chinese financial institutions are used in CPEC energy projects, which are either primarily foreign-owned joint ventures or Chinese investors.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-help-pakistan-break-free-from-debt-burden-thru-wealth-creation/>

Focus on SEZs a good omen for Pakistan's growing economy

Focus on SEZs a good omen for Pakistan's growing economy: Report WealthPK Different special economic zones (SEZs) are being established across Pakistan and several others are in the pipeline under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to boost industrialisation, exports and generate employment.

According to a WealthPK's Pakistan's economic growth is heavily reliant on exports. This is due to the fact that the access to foreign exchange allows the country to fund its imports, stop erosion of its currency value, repay debts, and address the balance of payment issue.

Solution to these problems is massive industrialisation and diversifying the export base. For this to happen, the government is implementing its "Made in Pakistan" agenda to stimulate import substitution. The policy's goals are to create jobs, boost value-added exports, and stimulate import substitution.

The government is working on different strategies. The objective behind "Made in Pakistan" motto is to produce goods and services in the country rather than importing those that disturbs the country's trade balance.

<https://pakobserver.net/focus-on-sezs-a-good-omen-for-pakistans-growing-economy/>

The Nation

Pakistan ushers in a new era of start-ups: Prof Cheng

BEIJING - With the two e-commerce companies recently obtaining large amounts of financing, Pakistan's start-ups have raised more than \$300 million this year, higher than the sum of the past six years.

It is reported that Bookme, Pakistan's leading online ticket booking platform, and Bagallery, a Karachi-based beauty and fashion e-commerce start-up, recently announced the collection of \$7.5 million and \$4.5 million respectively in Series A funding round.

The financing of both companies was jointly led by Zayn Capital, Lakson Venture Capital and Hayaat Global. These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law in his article published by China Economic Net.

He said due to security concerns, insufficient infrastructure and lack of withdrawal mechanism, Pakistan was not favored by domestic and foreign investors in the past.

However, the bold economic reforms by the Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration, the continuous improvement of the business environment and the socio-economic benefits arising from the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have made the international business community increasingly aware of Pakistan's huge development potential.

In addition to international investment institutions, Pakistan has also gradually developed its own start-up ecosystem

Prof Cheng said that with the high cost of start-ups in neighboring countries such as India, many international venture capital institutions believe that investment in Pakistan has the best prospects in South Asia.

Therefore, they have increased their investment in Pakistan this year. For example, Tajir, a Lahore based B2B e-commerce platform, collected \$17 million in financing led by China's supply and demand e-commerce platform "Business Opportunity 77", Defy Partners of Silicon Valley and Wavemaker Partners of Singapore jointly led the investment in the B2B e-commerce platform with \$30 million in August this year.

In addition to international investment institutions, Pakistan has also gradually developed its own start-up ecosystem, and local investors include Lakson Venture Capital and the National Incubation Center.

In order to stimulate investors' enthusiasm, the Pakistani government has set up a special department, plans to build more Special Technology Zones (STZs) and provide various concessions to help the development of the IT industry. Pakistan's Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT) has also established Pakistan's first national investment platform "PakImpactInvest" this year.

He opined that Pakistan's e-commerce industry is still in its infancy, but it is growing rapidly. In the first quarter of 2021, Pakistan's e-commerce market reached \$540 million, with a year-on-year increase of 35%.

Daraz, the largest e-commerce retail platform in Pakistan, expects that its total retail sales will double every year in the next five years, and there will be 300,000 small and medium-sized enterprises on its platform within two years.

Daraz, which cooperates with Alibaba, currently operates in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Nepal. In October this year, about 70 million users visited the Daraz website, half of them from Pakistan. Daraz expects that by 2030, its platform will have 100 million active users and it will participate in Alibaba's goal of serving 2 billion global consumers in 2036.

In view of the above, I believe that now it is a good time for relevant Chinese enterprises, especially e-commerce platforms, to increase their investment in Pakistan. China and Pakistan can carry out close cooperation and jointly expand the markets in South Asia, the Middle East, Central Asia and even Europe and the United States, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-20/page-8/detail-5>

December 21, 2021

Daily Times

Sino-Pak workshop held to advance technology transfer

The 2nd Sino-Pak Matchmaking Workshop was held to advance science and technology transfer and cooperation support, under CPEC.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), themed by 'Deepen China-Pakistan STI Cooperation to Support the Construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor', the workshop was held in Kunming and Islamabad online and offline.

Various promising scientific cooperation and technology transfer in modern agriculture, new energy, biomedicine and digital economy, etc. between the two countries are loading to inject new impetus to CPEC development.

Over 100 Chinese and Pakistani government officials, scientists and other representatives attend the 2nd China-Pakistan Matchmaking Workshop in Kunming and Islamabad on Dec. 16, 2021.

Ruan Xiangping, First-Level Inspector, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, advised giving more attention to enterprises' needs, serving CEPC progress and enhancing talent cultivation to deepen technology transfer and cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Syed Ata-ur-Rehman, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, also expressed his expectation of Pak-China scientific and technological cooperation.

According to Zhang Jihong, Second-Level Inspector, Yunnan Provincial Science of Technology Department, with the establishment of China-South Asia Technology Center Pakistan branch, bilateral cooperation in green energy, green food, biomedicine, health and digital economy, etc. will be made via building joint laboratory and talent scheme.

In recent years, increasingly more cooperation has been reached between Yunnan province and Pakistan.

Notably, the hybrid wheat technical assistance and demonstration project has greatly lifted wheat production in Pakistan with China-Pakistan hybrid wheat international commercial breeding and industrialization system established.

Moreover, projects of hybrid rice and transportation infrastructure construction, etc. are also ongoing to help Pakistan overcome food security and infrastructure construction challenges.

It's learned that a series of training sessions of modern agriculture, energy, mining and metallurgy, biology, medicine, management will be held soon to help Pakistan cultivate technical talents.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/857526/sino-pak-workshop-held-to-advance-technology-transfer/>

Shanghai Electric receives Fire Safety Award

Shanghai Electric and its subsidiary company in Pakistan, Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited (SSRL) are fully committed towards environment and the safety of their workers, a top company official has said.

Li Jigen, CEO of SSRL, also expressed pleasure over the fact that the company was awarded at the 11th Fire Safety and Security Awards 2021 held by the National Forum of Environment and Health and Fire Protection Association of Pakistan recently.

“We at Shanghai Electric are fully committed towards the safety and well-being of our workers,” Li Jigen said. “Our company takes all possible measures to shield the workers from any mishaps.”

SSRL is working on a Coal-electricity integration project in Block 1 of Thar Coalfield, which is a “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor” priority implementation project. It includes construction and operation of open-pit coal mine with an annual output of 7.8 million tons and 2X660MW supercritical lignite power station. SSRL is the sole operator of the 7.8 Mtpa Open-pit Coal Mine project.

SSRL was one of the recipients at the Fire Safety Awards recently. Huang Jin Ting, Vice CEO of SSRL, received the award on behalf of the company at a local hotel in Karachi. Six students inducted into Quill and Scroll Honor Society.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/857525/shanghai-electric-receives-fire-safety-award/>

K2 Daily





https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-12-21

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-12-21

December 22, 2021

Business Recorder

Future development projects

Senate body seeks representation in CPEC JGWs

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has recommended to the CPEC Authority to make one member of this Senate Committee a part of the Joint Working Groups (JGWs) for future development projects.

The committee met with Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in the chair at the Parliament House on Tuesday.

The committee discussed various development projects and their cost.

On the recommendation of the committee, it was informed that the JGWs are headed by secretaries of respective ministries/division who also decide matters related to the composition of the groups. The committee was informed that the recommendation has been forwarded to heads of all CPEC JGWs vide letter dated 22nd October 2021.

With regards to the committee recommendations on the Special Economic Zone Act, 2012, which should be amended in order to facilitate the investors, the committee was informed that the process has been initiated to make necessary amendments in the Special Economic Zone Act.

The committee was informed that a committee is constituted to review the progress on federally-funded Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and highlight necessary interventions, and also to provide input for future development interventions to uplift Balochistan through federal PSDP and/or innovations financing mode i.e. Public-Private Partnership. The committee, while receiving briefing on the ministry-wise details of projects costing less than Rs2 billion, the chairman committee raised question on the time and cost overrun projects. “Too many demands are competing against too scarce resources,” the ministry stated. The committee, unanimously, decided that the meeting should be held with the representatives of each division on time and cost overrun projects and obtain a concrete report on the delay in the projects. The ministry advised that a “First-In, First-Out” (FiFo) method should be adopted to thoroughly study the details of the ageing projects from approximately 2011.

The Committee decided that the meeting will commence from the National Highways Authority (NHA) projects in the presence of the representations from the NHA division, the Planning Commission, and the ministry.

The committee also questioned the large number of foreign-funded projects given to the Finance Division and sought their details. The ministry informed the committee that the lack of cancellation policy is also one of the reasons the projects are not completed. “No project is ever cancelled,” the ministry stated.

The Committee put forward the recommendations to introduce the policy of cancellation through the FiFo method.

The committee inquired about the progress report on the recommendation made by the committee in its meeting held on 16th September 2021. Detailed presentation by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on PSDP projects over Rs2 billion along with their ageing and cost analysis with regards to dollar fluctuations was also taken up. The committee was informed that the total number of PSDP projects 2021-22 are 1,155 with a total cost of Rs9,422 billion. The expenditure up to 30-06-2021 is Rs2,886 billion with a throw forward up to 01-07-2021 is Rs6,537 billion and allocation 01-07-2021 is Rs900 billion.

The ministry also informed the committee on PSDP utilisation 2021-22 with a total of Rs900 billion out of which Rs100 billion are foreign aid. The committee was also informed that utilisation as on 10-12-2021 is Rs190 billion, which is 67pc of sanctioned amount.

While briefing on the current status of development of Islamabad jail, the committee raised questions about the prison’s construction without permission. “A jail is being constructed in Islamabad buffer zone,” said Saleem Mandviwalla.

The committee noted that the construction cost has also increased three times of the jail from Rs3.9 billion to Rs12 billion. The committee was informed that the prison is now estimated to cost Rs12 billion, while earlier its cost was Rs3.9 billion.

The committee chairman directed that the issue of construction of Islamabad Jail will be included in every meeting of the committee. The Committee members also expressed concern over the increasing incidents of thefts and robberies in Islamabad.

The ministry informed the committee that the chief justices of the Supreme Court and the Islamabad High Court, visited the Islamabad Jail Project and formed an evaluation committee. The committee was informed that 1.6 percent from the total cost of the project has been spent and that the pending inquiries are cleared and the PC-I is to be revised. The committee was informed that within 2-3 days, the finalised design will be submitted to the evaluation committee for further progress.

Consideration of the bill titled, “The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2021”, moved by Senator Sherry Rehman and consideration of bill, “The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2021”, moved by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani were deferred due to the absence of the movers of the bills.

The meeting was attended by senators, Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary, Danesh Kumar, Saadia Abbasi, Nuzhat Sadiq, Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen, and Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives also attended the meeting.—NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/22/3-page/912333-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan inks MoU with Belt and Road Alliance for agri cooperation

The four Pakistani institutes, including, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), Sattar Agro and Livestock Ltd., signed MoUs with the “Belt and Road Alliance for International Precision Agricultural Cooperation Initiative”.

It aimed at enhancing cooperation in precision agriculture with BRI countries.

According to Gwadar Pro, hosted by GNSS and LBS Association of China (GLAC), the 2021 Summit on International Seminar on “Belt and Road International Precision Agriculture Cooperation” was successfully held recently, during which the “Belt and Road Alliance for International Precision Agricultural Cooperation Initiative” was issued and 20 MoUs, Letters of Intent (LoI), Letters of Support (LoS) were received.

“BRI is one of the best ideas of this century initiated by the Chinese government. They’re sharing different kinds of technology, including China’s BeiDou navigation system (BDS) with partner countries and this wonderful summit help us share technology and ideas with each other,” noted Muhammad Naveed Tahir, associate professor from Department of Agronomy, PMAS-AAUR, Pakistan, while addressing the summit.

Prof. Luo Xiwen, academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and former vice president of South China Agricultural University, pointed out that precision agriculture has become one of the trends of agricultural development in the world with its prominent advantages and rapid development.

China has made significant progress in research on precision agriculture, especially in the exploration and practice of unmanned farms relying on precision agriculture and digital agriculture.

“It is of great and far-reaching significance to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Belt and Road countries in precision agriculture,” he added.

On the occasion, experts from more than 10 countries including China, Pakistan, Mongolia, Russia, Laos, Malaysia, Egypt, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia and so on attended the online seminar to discuss international cooperation in precision agriculture, smart agriculture.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/857952/pakistan-inks-mou-with-belt-and-road-alliance-for-agri-cooperation/>

US, China remain top export destinations in last 5 months

The United States remained the top export destination for Pakistan during the first five months (July-November) of the current fiscal year 2021-22.

According to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), China, the United Kingdom, Germany and UAE remained the next top destinations, respectively, for Pakistani exports.

According to details, exports to the United States surged to \$2.68 billion in July-November period, against the exports of \$1.85 billion in the same period of last financial year 2020-21, showing an increase of 45 percent. Likewise, Pakistan exported goods worth \$1 billion to China against the exports of \$615.7 billion from July to November 2021-22, showing a growth of 65 percent on a year-on-year basis.

This was followed by the UK, wherein the total exports to the country during the said period mounted by 22 percent on a year-on-year basis to \$943.8 million from the exports of \$773.8 million recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Germany and the UAE come at number four and five and Pakistani exports to these countries remained \$691.2 million and \$689.5 million, respectively, during the aforementioned period. Exports to Germany depicted a jump of 12 percent, while exports to UAE grew by 22 percent on a yearly basis.

Pakistani exports to the Netherlands stood at \$554.5 million, up by 33 percent, followed by Italy and Spain with \$406.7 million and \$410.1 million respectively, the data revealed.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's trade deficit in the services sector widened by 408.2 percent to \$249 million in November 2021 from \$49 million in November 2020. However, on a sequential basis,

the country's trade deficit in services improved by 21 percent from \$314 million in October 2021.

This has brought the trade deficit in services during the first five months of the fiscal year 2022 to \$1.32 billion, up by 66 percent from \$799 million in the corresponding period last fiscal year.

The exports of services during the month amounted to \$583 million i.e. up by 15 percent YoY and 6 percent MoM.

Amongst the total exports, telecommunications, computer and information services made the largest contribution with an amount of \$221 million, showing an improvement of 31.6 percent on a year-on-year basis and 13.33 percent on a month-on-month basis. This is followed by other business services that brought \$125 million into the country. In terms of growth, receipts from the exports of other business services inched up by 1.63 percent on a month-on-month basis while on yearly basis, the export of the same commodity witnessed no change.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/858216/us-china-remain-top-export-destinations-in-last-5-months/>

Pak-China bilateral trade to cross \$25 billion: Ambassador Haque

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque on Tuesday said that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, this year bilateral trade between Pakistan and China was expected to cross \$25 billion value with a great momentum with Pakistan's exports to China expected to cross \$3.54 billion, which was unprecedented and historic figures.

He made these remarks while addressing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference in Lahore via video link with the objective of transforming CPEC into a true economic hub by establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Punjab and business ventures in different sectors, the China Economic Net reported.

Ambassador Moin said, in recent years, our two countries have been focusing more and more on economic and commercial cooperation. For many years, China, being the largest trading partner, has been the largest source of FDI.

He said that Chinese President Xi Jinping once said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was not an empty slogan, but a visible, tangible, practical initiative, which would bring many tangible reserves and benefits to the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/858213/pak-china-bilateral-trade-to-cross-25-billion-ambassador-haque/>

Dawn News

Development of SEZs under CPEC top priority, says BoI chairman

LAHORE: Pakistan accords top priority to the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Board of Investment (BoI) Chairman and State Minister Muhammad Azfar Ahsan said on Tuesday.

The development work on all SEZs is under way fast and three of the total nine SEZs, including Allama Iqbal Industrial City SEZ in Punjab, Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh, will be completed soon, he said while speaking at the CPEC Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference.

The BoI chairman said attractive fiscal incentives are being offered under SEZs which include a tax-free period of 10 years and custom duty exemption on import of capital goods to both the developers and enterprises housed in the SEZs.

The BoI chief termed CPEC industrial cooperation an all-inclusive entity in its scope and open to third party participation.

China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque appreciated the steps taken by government of Pakistan to further strengthen the Islamabad-Beijing relations by exploring areas of mutual cooperation.

Special Assistant to the PM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor said that during the ongoing second phase of CPEC, four SEZs are being focused with special attention given to textiles, IT, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, FMCG and renewable energy.

BoI Secretary Fareena Mazhar highlighted that there are ample opportunities for foreign investors to invest with 100 per cent equity or joint ventures in various fields with repatriation of investment and profit allowed with legal protection provisioned under the Acts of parliament to foreign investment.

Punjab Minister for Industries & Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal said there is a good opportunity for Chinese firms to invest in the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority.

On the occasion, a memorandum of understanding was signed between HBL and China Machinery Engineering Cooperation on agricultural cooperation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1665080>

Membership for one senator each in CPEC JWG's sought

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: A Senate panel on Tuesday sought membership for one senator each in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Joint Working Groups (JWGs) and decided to review development projects of all ministries to phase out non-productive and slow-moving projects.

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Planning and Development was presided over by Saleem Mandviwala of the Pakistan Peoples Party.

While taking up the progress report on its recommendations of September 16, the panel wanted an update on its demand to the CPEC Authority for making one member of the Senate standing committee on planning a part of CPEC joint working groups (JWGs) for future projects.

The committee was informed by an additional secretary of the planning division that the JWG's were headed by secretaries of respective ministries and divisions who also decide about the matters related to composition of the groups. The recommendations of the Senate committee had been forwarded to heads of all CPEC JWG's on October 22 and had not heard back anything.

Senate panel briefed on details of projects costing less than Rs2bn

The meeting also had a briefing on details of projects costing less than Rs2bn. The committee's members expressed concerns over time and cost overruns of development projects. Officials told the committee that cost and time overruns occur mainly because of "too many demands competing for too scarce resources". The financial capacity of the federal government was insufficient to fund so many projects as the list keeps growing.

The committee unanimously decided to hold meetings with the representatives of each division and the ministry on time and cost overrun projects and obtain a concrete report on the delay in the projects. The planning ministry suggested that a first-in-first-out (FiFo) method should be adopted to thoroughly study the details of the ageing projects since 2011 – 10 years.

The meeting decided to commence such reviews from the National Highway Authority (NHA) projects in presence of the representations from the NHA, the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Communications.

The committee also questioned why a large number of projects had been shown on the portfolio of the Finance Division, including those involving foreign-funded schemes. The committee was informed that lack of cancellation policy was also one of the reasons the projects were not completed. "No project is ever cancelled" an official said. The Senate committee decided to come up with its recommendations to introduce the policy of cancellation through the FiFo method to reduce PSDP burden.

With regards to the committee recommendations on the Special Economic Zone Act, 2012, which should be amended in order to facilitate the investors, the committee was informed that the process has been initiated to make necessary amendments in the Act.

The committee was informed that oversight committee led by MNA Khalid Magsi had been constituted to review the progress on federally-funded PSDP projects and highlight necessary interventions and also to provide input for future development interventions to uplift Baluchistan through federal PSDP and innovative financing modes like Public-Private Partnership.

The planning division while briefing the committee on PSDP projects worth Rs2bn and less reported that total number of PSDP projects in fiscal year 2021-22 stood at 1,155 with a total cost of Rs9.422 trillion. As of July 1, 2021, an expenditure of about Rs2.886tr had been made with a throw-forward of Rs6.537tr. The PSDP 2021-22 envisaged an allocation of Rs900 billion, including Rs100bn of foreign aid.

The committee was also told that utilisation of PSDP funds as on Dec 10, 2021 stood at Rs190bn which was almost 67pc of sanctioned funds for that period.

During a briefing on the current status of development of Islamabad jail, the committee raised questions about the prison's construction without permission and cost escalation by almost 300 per cent. "A jail is being constructed in Islamabad's buffer zone," said Saleem Mandviwalla and noted that the construction cost has also increased by three times. The planning commission confirmed that Islamabad Jail was earlier to be built at a cost of Rs3.9bn but its revised cost had been estimated at Rs12bn.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1665130>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC and Changing Nature of Energy Projects in Pakistan

Zulkafil Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been instrumental in drastically decreasing the energy deficit in the country.

Its power projects have been simulating industrialization which has now further increased export volumes.

Its numerous wind, solar and hydro-power projects have been making a difference in the life of millions of people due to which witches of darkness and shadows have been encircled.

Thus these are development- oriented and clearly not responsible for any kind of circular debt trap in the country.

Most recently, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs, Khalid Mansoor, has reconfirmed that power generation projects are in line with the country's growing needs and not over and above the national requirements, which is being propagated to be the major cause of circular debt trap and capacity payment issues.

He further clarified that globally 30-35 percent surplus power is a critical prerequisite to ensure sustainable and uninterrupted power supply.

Unfortunately, the federal government has again failed to make a decision on making payments to the tune of Rs230 billion to Chinese power plants operating under the CPEC project.

Under the 2015 energy framework agreement, Pakistan is contractually bound to make timely payments to the Chinese power plants that were set up under the CPEC framework. But hopefully, it will be settled amicably and CPEC Phase-II will be started very soon.

The SAPM was of the view that the power generation was increased by the previous government considering the country's expanding industrialization needs. He upheld that all the projects were set up in line with the NEPRA policy.

He strongly rejected the allegations of corruption and kickbacks in the power projects and termed them all transparent and open. He said that since now the country has adequate surplus power, which should be diverted to the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

We are persuading the Chinese in particular and other investors in general to utilize the huge incentives, including fiscal ones being offered in the SEZs so as to turn the country into a huge industrial hub, he added. He further dismissed the impression of any souring of relations between the two iron brothers – Pakistan and China.

On the other hand, Pakistan has amicably extended project completion deadlines of five Chinese power plants having a generation capacity of 3,600 megawatts.

In this connection, the commercial operations dates of 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project, 330MW Tel project at Thar block-II, 330MW ThalNova Thar block-II and 1,320MW Thar block-I have now been extended.

The decision was communicated during the 4th Pak-China Relations Steering Committee meeting, chaired by Planning Minister Asad Umar.

The ongoing projects under CPEC and the issues being faced by their investors were discussed in detail in the meeting. The Power Division Secretary informed the meeting that the issue of commercial operation date (COD) extensions for five power projects had been resolved.

Unfortunately, the projects are falling far behind the dates of commissioning agreed between the government of Pakistan and Chinese investors due to many complex and complicated reasons, mainly COVID-related delays and strikes at some projects.

The Steering Committee shared that an initial 132 KV line is being built to provide electricity from the national grid to meet Gwadar's electricity demand.

In addition, provision of solar panels to 3,000 households of Gwadar and other short-term measures are also being initiated to ensure additional supply of electricity to the city.

Thus energy requirements of Gwadar will soon be matched. In this context, the Committee was informed that work on some sections of another CPEC project Quetta-Zhob Road project had been halted due to a stay order from the Islamabad High Court.

However, many Chinese companies have once again complained that the process of work visas has not been smooth and workers had to apply for business visas, which resulted in imposition of penalties and banning of entry of Chinese citizens to Pakistan. They said that about 90,000 Chinese visa applications were pending for a decision which should be resolved on a priority basis.

To resolve this issue, the Planning Minister Asad Umar has now asked the Ministry of Interior to coordinate with Chinese companies operating in Pakistan. He suggested that the companies' letters may be demanded as proof for work visas to resolve the problems.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Planning said that issues related to industrial cooperation were also discussed in the said meeting. The Industries Department of Government of Punjab briefed the Committee on the steps taken to resolve the investors' pending issues. It was also shared that the process for the appointment of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management

Company (FIEDMC) CEO would be completed as soon as possible. The board of the company has already been reconstituted.

The meeting was further informed that due to non-resolution of many issues, over \$900 million Chinese investment in Special Economic Zones could not materialize fully. For instance, the Easy Prefabricated Private Limited Company has paid for electricity and gas connections but the services have not been provided yet.

Similarly, the La He Trading International Private Limited has manufactured electrical bicycles and tricycles but their products cannot be brought on the road due to absence of road policy. The company was also facing issues in securing loans from the banks due to lack of land entitlement.

The Snow White Lavation Private Limited applied for allotment of land in Allama Iqbal Industrial City over four months ago but did not get any response from the government of Punjab. Other Chinese companies were facing problems in getting electricity and gas connections in these zones for months.

For further streamlining, easy and smooth completion and functioning of ongoing CPEC projects, both countries, all main stakeholders and private companies should chalk out a comprehensive future road-map to mapping out all the pending issues hindering inflow of FDIs in the country.

More focus should be given to green technologies, especially in the SEZs in the country. Intensified hydro-power generation is the need of the hour which would be a game changer for cheap energy supplies in the days to come

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-changing-nature-of-energy-projects-in-pakistan-by-zulkafil-hassan-khan/>

BRI's Socio-Economic and Geopolitical Orientations

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was envisioned in 2013. Since its commencement regional and global socio-economic parameters and global geopolitical rules of engagement have been reshaped. Despite criticism of the West it has been declared project of the 21st century having immense potential of socio-economic integration, greater regional connectivity, massive industrialization, institutionalization of green energies mix, poverty eradication, job generation, fostering of trade & commerce activities and last but not the least widespread networks of communication infrastructures among all the member countries.

Since its beginning, the Western mass media termed it extension of so-called Chinese imperialism and debt trap diplomacy full of secretive conditions. However, time has proved that it has been a vivid reflection of Chinese “economic socialism”, proponent of “shared prosperity”, simulation of development instead of so-called debt trap and very much “crystal clear”.

Unfortunately, the Western media has now termed newly inaugurated Laos's railway project as futile and fragile instead of its immense trans-regional utility and strategic orientation. In this connection, many hydro projects in Africa have also been rated as a severe violation of human rights. But ground reality is total different and strongly rejects all false and fake propaganda of the Western countries in this regard.

On the other hand, the US and the West economic assistance and project financing to many countries have been full of "contradictions", "controversies" and "conspiracies" which ultimately dumped their economies into deep recession and their so-called socio-economic springs turned into violent political clashes around the globe.

Even the announcement of Build Back Better World (B3W) by the Group of Seven (G7) seems to be a "reinvention of capitalism" in the world. Moreover, the European Union (EU) Global Gateway Project (GGP) is another "failed" attempt of the forces of imperialism which had ruined many countries in different continents in lieu of its economic domination, social superiority and last but not the least political sacredness. Thus B3W and GGP do not have any comparison with the Chinese BRI.

Critical analysis of the BRI's last eight years reveal that it has served as a "win-win partnership" of mutual gains, creating new immense opportunities for regional as well as international cooperation and driving global growth. It has been labeled as "New Normal" of the post-covid-19 world by many prominent regional as well as international publications, think tanks and research papers.

In 2013, China inaugurated the BRI, an ambitious globally spanning infrastructure and connectivity scheme of arrangement. It was primarily aimed at the Global South. China used the BRI to spearhead hundreds of projects across multiple continents to accelerate economic growth, development and shared prosperity by bringing nations closer together. Economists estimate the total value of projects to be up to nearly \$4 trillion.

Now eight years later, the BRI has been a great success, with many projects now completed across the globe. According to official data (November, 2021), it has now over 2631 BRI projects amounting to \$3.7 trillion. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) the China-Europe Land-Sea Express Line (CELSEL), the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor (CIPEC), the China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor (CMREC) and last but not the least, Port Piraeus in Greece. In addition, a total of 140 countries and 32 international organizations have signed more than 200 cooperation agreements with China.

Despite Western constant propaganda it has sufficient funds to develop numerous mega projects in different sectors ranging from BRI bonds, private capital investment and public-private partnerships but also state-owned enterprise investment will be crucial for the success of it. BRI cooperation is an active collaboration with all the member countries and thus frequently described as a "win-win" socio-economic proposition with no hidden geopolitical or geostrategic impurities.

The latest publication of Refinitiv (October 2021) estimates that over \$516 billion worth of BRI projects were completed in 2019, amounting to 22 percent of the proposed total. In addition to this, another 1989 projects were in the process of completion. Although Covid-19 caused a temporary pause in construction in 2020, projects continued to be completed this year and throughout 2021-2022.

Most recently, two mega BRI projects have been completed and operationalized include Chongoene Airport in Mozambique and the China-Laos Railway. It hopes that with the inauguration of more projects, concrete benefits can be brought to the recipient countries.

Furthermore, the Refinitiv statistics (October 2021) shares that the overseas economic and trade cooperation zones built by Chinese enterprises in the BRI countries have created about 300000 local jobs, with a total investment of more than \$30 billion. In addition, trade between China and its BRI member countries crossed \$6 trillion from 2013 to 2018, growing at an average annual growth rate of four percent which is indeed a substantial increase.

Moreover, the BRI is a partnership of mutual gains, not a one-way train or zero-sum game. It has been economically cooperative, politically collaborative and socially coordinative since 2013. It stands for working together to seek common progress and prosperity. It has yielded incredible success in transforming the economies of the member countries in the eight years since it was started. China has invited countries across the globe to partner with it in constructing infrastructure and promoting trade in both the public and private sectors. As a result, it has driven global growth, connectivity and economic opportunity.

To conclude, it is hoped that the BRI will make a significant contribution to global development in terms of socio-economic integration, regional connectivity and new job generation. It seems that its socio-economic dividends and geographic scope is correspondingly very broad and comprises most of the world's regions.

It has no hidden agenda and the Chinese government started to employ it as a framework for international cooperation in the field of infrastructure improvement as a way to support the developmental policies of other countries.

It is obvious that a major feature of the contemporary international order is the geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China. Both are very influential actors in international economic, diplomatic and military affairs.

In this connection, China has a distinctive comparative advantage over the US and the EU. China does not attach power politics in the realm of pure economy. China does not blackmail the recipient countries to blindly follow its do more mantra. Last but not the least China does not screw the member countries militarily to compromise their territorial sovereignty.

On the other hand, the US and the West have been “scapegoating” even their allies on different pretexts and left them in times of crises. Moreover, their shameful past in terms of triggering ethnic massacres in most of the African countries, sectarian rifts in the Middle East, multicolored

sponsored revolutions in the Central Asia, do more mantra in many countries of SouthEast Asia and last but not the least, military (mis-)adventures in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and many other countries all speak about power obsession of the US and the West. Thus China stands for “prosperity” not “prosecution”, “cooperation” not “conspiracy” and its mega projects like BRI and the CPEC are the “beacon” of hope and qualitative life.

Now the BRI stands as an anchor of Global South solidarity which offers hope for the development of the world’s countries to accelerate their economies, broaden their horizons and break out of the unequal economic global system.

<https://pakobserver.net/bris-socio-economic-and-geopolitical-orientations-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

Assessing the year and looking at the future

By taking corrective measures and building a consensus, the ability to overcome challenges lies within our grasp

As the year comes to a close it is important that we look back and take stock of our strengths and weaknesses and reflect on what holds for the future. With the scope of this being fairly wide I will focus essentially on three major aspects — state of political stability, economic growth and strategic direction. All three are closely interlinked as weakness of the economy has political ramifications and could cause strategic shrinkage, and similarly chaotic politics could undermine the economy and soil the country’s image.

During the past year, national politics remained highly chaotic, largely focusing on personalities and rarely addressing substantive issues. The same was true of the opposition, which led to a marked deterioration in political discourse and a general loss of interest and confidence of the public in the leadership. Business in parliament mostly ended up in chaos and walkouts by the opposition were a common feature. It is evident that political leadership is according a higher priority to public meetings rather than to proceedings of the parliament and its standing committees. The Prime Minister’s barrage of repetitive accusations against the opposition has lost the punch and irrespective of their fidelity fail to make any serious impact. It seems the major focus on the introduction of the Electronic Voting Machines is to ensure the participation in elections of the expatriate community where PTI has an advantage. What does the opposition stand for is equally unclear, apart from accusing Imran Khan of drawing strength from the establishment and its desire to bring the PTI government down? Not realising that the opposition’s focus on exercising street power rather than using the parliament as a major forum only adds to the uncertainty.

Over the years there has been very little change in the power structure of the political parties as their leadership remains essentially dynastic. It seems the people have reconciled to it and the second generation of the Sharifs and Bhuttos is in the transition phase of taking over. The only

exception is the PTI top leadership but there are many senior PTI legislators who like in other parties are elected on the basis of patronage rather than performance. It is the democratic culture within the political parties that is a major factor in throwing up the right type of leadership that is broad-based and from the grass-root level. This is not happening, and politics is getting fossilised and the country is being denied its share of good leaders.

During the formative years of Pakistan, the army's hold on political power was understandable. Political institutions were weak, and the challenges were great. The bureaucracy and military filled the vacuum and played a critical role in stabilising Pakistan. But the continued dominance of state institutions distorts democracy, and political leadership is less interested in people and more focused on state institutions. This has to change in the larger and long-term interest of the country as it is undermining its true potential. The country's national power and its respect nationally and internationally would considerably enhance if these contradictions were to cease.

During seventy-five years of Pakistan's existence, successive leadership has failed to develop a self-sustaining economy. Heavy dependence on foreign aid has compromised Pakistan's independence and made us accept the dictates of donor countries and international monetary agencies. It dilutes the country's military and strategic power. There is hardly any realisation or effort to overcome this weakness. In fact, successive governments have accepted this as a norm and have been responsible for significantly increasing the country's debt burden. Another factor that is putting pressure on the economy is the spillover effect of the turbulent conditions in Afghanistan and the situation is unlikely to change in the near future. In all likelihood, it is going to get worse. Prime Minister's initiative to host the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting was a good move and if the Afghan humanitarian fund reaches the people fast, it would help in alleviating their misery.

India's unbridled hostility toward Pakistan has a serious economic downside as well. Pakistan is compelled to spend more on defence, and the potential of trade and tourism with India is compromised. The main sufferers of the hostility between the countries have been the people of Kashmir. It is imperative that India and Pakistan talk to each other. There is no getting away from it and Indian intransigence is no solution, it only prolongs the conflict. Indian leadership cannot deflect the Kashmir problem and overlook the suffering of its people by merely blaming Pakistan. Its brutalities are far too obvious to throw a curtain around. The Kashmir tragedy is more the reason for Pakistan and India to start talking. Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed Pakistan's willingness to engage, it is for India to reciprocate.

Relations with China continue to grow, and the level of mutual trust and interests has clearly expanded over the years. There is a convergence of interests and China's role in CPEC has added a new dimension to the relationship.

It is expected that work on the next phase of CPEC would commence soon, which would certainly strengthen the foundations of Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan is equally desirous of having good relations with the US. Prime Minister Imran has repeatedly emphasised the importance of this relationship. In this too the opposition is on board. And Pakistan's close relations with China should not be a barrier from moving forward in this relationship. The failed US policy in Afghanistan cannot be attributed to Pakistan. It was the result of America's lack of understanding of Afghan history and the people's daunting spirit to resist foreign domination even if it means sacrificing their own lives.

Undoubtedly, each of the challenges that Pakistan faces in the political, economic and strategic fields is formidable and daunting enough on its own, but by taking corrective measures and building a consensus, the ability to overcome these challenges lies within our grasp.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334983/assessing-the-year-and-looking-at-the-future>

Global businesses free to enter CPEC

BOI chairman invites foreign businessmen to invest in diverse sectors of Pakistan

LAHORE: The scope of industrial cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is all-inclusive and open to third-party participation, underlined Board of Investment (BOI) Chairman Muhammad Azfar Ahsan.

Speaking at the CPEC Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference on Tuesday, the chairman invited businessmen from across the globe, particularly from China, to invest in diverse sectors of Pakistan's economy. "Pakistan has a liberal investment regime," he remarked.

Ahsan apprised the participants of the various investor-friendly policies introduced by the government including the electric vehicle policy, mobile manufacturing policy, construction sector policy, etc.

He spoke about the "Pak-China B2B Investment Portal", which had been developed to create opportunities of joint ventures between traders of the two sides.

Talking about the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC, he pointed out that three out of the nine SEZs were at an advanced stage of development. These included Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab, Rashakai SEZ in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh.

He highlighted that attractive fiscal incentives were being offered under SEZs, which included a tax-free period of 10 years and customs duty exemption on the import of capital goods for both the developers and enterprises.

"Pakistan accords top priority to the development of SEZs under CPEC," he maintained.

On the occasion, Board of Investment Secretary Fareena Mazhar underlined that the government treated both local and foreign investors with equality. "There are ample opportunities for foreign investors to invest with 100% equity or joint ventures in various fields as repatriation of investment and profit has been allowed with legal protection," she highlighted.

"There is no requirement of minimum investment for business startups," she pointed out.

Speaking about the Pakistan Regulatory Modernisation Initiative, she apprised the participants that the platform had been established with a mechanism to transform the regulatory landscape across multifaceted tiers of the government.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335021/global-businesses-free-to-enter-cpec>

The Nation

Govt now focusing on second phase of CPEC, says Khalid Mansoor

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Khalid Mansoor said that government is now focusing on the second phase of CPEC, which will be all about expansion and development.

He spoke about the way forward on the process of industrialization in Pakistan under CPEC. He added that during this phase the four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being focused with special attention given to textiles, IT, automobiles, pharmaceuticals and renewable energy. He also apprised on the recent improvements introduced in legal regime to facilitate investors by BOI & CPEC authority in regards to one window operations.

Federal Board of Investment (BOI), in collaboration with the Punjab government organised a B2B Investment Conference. Chairman BOI Muhammad Azfar Ahsan highlighted that CPEC Industrial Cooperation is an all-inclusive in its scope and open to third party participation and invited the business community from China and from all over the world to invest in Pakistan's economic sectors. Ahsan stressed that Pakistan has a liberal investment regime and apprised the participants on the various investor friendly policies recently introduced by the incumbent government including electric vehicle policy, mobile manufacturing, construction sector policies, sole enterprise Special Economic Zone, regulations 2020, SEZ Zone Enterprise Admin and Sale/Lease/Sublease of Plot Regulations 2021.

The chairman also informed the participants about "Pak-China B2B Investment Portal" which has been developed by BOI in collaboration with the China Council for International Investment Promotion and both local and Chinese companies are being encouraged to register for creating the possibility of materializing potential JV opportunities.

"Pakistan accords top priority to the development of Special Economic Zones under CPEC," chairman BOI said.

Ahsan further elaborated that currently, out of the nine CPEC SEZs, three are at an advance stage of development including Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab, Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh and attractive fiscal incentives are being offered under SEZs which include a tax free period of 10 years and custom duty exemption on import of capital goods to both the developer and enterprises housed in the SEZs.

Secretary BOI, Ms Fareena Mazhar stated that there are ample opportunities for foreign investors to invest with 100% equity or joint ventures in various fields with repatriation of investment and

profit allowed with legal protection provisioned under the Acts of parliament to foreign investment. The secretary further added that government has a uniform treatment for local and foreign investors along with 100 % repatriation of profits and dividends and there is no requirement of minimum investment for businesses startups.

While apprising the participants on “Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative”, Ms Fareena stated that the platform has been established with a mechanism to transform the regulatory landscape across multifaceted tiers of government in Pakistan.

Ms Fareena underscored that several international corporations and businesses have a long history of association with Pakistan and are earning substantial return on their investments. Therefore, businesses communities are invited to reap optimum benefits from the lucrative and liberal investment regime of the government and explore investment opportunities available in different sectors of national economy.

Provincial Minister of Punjab for Industries & Commerce Mian Aslam Iqbal talked in detail about the potential of economic sectors of Pakistan, especially those of Punjab with special focus on agriculture, textile, food processing etc. He also shared that there is a good opportunity for Chinese firms to invest in the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority and mentioned tourism sector of Pakistan as having great potential.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong and Pakistan’s Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque appreciated the steps taken by government of Pakistan to further strengthen Pak-China relations by exploring areas of mutual cooperation. They also acknowledged BOI’s role in creating a business friendly environment and facilitating Chinese investors every step of the way and renewed their commitment to work in close coordination with BOI.

The conference was a huge success in terms of turnover as more than seventy Chinese companies participated with an active interest in investing in Pakistan and many other local and foreign investors were also present. The Board of Investment successfully sensitized potential investors about the investment regime of Pakistan and the conference was followed by a B2B interaction between Chinese and Pakistani companies.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-22/page-1/detail-10>

The News

China’s engineering giant strikes agri cooperation deal with HBL

ISLAMABAD: China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) has struck an agreement with Habib Bank Ltd (HBL) for agricultural cooperation, inked towards the end of the CPEC Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference in Lahore, a statement said on Tuesday.

Federal Board of Investment (BOI), in collaboration with the Punjab government organised a B2B Investment Conference where Minister of State & Chairman BOI, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan and Secretary BOI, Fareena Mazhar were the keynote speakers.

Other speakers included SAPM on CPEC Affairs, Khalid Mansoor, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and Minister of Industries & Commerce Punjab, Mian Aslam Iqbal.

Chairman BOI highlighted that CPEC Industrial Cooperation was all-inclusive in its scope and open to third party participation and invited the business community not only from China but also from all over the world to invest in Pakistan's economic sectors.

“Pakistan has a liberal investment regime and it has introduced various investor-friendly policies ... including electric vehicle policy, mobile manufacturing, construction sector policies, sole enterprise Special Economic Zone, regulations 2020, SEZ Enterprise Admin and Sale/Lease/Sublease of Plot Regulations 2021,” Ahsan said.

The chairman also informed the participants about Pak-China B2B Investment Portal, developed by BOI in collaboration with the China Council for International Investment Promotion and both local and Chinese companies were being encouraged to register for creating the possibility of materialising potential JV opportunities.

“Pakistan accords top priority to the development of SEZs (Special Economic Zones) under CPEC.”

Chairman BOI further elaborated that currently, out of the nine CPEC SEZs, three were at advanced stage of development including Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab, Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh and attractive fiscal incentives were being offered under SEZs, which included a tax free period of 10 years and custom duty exemption on import of capital goods to both the developer and enterprises housed in the SEZs.

Secretary BOI, Fareena Mazhar said there were ample opportunities for foreign investors to invest with 100 percent equity or joint ventures in various fields with repatriation of investment and profit allowed with legal protection provisioned under the Acts of Parliament to foreign investment.

“The government has a uniform treatment for local and foreign investors along with 100 percent repatriation of profits and dividends and there is no requirement of minimum investment for businesses startups,” the secretary added.

While apprising the participants on Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative, Fareena said the platform had been established with a mechanism to transform the regulatory landscape across multifaceted tiers of government in Pakistan.

She underscored that several international corporations and businesses had a long history of association with Pakistan and were earning substantial return on their investments.

“Therefore, businesses communities are invited to reap optimum benefits from the lucrative and liberal investment regime of the government and explore investment opportunities available in different sectors of national economy,” Fareena said.

Special Assistant to PM on CPEC, Khalid Mansoor spoke about the way forward on the process of industrialisation in Pakistan under CPEC.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=37349>

December 23, 2021

Business Recorder

China's CG Li terms CPEC 'a signature project'

KARACHI: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a signature project under the Belt and Road Initiative, has served as a fine example as China and other countries work to synergize their development strategies. As an all-weather strategic cooperative partner, China always gives priority to its cooperation with Pakistan in its overall external cooperation, Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian, at an interactive session with a group of journalists at the Chinese Consulate, said.

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has two components – one over land known as Silk Road Economic Belt and another maritime component tagged as Maritime Silk Road. Once this initiative was executed, it would have tremendous economic impact on the related countries. Under BRI, China intends to invest billions of dollars on infrastructure in many countries. The initiative would develop major industrial, agriculture and energy centers in the partnering countries and all these will strengthen the links with China.

The part of BRI falling in Pakistan is known as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under which will be constructed industrial parks, agriculture farms, railways, airports, roads, agricultural centers, energy generating projects including big solar energy projects.

The Chinese diplomat mentioned that the first phase of CPEC has been almost completed. It is focused on development and upgradation of infrastructure, and setting up energy generating projects including those of renewable energy. Now, he added, with all seriousness both the governments were on execution of second phase of CPEC, which shall mainly focus on agriculture, manufacture and other areas. Joint Working Committees on CPEC have been pursuing these projects spread in many different areas of Pakistan.

All the projects under CPEC have been progressing well, however, COVID-19 pandemic had slowed down the process, he said, adding in Sindh, under CPEC, China is major partner in Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, Korangi Industrial Park, Coastal Development projects, Thar coal mine development, infrastructure development projects, and renewable energy in the province.

Chinese companies had also partnered Sindh Government in upgrading transport system in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta and Sukkur. The companies would soon provide 150 buses to Sindh Government under this move. Chinese companies were engaged in manufacturing sector as well including in assembling of mobile phones and motorcycles, also in joint ventures.

Li Bijian appreciated the role of Pakistan government, Pakistan armed forces and other law enforcing agencies in providing security protection to the Chinese companies.

Chinese Consul General appreciated Pakistan Federal and Provincial government's policies to manage the situation emerging from COVID-19 pandemic which damaged badly economies and created serious problems for the world. Pakistan adopted opted policy of "safety of life and livelihood" through carrying out dynamic measures to implement SOPs and "smart lock-down". He said Coronavirus affected China's economy. Tourism was the most affected sector due to lockdown. Now, with strict compliance of SOPs and implementing the dynamic zero COVID policy, domestic tourism is open.

About Omicron, new COVID-19 variant, he said that so far a few imported cases were reported in his country, adding that experts researched much about this variant, and he is confident that China shall deal with the new variant in an orderly and decisive way. China had adopted 4-Es strategy to contain spread of the virus: early detection, early reporting, early quarantine and early treatment, which turn out to be very efficient to put the pandemic under control. In China, more than 84 percent population was vaccinated and an aggressive campaign continued to vaccinate the remaining 16 percentage population. Booster doses have been also being given from June 2021 to reduce the possible effect of mutated variant. While trying every means to control the pandemic domestically, China has also been carrying out international cooperation in this regard, has so far provided more than 1.8 billion doses of vaccines to other countries, he said. China has been striving to build a community of health for mankind, he said. Referring to the policies of his government, he said Communist Party of China has been implementing the policy of putting people first and focused on the improvement of peoples' livelihood and sustained economic growth. China has realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicated the absolute poverty which had been with the Chinese nation in a few thousand years. Chinese had a very clean and honest government enjoying support of more than 95 percent population. CPC has been delivering to the people and even on country side, the farmers has been enjoying an ever-changing and prosperous livelihood. There are the best roads and other communication network in the countryside.

"My government has been trying to help the people, and majority of Chinese people are satisfied." he concluded.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/23/12-page/912531-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani, Chinese researchers join hands for new wheat varieties

Pakistani and Chinese researchers have decided to join hands for producing new wheat varieties, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

“We are trying to cross the high-yielding and drought-resistant Chinese wheat germplasm with our local ones. Once accomplished, they are expected to reduce the cost by 13% and increase farmers’ return by 25-27% percent”, envisioned Prof. Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Athar of Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.

He is working with researchers of the Northwest A&F University, China under the Sino-Pak Biohealth Agriculture Oversea Sci-tech Demonstration Park project. Hopefully within the next 3 to 4 years, we will have clear-cut results of the inclusion of Chinese blood in Pakistani varieties”. During the past three years, the two sides have been publishing papers jointly, exchanging scientific visits, and submitting research projects.” Our group for the wheat research consists of 34 students including undergraduates, masters, and doctoral candidates”, introduced Prof. Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Athar.

The priority of their work is to identify stress tolerant wheat cultivars by screening and selecting the local germplasm as well as the exotic ones. Among Chinese germplasm, five lines have been found good-performing in terms of yield and tolerance. Wheat cultivar S24 has been verified by international research institutes including the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and proved to be high-yielding and salt stress tolerant. In the next step, they are going to cross it with other cultivars that are of moderate height and rust-resistant.

The group is also working to apply Chinese nano fertilizers and nanobiochar to Pakistani wheat varieties. Wheat is Pakistan’s number-one food crop. “During the last 10 years, around 15 lines have been rolled out, but since we now have Chinese germplasm, we can improve them. We aim to increase the yield by 2.7% and enhance the physiological performance by 27%”, Prof. Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Athar told China Economic Net.

With the Sino-Pak Biohealth Agriculture Oversea Sci-tech Demonstration Park, farmers can look at the experimentation and actual cultivars.” It will not only increase the productivity on the farmer field but also contribute to the food security of Pakistan”, said Prof. Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Athar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/858421/pakistani-chinese-researchers-join-hands-for-new-wheat-varieties/>

Dawn News

Centre for vaccines trial set up in Lahore with Chinese help

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Wednesday inaugurated the “Silk Road Clinical Research Centre” at the University of Health Sciences (UHS).

The construction of the 2,400 sq-ft centre has been gifted by China’s Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Company, the investigator of ZF2001 coronavirus vaccine clinical trials in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Ecuador and Indonesia.

Built at a cost of Rs30 million, the centre will be used for vaccine trials and advanced medical research.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr Yasmin Rashid said policies should be based on data and evidence generated through this research. Earlier, policies were made on assumptions.

Accepting the invitation to be the patron of the research centre, the health minister said the UHS conducted significant trials of the coronavirus vaccines.

She said the government was in the process of collection and analysis of precise data on genetic disorders. Dr Shehnoor Azhar, UHS focal person for vaccine trials, in his briefing said the varsity was approved as a clinical trial site in August 2020.

In October 2020, a trial of China's CanSino vaccine was started in which 5,000 volunteers were recruited.

The phase-III trials of the second Chinese vaccine ZF2001 began in February 2021, recruiting 2,500 volunteers.

Dr Shahnoor said during the last two years, 20 partnership agreements were signed with the industry which was evidence of varsity's research potential.

UHS Board of Governors Chairman retired chief justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani termed the establishment of the centre a major challenge for the university in the field of research.

UHS VC Prof Javed Akram said the university had a special interest in gene editing for the treatment of hereditary diseases.

In addition to Chinese experts, a large number of faculty members attended the event.

Dr Yasmin Rashid also distributed shields among Chinese experts and prominent service providers.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1665275>

Dunya News

Chinese likely to eat more Pakistani kinnows next year

BEIJING (APP) - Pakistan fruit exporters are expected to export more kinnows to the Chinese market next year as compared to only about 80 tons last year.

In the next year, we expect 15 to 20 containers of kinnow to be exported to China, quadrupling that of 2019 when we first exported to our iron brother, Muhammad Riaz, Manager of Exports, Imports, and Business Development, Al-

Rafique Company, one of the largest Pakistani kinnow exporters to China told China Economic Net (CEN).

In 2020, Pakistan exported about 450,000 tons of kinnow to the international market last year, among them, only about 80 tons were destined for China. But in the future, more is expected to reach the Chinese market, which was also backed up by Adviser to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood when he commented on the historical

achievement of crossing the Rs 2 billion orange export mark for the seventh consecutive month in April this year.

“Since 2005 when Pakistan and China signed an protocol on the sanitary requirements for citrus plants exported from Pakistan to China, a lot of new practices have been adopted in Pakistan that can reduce the risk of bad quality and ensure food safety,” introduced Riaz.

“From orchard management to processing plant, from harvesting, sorting, quality check, and processing (feeding, sorting, washing, fungicide, drying, package, etc), standards have been developed and observed and refrigerator containers are used to maintain the freshness of the fruit during the transportation period that last for about 20-30 days by sea.”

Once appeared in Chinese markets via the ports in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Dalian, and Shenzhen, the fruit can be sold at a price three times higher than Pakistani domestic selling price.

The larger sizes and exotic tastes are major attractions of Pakistani kinnows for Chinese consumers. Besides, the export season from December till April complement that of China from September till January.

“We can also provide smaller fruits with lower prices as an alternative. In addition, more promotional activities in Chinese supermarkets will help more consumers get to taste delicious Pakistani kinnows,” Chaudhry Shoaib, President of Pakistan’s Kinnow Exporters Association suggested.

Amid the long-lasting pandemic, shipping is incurring extra burden for the exporters. “Contrary to our expectation of the exports to China, we are expecting 35 % less export to the international market as a whole just because of the shipping problem,” said Chaudhry Shoaib.

“There is congestion at the ports.

After the outbreak of the pandemic, shipping lines reduce their vessels to save their cost. But when online market is booming under lockdown and more people are joining the e-commerce army, the vessels are caught short,” explained Muhammad Riaz.

“If we are allowed to transport by road, we can enter the Chinese market within 3 – 4 days,” Chaudhry Shoaib opined.

Among the 3 million tons of kinnow production in Pakistan, only 0.45 million are used for export, which accounts for a meagre 15%. Greening disease, climate change, unskilled labor are causing unnecessary losses to kinnow output and constraining quality upgrading.

“In this regard, we look forward to more exchanges with Chinese partners,” said Chaudhry Shoaib.

The export of processed kinnow products has not become a popular choice, but it is starting to gain a foothold in Pak-China trade.

In an interview with the manager of Yunhong, a condensed kinnow juice importer based in China’s eastern province of Jiangsu told CEN that the company expects more kinnow juice from

Pakistan next year. “It is easier to transport, after all, and the market is expanding,” the manager said.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/634085->

Pakistan Observer

Indo-Pacific Ocean, containment of China or exercise in futile

Kamran Hashmi

GLOBAL geopolitics and geo-economics are increasingly characterized by competition between major powers in the pursuit of their strategic interests.

When the history of the 21st Century is written, much of it will be centred in the Indo-Pacific Region. The term Indo-Pacific was used during the US President Donald Trump era instead of Asia Pacific. The US even renamed Asia-Pacific Command as Indo-Pacific Command.

It seems the US strategy has been shifted from the Indian Ocean to Indo-Pacific Region due to these reasons: it includes the world’s most populous state (China), most populous democracy (India), most populous Muslim-majority state (Indonesia), seven of the ten largest standing armies, around one-third of global shipping passes through the South China Sea alone.

In 2019, \$1.9 trillion worth of US trade passed through the region; in 2021 about 42 percent of the world’s exports and 38 percent of global imports are expected to pass through. Therefore, as the United States government has claimed, “the Indo-Pacific is the single most consequential region for America’s future.

The main reason for the importance of Indo-Pacific is to contain China. On the other hand, China has initiated the Belt and Road Initiative, China Pakistan Economic Corridor and spent billions of US\$ on these projects. Naturally, these countries have already joined, or will join the Chinese camp when the time comes.

In the Indian Ocean, China is building 17 ports and has 96 ports around the world. Due to this reason the USA made certain alliances recently. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), which consists of the USA, Japan, India and Australia, works on a far broader agenda, which includes tackling security, economic and health issues.

They conducted a naval exercise in November 2020 in Guam in the Indian Ocean and formed a working group for COVID-19 vaccines. It is not mentioned but the basic purpose of the QUAD was to curtail the growing influence of China in the region. On the other hand, the trade between QUAD countries and China is huge.

China is Australia’s biggest, India and USA’s second largest and Japan’s third major trading partner. This reflects the interdependency of these countries on China which is difficult to break or impede.

Australia US & UK (AUKUS). The world was shocked when Australia made a contract with the US to purchase eight nuclear submarines in September 2021 for more than the US\$100 bn. Australia cancelled the deal with France to buy 12 Diesel Electric Submarine worth the US \$ 66 Bn.

Although AUKUS did not reveal it, the agreement is largely seen by analysts as a US-led effort to counter the rising influence of China in the region by using Australia. The regional countries showed mixed reactions, like China has been slammed as “highly irresponsible” and said it could trigger a nuclear arms race in the region.

Indonesia, Malaysia, North Korea and Singapore voiced against it. Japan cautiously welcomes it, the Philippines and South Korea appreciated the move, perhaps it will make the case of acquiring nuclear submarines stronger for South Korea in the future.

India is also not happy as they were denied nuclear propulsion by the US previously, but India is happy to be a member of QUAD and it may make the Indian case stronger to acquire the US nuclear submarines in the future, furthermore, containment of China will favour India.

After WW-II, the US needs an enemy to justify the presence of US forces in different parts of the world and flourish her defence industry.

Till 1990, the focus was on the USSR (Union of Socialist Soviet Republic). Afterward, the attention was against Islamic countries, which include attacks on Iraq (pretext of a weapon of mass destruction), Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Tunisia. These actions left the world in a more complex scenario and these countries suffered massive destruction and economic loss.

There is also fear if China made similar agreements of providing nuclear submarines to other countries, it will bring an arms race of nuclear submarines and any accident of nuclear submarines will be catastrophic for the entire world.

The US will try to contain China by adopting different strategies like boycotting the Winter Olympics in February 2022 in China which is followed by other allies also.

China trade with QUAD and AUKUS countries is enormous, big companies of these countries have invested heavily in China. They can't afford to lose their investment and none of these countries can afford to have bad relations with China as there is no alternative, perforce they are forced to keep good trading relations with China.

Despite all their efforts, China's containment is not so easy; the way China is becoming an economic giant, modernizing its defence forces, building ports around the world, Road and Belt initiative and CPEC will keep support for China by these countries. It may be a futile attempt by the US to contain China and result in the proliferation of nuclear submarines in the region.

—The writer is associated with the National Institute of Maritime Affairs, based in Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/indo-pacific-ocean-containment-of-china-or-exercise-in-futile-by-kamran-hashmi/>

The Nation

CPEC project a fortune for Pakistan, to help rebuild economy: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD - National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser on Wednesday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is a fortune for Pakistan that will add to rebuilding the economy of the country.

“An active and meaningful involvement by Pakistani provinces in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be central to its effectiveness,” Asad Qaiser said while addressing a seminar as chief guest on the ‘Role of Parliament in Promoting Investment, Trade, Export, Commerce and Connectivity under CPEC.’ The seminar was held at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services organised by National Assembly of Pakistan in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC Sher Ali Arbab and Country head Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Dr Jochen Hippler were the guest speakers.

Seminar held on ‘Role of Parliament in Promoting Investment, Trade, Export, Commerce and Connectivity under CPEC’

Asad Qaiser said with improved connectivity between the vast regions of Western China and Central Asia to the Arabian Sea, immense economic opportunities lie for various industrial clusters close to the CPEC routes. The initiative further enhances Pakistan’s position as a strong regional stakeholder by engaging with a number of countries for bilateral trade, industrial and economic development through high impact projects in various fields like energy, infrastructure, industry and tourism to name a few, the Speaker National Assembly said.

Asad Umar appreciated the CPEC committee initiative to visit various regions in Pakistan and engage with local populations. He said that the government was also visiting various parts of the country during the planning of CPEC projects and it is interesting that the CPEC committee is visiting various places and engaging with public on this mega project. He said that the committees in the parliament are working beyond party line and work in the national interest, CPEC committee is one of them having a representation from various parties working together to oversight the CPEC projects and give recommendations.

Sher Ali Arbab, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, gave a brief presentation on the recommendations drawn during the regional seminars in Peshawar, Karachi, Gwadar, Lahore, Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and Quetta. He said that with Pakistan decisively turning a page in its history by overcoming challenges of security and energy shortages, and now strongly heading towards achieving the goal of a highly developed economy, duly supported by well-planned industrialisation which is harmonised to best utilise its natural endowments and human capital, its relationship with other countries plays an important role in its growth and stability.

Dr Jochen Hippler highlighted the role of FES for Democracy and Governance, Regional Connectivity, Social Justice and Economy. He said that the CPEC committee and especially the Chairman is playing a wonderful role in pushing the regional connectivity project and the comprehensive exercise undertaken in four provinces and two regions was a good idea to engage with civil society and stakeholders at local level.

The event was also attended by Ihsan Iqbal MNA, Ms Mehnaz Akbar Aziz MNA, Ms Nafeesa Inayat Ullah Khattak MNA, academia, experts, senior government officials, media representatives and civil society.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-23/page-4/detail-4>

Work on CPEC western route in full swing

ISLAMABAD - The work on western alignment of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is in full swing as the incumbent government has initiated 11 new road projects under the CPEC.

Two new projects worth Rs 314 billion were also added to the CPEC in the 10th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on CPEC, according to official sources in the CPEC Authority. Out of the new projects, PC-I of Dir-Chakdara Motorway (29 km) has been approved and it would be completed within two years at a cost of Rs 38 billion.

Similarly the 360km Peshawar-D.I.Khan motorway has also been included in the CPEC which is expected to be completed within four years at a cost of Rs 276 billion.

The sources said among the projects initiated by the current government included the 331 kilometer Zhob-Quetta road which is expected to be completed at a cost of Rs 63 billion. PC-I of the project has already been approved and the funds have also been allocated in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2021-22. The PC-I of another project Quetta-Khuzdar road has also been approved which is 330 kilometer long and is estimated to be completed at a cost of Rs 81 billion.

Similarly, work on the linked roads of the western route is also under process. The PC-I of 146km Hoshab-Awaran road has also been approved which is expected to be completed at a cost of Rs 38 billion. The project is included in the PSDP and contractor has also been mobilized for the project.

The PC-1 of the 168km Awaran-Khuzdar road project has also been approved which would be completed at a cost of Rs 32 billion. Funds for this project have also been allocated in PSDP 2021-22.

Likewise, the PC-I of the 103km Nokundi-Mashkhel road has also been approved for which the funds have been allocated under PSDP 2021-22. The cost of the project is estimated at Rs 77 billion.

The work on 228km Panjgur-Awaran and 82km Jhalo Jao-Bela road has also been started and funds have also been allocated for the project. The government has also initiated the 460 km Karachi-Khuzdar road project which would be completed under public-private partnership.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-23/page-8/detail-1>

The News

Bridging policymakers-stakeholders gap key to tap full CPEC potential

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: In order to tap full potential of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) the divide between policymakers and stakeholders must be bridged over at the earliest.

This was the consensus of a roundtable of think-tanks from different sectors that stressed that the government should facilitate investors and the business community with regard to CPEC and APTTA to boost the national economy.

The meeting was set up by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), a non-governmental organisation at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBOIT). The moot was attended by officials of chambers of commerce and industries, academicians, government officials, and media persons.

Addressing the meeting, Hassan Daud Butt, CEO KPBOIT, said there should be continuation of economic policies, digitalisation of the national economy and an archiving structure for informed decisions.

Butt said a research-based economic policy should be implemented in the country and for that universities and youth should be mobilised to research and suggest missing facilities and loopholes for the policymakers to address in the decision making process.

Dr Khizar ur Zaman, Vice Chancellor University of Science and Technology, Bannu, called for setting priorities and developing linkages between universities and chambers to find new vistas of investment and trade.

Earlier, Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director at SPDI, said, “Different districts of KP have different business potentials, some are being benefited from Afghan transit trade, some have vast potential accruing from mines and minerals sector, some are ready for livestock revolution,” he said.

Fazal Amin Shah, Deputy Collector KP Revenue Department, said the government had reduced the rate of different taxes in the province to facilitate entrepreneurs and investors and “it only introduces tax once in a year and no mini budget throughout the year”.

Adnan Jalil, an official of Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Industry, Haris Mufti, former Senior Vice President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Abdul Qadoos Khan, an economic analyst, also shared their views on the occasion and highlighted various aspects of the topic.

Meanwhile, Li Bijian, Chinese Consul General in Karachi, speaking with journalists at his Consulate, said CPEC's first phase was almost complete and now, with all seriousness, both partners were on the execution of second, which is centered on agriculture, manufacturing, and other areas.

“The second phase is focused on development and upgradation of infrastructure, and setting up energy generating projects including those of renewable energy,” said Bijian.

“CPEC, as a signature project under the Belt and Road Initiative, has served as a fine example as China and other Islamic countries work to synergies their development strategies.”

As an all-weather strategic cooperative partner, China always gives priority to its cooperation with Pakistan in its overall external cooperation, according to Bijian.

He said Joint Working Committees on CPEC had been pursuing these projects spread in many different areas of Pakistan.

All the projects under CPEC were progressing well; however, COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the process, he said.

Chinese consul general said in Sindh, under CPEC, China was a major partner in Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, Korangi Industrial Park, Coastal Development projects, Thar coal mine development, infrastructure development projects, and renewable energy in the province, he added.

Bijian said Chinese companies had also partnered with Sindh government in upgrading transport system in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta and Sukkur.

The companies would soon provide 150 buses to Sindh government under this move, the diplomat said.

He further said Chinese companies were engaged in manufacturing sector as well including in assembling of mobile phones and motorcycles, also in joint ventures.

Bijian appreciated the role of Pakistan government, Pakistan armed forces and other law enforcing agencies in providing security protection to the Chinese companies.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=37828>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک، افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ جیسے منصوبوں میں باہمی تعاون درکار ہے: ماہرین

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) سی پیک اور افغان ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ جیسے بڑے منصوبوں سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانے کیلئے پالیسی سازوں اور تمام متعلقہ شعبوں کے درمیان بہتر تعاون کار کا کردار انتہائی اہم ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار ماہرین نے پالیسی ادارہ برائے پائیدار ترقی (ایس ڈی پی آئی) کے زیر اہتمام 'معاشی شعبے میں کام کرنے والے تھک ٹینکس کے اولین اجلاس' کے دوران گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اجلاس کا انعقاد خیبر پٹی کے بورڈ آف انوسٹمنٹ کے اشتراک سے کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-23/page-3/detail-1>

December 24, 2021

The Express Tribune

Who is denting CPEC?

Clearly, it is not just about the high stakes for a China-inclined prime minister but for Pakistan as a whole

CPEC appears to be facing some headwinds. Some of the mainstream media has openly begun parroting the narrative of Pakistan's bureaucracy i.e. an unhealthy addition to loans and a begging mindset, and loath to prompt action. The onus of fixing the situation is often relayed in the form of what the Chinese should or should not do (instead of fixing problems within), and leans favorably towards the contextual mantra under contemporary geopolitics.

Is CPEC facing a combination of national and external malign influence? Will the Pakistan-China friendship survive this turbulence? These questions merit some introspection when trying to ascertain where the responsibility for this asymmetrical situation rests – Islamabad or Beijing?

Pakistani officials claim the first phase of CPEC is almost complete with an injection of at least \$25 billion since 2016. Khalid Mansoor, chairman of the CPEC Authority, promises a much more comprehensive second phase. But this promise pales if viewed against the current financial bottlenecks and tardy execution challenges, which seem to stem squarely from the Pakistani side.

If insiders were any indicator, more than 90 per cent of the CPEC projects – road, electricity generation or transmission, mass transit, Gwadar Port – are either completed or near completion, but most are facing multiple financial and administrative hurdles that have slowed down execution.

The recent protests in Gwadar provided just a glimpse of these challenges but the malaise is much deeper. The major reason is unimplemented or deficient sustainable monitoring and controlling governance systems. Addicted to foreign loans, the bureaucratic machinery refuses to shun its habitual inclination and expects further waivers and grants, despite poor performance and tardy processes. Hence its advice on securing more loans to continue to feed an ever-hungry corrupt, and hemorrhaging system.

Understandably, this leaves investors in a conundrum. What answers will they get if they sought verification on the power sector problems and went for due diligence of the sector they may be interested in? How will Pakistan regain their trust?

Prime Minister Imran Khan and others in his retinue keep imploring investors to come to Pakistan for investment in special economic zones and look at new areas of cooperation i.e. science and technology, agriculture, tourism, and information technology. He also recently met the Chinese ambassador as well as businessmen and instructed relevant departments to address their issues on a priority basis. But those under him – the advisers, and bureaucracy that actually

steers policies – think differently and have instead adopted a policy that amounts to forcing Chinese investors to revise already approved and executed projects, particularly those in the energy sector.

Other underlying factors that retard progress and create significant hurdles are: a) inconsistency in enforcement of approved policies; b) refusal to abide by terms of signed agreements; c) divergent interpretation of rules; and d) lack of prompt responses by various central and provincial government authorities.

For example, a major steel firm has been waiting for the environmental No Objection Certificate (NOC) as well as electricity connection in the much-touted Rashakai special economic zone for well over one year, with no end in sight. That is not an insignificant amount of time.

The 720MW Karot Hydropower Plant was given conflicting ratios of provincial services tax, and the 700MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Plant has been facing stay-order litigation for two years from the Punjab government.

The federal Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and the Cabinet have mutually extended the commercial operation date (COD) of Pakistan's first-ever 660KV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Project from 31st March 2021 to 1st September 2021 without taking the regulator (NEPRA) in line with the verdict. The company is now facing coherence complications in the agreed pre-COD tariff from NEPRA, the National Transmission Dispatch Company (NTDC), and the Central Power Purchase Agency-Guarantee (CPPA-G).

These are but a few of dozens of examples.

The promised revolving account – a fund supposed to be equal to some 22 per cent of the total energy funding – in support of energy project has not been opened yet. No one seems to know what prevents fulfillment of this promise.

This context – rooted in bureaucracy's anti-China mindset as well as disinclination to swiftly act and react to urgent task – has caused the Chinese insurance company SINORSURE to underwrite further finances for CPEC projects.

Clearly, it is not just about the high stakes for a China-inclined prime minister but for Pakistan as a whole. The net result of all this is partially-stalled CPEC projects, plummeting confidence in investors. Chinese lenders have withheld fresh payments, major international embarrassment, and incalculable damage to Pakistan and its economy in the long term – all because the bureaucracy cannot get its act together.

This makes it pretty obvious: the fault lies in Islamabad.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335331/who-is-denting-cpec>

The Nation

CPEC, SEZs and industrialisation

Ahsan Munir

CPEC projects in the first phase are basically in infrastructure like power stations and transportation and predominantly aimed to improve overall infrastructure quality. Recently, the government has announced that CPEC is entering its next phase, where Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will be established along the CPEC route. It is claimed that SEZs would help attract foreign direct investment (FDI), establish industrial units, create employment opportunities and boost economic activities in the economic country. Further, all previous governments, including the incumbent, have claimed to equip SEZs with state of the art infrastructure and connectivity.

The SEZ incentive package includes exemption from income tax for ten years and a one-time exemption from all customs duties and taxes on import of capital goods. This means a lot of lost revenue for the government and hence for the people of Pakistan over the years, which begs the question: how would the people of Pakistan and local industry benefit from SEZs?

Moreover, merely opening SEZs do not bring industrial uplift and employment, as has been previously tried and experienced by Pakistan. Furthermore, the government is endeavouring to develop SEZs in the services sector and approvals have been accorded to IT Zones to facilitate information technology and software development. However, the path to economic progress is through industrialisation, not the service sector. Therefore, among others, the success of SEZs depends upon the type of industries being set up and the level of value-addition being brought about by these industries. Hence, tax exemptions and rebates in SEZs should be proportionate to: the value addition achieved the level of local employment generated and joint ventures (JVs) with the local industry. Further, all SEZs should be open for local and foreign investors equally to offset the costs of establishing SEZs.

Value-addition comes through technology transfer. Therefore, along with the efforts to expedite the development of infrastructure in SEZs, the government should formulate policies to facilitate technology transfer. By accepting the industrial transfer, Pakistan could take advantage of its existing human resources and raw material, and establish a more integrated industrial structure domestically, thus uplifting its position in the global value chain. Apart from being part of the value-chain of foreign investors, the local industry should be offered equal benefits and exemptions as to the international investors in SEZs.

Various government ministries and agencies, such as the Board of Investment (BoI), SMEDA, CPEC Centre of Excellence, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (MoPDR), are directly or indirectly working for the dissemination of information, and facilitation and execution of CPEC related activities. And these government agencies hope that Chinese investors would benefit from the textile, leather, pharmaceutical, food processing, and surgical industries existing

in Pakistan. Now, what metrics have been in place to measure the performance of these institutions? And what sorts of policies have been formulated by these institutions to facilitate local industrial sector integration with foreign investors coming to SEZs? And the more important question is: Whether the Chinese also have multiple (or a single institution) dealing with CPEC activities in Pakistan?

Finally, China is operating in middle to high end world markets, while countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh have outclassed Pakistan in low end markets. So the important question would be how our mainstay industries, operating in low end markets, be able to go into joint ventures with firms, chiefly Chinese, operating in medium to high end world markets?

Therefore, keeping in view the above discussion, it is recommended that a single institution should be dealing with and held accountable for all the activities related to CPEC. Further, instead of focusing on the services sector, emphasis should be on technology transfer for value-addition and industrialisation. Finally, our local industry should be made part of industries being set up in SEZs through JVs, and adequate training should be provided, where necessary, to seamlessly integrate into JVs.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-24/page-6/detail-2>

‘Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor’ all set to hit silver screens across China from tomorrow

BEIJING - ‘Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor’, first China-Pakistan animated movie which shares the important message of wildlife and natural resources preservation especially with the young, will be set for theatrical release across China tomorrow (Saturday, December 25). The animated film, originally released in Pakistan in 2018, was remade for the Chinese market through joint efforts of Chinese and Pakistani producers, making it the first animated film co-produced by the two countries. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque termed the movie a groundbreaking milestone as the first joint animation production of the two countries. The movie, the first China-Pakistan animated coproduction, is significant in light of China-Pakistan’s 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties, he said during the premier show of the movie held last week. Markhor, or screw-horned goat, is the national animal of Pakistan just like the giant panda is for China, so the film not only promotes Pakistani culture but teaches children how to protect wild animals and nature. He looked forward to both the countries doing more of such successful joint ventures in the future and more Pakistani films and dramas being available for the viewers in China.

“In the future, there will be more Pakistani movies launched on screens in China, introducing Pakistani culture to Chinese people and helping strengthen connections between the peoples of the two countries, including future generations,” he added. In a video message, Director and Producer of the movie, Uzair Zaheer Khan expressed pleasure over screening of his film in China. He thanked the Pakistani and Chinese governments for extending help and support and he especially thanked co-production partners in China who have worked tirelessly to make it a

success. Uzair Zaheer Khan informed that the Chinese co-producers carried out the required amendments and enhancements in China only to better suit the taste of the Chinese audience.

Amid the growing popularity of Pakistani movies in the Chinese market, there is a great potential of more cooperation between China and Pakistan in the film industry. “The two countries can hold more film conferences and seminars to gain a better understanding of each other...And the logical next step is to extend the cooperation to the industrial chain and the making of films,” Zhong Wenjun, CEO of Danxi Pictures, in an interview.

The company is one of the Chinese co-producers that mainly engage in the promotion, releasing, and film-related products of the Allahyar and the Legend of Markhor in the Chinese market.

The animated production follows the story of Allahyar, a young and curious boy who ends up dealing with difficult circumstances in the northern mountains of Pakistan. In a series of events, Allahyar tries to save a markhor from hunters, and also makes friends with other animals such as a snow leopard after he is rewarded with the ability to speak to animals.

What sets the film apart from other animated movies produced so far is that it comprises of fine quality animation anchored in an indigenized story-line and localized characters the likes of Mehru (Markhor) and Chakku (A Snow Leopard).

Liu Chun, manager of the China Film Co-Production Corporation, said at the premiere that it took four years to make the movie and the work is a rare example of a Chinese co-produced animated movie.

The movie will be screened to celebrate seven decades of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-24/page-15/detail-3>

The News

‘CPEC SEZs open for investment to all investors’

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad : Minister of State and Chairperson, Board of Investment, Azfar Ahsan, has said that the industrial cooperation chapter of CPEC is all-inclusive in nature and open for third country participation, and all Special Economic Zones (SEZs), including CPEC SEZs, are open for investment to all investors, whether domestic or foreign, with equal treatment.

Mr. Ahsan was speaking at an international conference on ‘CPEC: challenges, opportunities, and the way forward’ at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here Thursday.

The BOI Chairperson stressed that necessary infrastructure and utilities, as well as special incentives under an effective legal framework, will be provided to all investors from all over the world to invest in the SEZs established under CPEC. He continued that Pakistan had a total of 22 notified SEZs but only four of them, ie, Rashakai in KP, Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab,

Bostan in Balochistan, and Dhabeji in Sindh were in an advanced stage of development. He specifically mentioned the electric vehicle, mobile manufacturing, and construction sector policies as well as other incentives for the SEZs as the government's steps for attracting foreign direct investment.

Mr Ahsan lauded the overwhelming response to the recently held CPEC Business-to-Business (B2B) Industrial Investment Conference for Punjab.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=38303>

China to help Pakistan find suitable bamboo species to alleviate poverty

BEIJING: China and International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) are ready to help Pakistan research suitable bamboo species and share relevant technology, equipment and experience if it wants to develop bamboo industry to alleviate poverty.

This will help Pakistan accelerate poverty alleviation and prosperity,” Lu WenMing, deputy director general of INBAR said.

In an interview to Gwadar Pro, he said the bamboo and rattan industry are best source to alleviate poverty under the framework of BRI and INBAR.

According to the report, the Bamboo and rattan industry is reckoned as one of the most important approaches to alleviating poverty in China and several BRI countries. On November 2021, the national flag of Pakistan was raised in front of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)'s headquarters.

Why can bamboo reduce poverty efficiently? First, bamboo grows fast and can regenerate quickly with physical properties similar to or better than wood. It takes years to grow wood, whereas bamboo's growth cycle takes only a few months. This means that farmers can make money faster by growing bamboo than by growing wood.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=38422>

A statistical overview of China's unparalleled achievements

Sabir Shah

LAHORE: While China has already overtaken the United States in terms of national net worth to grab the top spot worldwide, courtesy a red-hot real estate market that drove up property values, the size of this Communist nation's economy is also expected to surpass that of America by 2033.

“The Nikkei,” world's largest financial newspaper with a daily circulation exceeding three million, writes: “China's net worth reached \$120 trillion in 2020 to overtake the US's \$89 trillion as a red-hot real estate market drove up property value, according to a report by McKinsey Global Institute. The McKinsey report covered 10 countries that account for 60% of the world's income.”

The Tokyo-based publication adds: “The total net worth for the group tripled from 2000 to \$510 trillion. China’s net wealth — the value of total assets minus liabilities — rose by a factor of 17 from \$7 trillion two decades earlier. The country accounted for 23% of the total in 2020, while the US’s share was 17%, followed by Japan, which accounted for 7%, at \$35 trillion.”

Remember, the Japan Center for Economic Research had predicted a year ago that China would outshine the American economy by 2029.

Similarly, on Dec 26, 2020, the “BBC News” had maintained: “China will overtake the US to become the world’s largest economy by 2028, five years earlier than previously forecast, a report says. The UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) said China’s “skillful” management of Covid-19 would boost its relative growth compared to the US and Europe in coming years. Although China was the first country hit by Covid-19, it controlled the disease through swift and extremely strict action, meaning it did not need to repeat economically paralysing lockdowns as European countries have done. As a result, unlike other major economies, it has avoided an economic recession in 2020 and is in fact estimated to see growth of 2% this year.”

However, a New York-based American newspaper “The Wall Street Journal” has viewed: “China is experiencing a slow-motion economic crisis that could undermine stability in the current regime and have serious negative consequences for the global economy. The US and its allies have many tools to influence China’s economy and need to weigh the consequences of an acute crisis against the threat its current trajectory poses to the US policy makers should be thinking of how best to deploy these tools, instead of passively assuming the rapid growth and stability of the Chinese economy will continue.”

Having a circulation of about 2.834 million copies (including nearly 1,829,000 digital sales) as of August 2019, this leading US media house has further opined: “In December real-estate developers China Evergrande and Kaisa joined several other overleveraged firms in bankruptcy, exposing hundreds of billions in yuan- and dollar-denominated debt to default. Real estate represents around 30% of the Chinese economy, nearly twice the levels that led to the financial crisis of 2008-09 in the US, Spain and England.

More Chinese accomplishments:

With a population of more than 1.4 billion, China spans five geographical time zones and borders 14 different countries, the second most of any country in the world after Russia.

China, which was regarded as the world second wealthiest country sometime back, is the world’s largest economy by GDP at Purchasing Power Parity (US\$26.66 trillion) and the second largest economy by Nominal GDP (US\$16.64 trillion).

(Reference: Latest IMF reports)

Nuclear power China is the world’s largest manufacturer.

According to the Chinese Ministry for Industry and Information Technology, from 2012 to 2020, China's industrial value-added grew from 20.9 trillion yuan (\$3.24 trillion) to 31.3 trillion yuan, of which the manufacturing value-added grew from 16.98 trillion yuan to reach 26.6 trillion yuan.

In 2020, China exported approximately US\$2.6 trillion worth of goods, making it the world's largest exporter.

On July 9, 2021, German data website "Statista," had revealed: "China has become the largest manufacturing economy and the largest exporter in the world."

By the way, China has the world's largest-standing Army by military personnel.

On October 29, 2021, the "Al-Jazeera Television" had reported: "Once hailed by the Communist Party as having defeated past adversaries with only "millet plus rifles", the People's Liberation Army has now grown into the world's largest fighting force, with more than two million active personnel. Their air force has also grown into the largest in the Asia-Pacific region and the third largest in the world, with more than 2,500 aircraft and roughly 2,000 combat aircraft, according to an annual report by the US's Office of Secretary of Defense published last year."

The latest "Pentagon-China Military Power Report" reads: "Within its ranks, there are more than 915,000 active-duty troops in its ranks, dwarfing the US, which has about 486,000 active soldiers."

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, China's weapons exports went mostly to Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Algeria over the past decade.

The Swedish institution further propounded: "Over the same time period, China has also been one of the world's leading exporters of armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, with customers, including the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, China has the second-largest defence budget too. According to an "Al-Jazeera Television" report, for fiscal 2021, 1.36 trillion yuan (roughly \$209.16 billion) was allocated to defence - 6.8 percent more than last year. The Chinese defence budget was \$252 billion in 2020, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

China has become a central player in writing international rules for emerging technologies, particularly fifth-generation wireless, as part of a national effort to shape the playing field in its favour.

By April 2020, China had surpassed the United States to lead the world in international patent applications for the first time, while telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies topped the list of companies for a third straight year, the World Intellectual Property Organization revealed in Geneva.

(Reference: The Nikkei Asia)

On Feb 25, 2021, the globally-acclaimed German company specializing in market and consumer data, Messrs Statista, had revealed: “In 2019, there were around 13 million mobile 5G subscriptions worldwide, which was forecasted to surge to almost two billion by 2024. Among all the countries in the world, China was forecasted to lead the way in terms of the number of 5G connections throughout the next five years, where the market revenue will skyrocket from 0.6 trillion Yuans to over six trillion Yuans in this decade.”

In September 2021, the Chinese Ministry for Industry and Information Technology had claimed: “China has built more than one million 5G base stations, accounting for more than 70 percent of the world’s total, and 5G terminal users in China have exceeded 400 million who consist of the world’s largest user group.”

Chinese interests in Afghanistan:

Since 2010, China has increased its economic aid and investment in Afghanistan, notably with announcement by Metallurgical Corporation of China pledging \$3.5 billion to develop Aynak Copper mines. China has since been mining copper outside of Kabul.

An eminent website “Energy Post,” which primarily reports on the European and international energy sector, states that China had lent \$240 million in aid and pledged a similar amount over the next four years between 2012 and 2013.

In September 2021, China had pledged some 200 million Yuans (\$31m, £22m) worth of aid to Afghanistan, including food supplies and coronavirus vaccines.

(Reference: BBC News)

According to an Oct 13, 2021 report of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, China is no newcomer to the Afghan-Pak region. It shares a 57-mile-long border with Afghanistan.

This prestigious American policy think-tank asserts: “To date, China has invested an estimated US\$60 billion in CPEC-related ventures. But despite significant setbacks, the country has achieved with CPEC what the mighty Soviet Empire arguably wanted when it invaded Afghanistan — an outlet to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. Thus, securing its assets in Pakistan is of critical interest for China.”

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=38429>

December 25, 2021

Pakistan Observer

China’s foreign policy review 2021: An expert opinion

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

THE People’s Republic of China outperformed the West and especially the US in many fronts of engagements, conflicts resolution, peaceful persuasions of soft image projection and last but not the least cultural diplomacy in which its dynamic foreign ministry played very important role to

mitigate false and fake propaganda of the US and its regional allies as well as international supporters. Foreign Ministry of China constantly defused unjust escalations of the US and the West alike through logic, wisdom and rational dissemination of facts. It successfully mitigated the Western paramount hoopla against its mega project of One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) and even outclassed in case of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

It successfully countered corporate, technology, economic and social sanctions scenarios through pragmatic media projections. It even succeeded to disdain the West and the US on the issue of origin of COVID-19 virus, Beijing Winter Olympics boycott, Hong Kong democracy, Taiwan succession, Lithuania provocations, South China Sea demography, and last but not the least minorities issues. In addition to this it discredited the Western whoopla against so-called superiority of their democratic norms and rightly projected the unlimited blessings and socio-economic dividends of its socialist economy and people's friendly governance.

Most recently, while delivering a keynote speech during the opening ceremony of a Beijing-based annual symposium on international relations, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi rigorously reviewed China's diplomacy in 2021, and strongly defended China's principled stance on various issues and termed it right side of history. Wang Yi shared that year 2021 opened a new window of opportunities which changed global crises into opportunities and steadfastly forged ahead through struggle as well as cooperation. The Chinese Foreign Minister appreciated President Xi Jinping diversified but integrated diplomatic efforts in terms of building a community with a shared future for mankind, leading role of the Chinese people and the CPC with remarkable feature to adapt to changes properly and keep breaking new ground. He showcased Chinese policy essence consisting of serve national rejuvenation amidst a complex situation and advance peaceful development in a fast-changing world.

Wang highlighted holistic anti-COVID policies of China during the pandemic which fulfilled the responsibility of a major country. He urged the international community to enhance cooperation against the pandemic. In this regard, China has set a good example of COVID response through a "dynamic zero-COVID" strategy as well as a good example of solidarity against the pandemic through greater international cooperation. With concrete actions, we have spearheaded the path to emerging from the darkest hour of the pandemic and kept moving forward, he added.

He termed current vaccine divide as the biggest impediment to ending the pandemic, with only five percent of the population in low-income countries fully vaccinated. In this connection, President Xi Jinping has pledged another one billion doses of vaccines to Africa, including 600 million doses as donation, to support the African Union's goal of vaccinating 60 percent of the African population. It has injected new impetus into economic recovery and created new opportunities for common development.

Wang highlighted Chinese development-oriented solutions and dedicated efforts toward more robust, green and balanced global development. President Xi Jinping has officially put forth a Global Development Initiative aimed at enhancing all people's well-being and realizing all-round human development he added. The Chinese President prioritized the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, and stressed the need to have cooperation on poverty reduction, food security, COVID response and vaccines, development financing, climate change, green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity.

While talking on China's macro-economy, he shared that his country strongly boosted the global economic recovery. China has been actively participating in the World Trade Organization, the Boao Forum for Asia, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the China International Fair for Trade in Services and the China International Import Expo (CIIE) during which President Xi announced a series of new measures such as a shorter negative list, a more business-friendly environment and greater institutional opening-up, to open wider to the world and share China's development opportunities with other countries thus China remained hope of the last resort for regional socio-economic integration and global recovery. On the other hand, world has been divided and swinging between true and false multilateralism, however, China held high the torch of true multilateralism, and firmly upheld the authority of the UN and a stable international order and thus instrumental to discourage unilateralism.

China and the United States have explored a new mode of interaction based on mutual respect and equality. Since the beginning of this year, President Xi Jinping has had two requested telephone conversations with President Joe Biden, and the two presidents also held their first virtual meeting recently. President Xi Jinping gave comprehensive exposition of China's principled position on China-US relations. China and the European Union have overcome challenges and made new progress in their comprehensive strategic partnership. President Xi Jinping has attended two video summits with French and German leaders. A China-CEEC Summit has been held successfully via video link. The China-EU agreement on geographical indications has come into force. President Xi Jinping highlighted the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, spelt out four proposals for building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, and announced nine programs for cooperation with Africa.

Moreover, the strategic partnership between China and Arab states has scaled a new height. China has maintained close communication with Arab states at the leaders' level, and had interactions with the entire Arab world at the foreign-minister level. In this connection, China has proposed a five-point initiative on achieving security and stability in the Middle East, a four-point proposal for the political settlement of the Syrian issue, and a three-point vision for the implementation of the two-state solution, contributing positive energy to peace and stability in the Middle East. To conclude, China tried to stop the Cold War mentality, provoking division, confrontation and creating blocs and advocated solidarity and cooperation for the common well-being of mankind, win-win cooperation, equality and respect.

Despite constant indoctrination of the US and the West, China stood on the right side of history and worked for human progress, international equity and justice and promoted befitting proposition for all the developing countries. Moreover, China choose cooperation over confrontation, coordination over contradiction, collaboration over conspiracy, openness over isolation, mutual benefit over zero-sum game and equality over power politics and bullying.

China has selected the path of peaceful co-existence, concept of shared prosperity, socio-economic prosperity, socio-economic integration and greater regional connectivity.

This scribe highly appreciates China's leading role in fighting COVID-19, fragile economic recovery, promoting multilateralism, multiculturalism, equitable international order, accountable global governance system, nurturing and supporting of South-South cooperation and safeguarding regional peace and stability. This scribe suggests that China should take all possible measures to ensure success of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games, initiation of positive, productive and participatory steps to tackle challenges in the post-COVID era, implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and expansion of deepened global partnership in the days to come.

—The writer is Director, Geopolitics/Economics, Regional geopolitical expert of China, CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-foreign-policy-review-2021-an-expert-opinion-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

December 26, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese govt scholarships open to Pak students

Higher Education Commission (HEC) on behalf of the Government of Pakistan has been nominating students and scholars for Chinese Government Scholarship Programme 2022-23.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, online application submission, which HEC began in the first week of December, will end on January 3, 2022.

Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) is offering Pakistani students and scholars to study and conduct research in China's universities, aiming to enhance educational cooperation between the two countries.

CSC, which works under Chinese Ministry of Education, is responsible for the enrollment and the administration of the scholarship program. CSC sponsors international students, teachers and scholars to undertake degree studies from undergraduate to PhD including preparatory Chinese language studies for one year in some degree programs.

According to CSC program, the minimum monthly stipend for undergraduate students is ?2,500, while for Master's and doctoral students the stipend is ?3,000 and ?3,500, respectively. Any applicant, in good health, from Pakistan including Azad Jammu and Kashmir can avail the scholarship while dual nationality holders are not eligible to apply.

The Chinese designated universities offer a wide variety of academic programs in Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Medicine, Economics, Legal Studies, Management, Education, History, Literature, Philosophy and Fine Arts etc. for scholarship recipients at all levels.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/859675/chinese-govt-scholarships-open-to-pak-students/>

Pakistan's launches first national pavilion on China's e-commerce platform

Pakistan's National Pavilion on JD.com, China's famous e-commerce platform, was launched aimed at providing a useful platform to Pakistani and Chinese traders to promote Pakistan's high-quality products through China's huge online market. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque inaugurated Pakistan's first online national pavilion in China at a simple ceremony held at the Embassy of Pakistan.

Vice President of Prestige International, Sisy Ge, senior advisor of Prestige International, Luo Xiangdon and senior Pakistani officials were present.

While thanking the Prestige International on setting up Pakistan's online pavilion, Ambassador Haque said that in view of growing trade and business ties between Pakistan and China, the national pavilion would provide a useful platform to the Pakistani and the Chinese traders to promote Pakistani products through China's huge online market.

Ambassador Haque further said that while pavilion will serve as a starting point in further exploring excellent opportunities offered by the Chinese digital economy, it would also complement the efforts of the Pakistan's offline pavilions which have already been in active operation in various cities of China including Chengdu, Kunming, Urumqi Yiwu and Zhengzhou.

Moreover, this pavilion would also provide a window for promoting Pakistan's culture, cuisine, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges. Later, talking to APP, Ambassador Haque termed the launch of the pavilion on China's largest e-commerce platform a historic occasion.

He said that this online pavilion would give a very important platform for Pakistani traders as well as Chinese importers to promote Pakistani products to one of the largest markets in the world. He also mentioned that this platform would promote Pakistani products to the Chinese markets, adding, "Our traders and exporters can open their shops and introduce their products through this platform and Chinese importers can also sell their Pakistan products," he added.

Ambassador Haque remarked that China is already the world's largest e-commerce market and for Pakistani traders it is a very important time to benefit from this opportunity. "We are not only training our traders, raising awareness about this green e-commerce business in China but also doing their capacity building," he added. Responding to a question, he said that Pakistani food products, garments, leather products, sports goods and even furniture could be promoted through this online platform.

He said that the Prestige International is developing a bilingual app in both English and Chinese to bridge the language barrier and that the Pakistani traders could use this app to connect to this platform. Director, Prestige International, Tony hoped to successfully import high quality Pakistani products into the Chinese market with the cooperation of the Pakistani exporters and traders to showcase on the selling platforms.

“Our professional team will help the Pakistani traders to export their products into the Chinese markets and to connect them to the online platform,” he added. He said that his company is in the process of contacting several companies in Pakistan and hoped to get more and more contact information on the Pakistani enterprises.

He said that in the beginning, the Pakistani food products would be put on sale on this online platform but gradually all kinds of high quality products would be available. It is worth mentioning that as a comprehensive 2C online retailer in China, having 700 million active customers, JD.com is one of the most popular and influential e-Commerce platforms in China.

The launching ceremony was one of the events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/859819/pakistans-launches-first-national-pavilion-on-chinas-e-commerce-platform/>

Pakistan Observer

Invest in agriculture

TWO recent developments offer bright prospects for exploitation of greater potential of the agriculture sector as it can help resolve most pressing economic issues of the country.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has vowed to focus on enhancing per acre yield of crops by adopting better farming techniques and Sino-Pakistan cooperation in enhancing food security of the country and developing weather-resistant seeds for different crops.

Pakistan is gifted with enormous potential to grow but the resource constraints are forcing it to secure more loans to run its affairs and at the same time developmental allocations are reduced as a matter of routine every year to make room for compulsory expenditure.

In this backdrop, the two-pronged strategy of Prime Minister Imran Khan to focus on industrialization and agricultural growth is the best approach to address our financial and economic difficulties.

It is satisfying that the Government has embarked upon an ambitious programme to develop agriculture on modern lines at a cost of Rs. 110 billion over three years and to boost agriculture credit by 80pc to Rs2.7 trillion for almost doubling the grain harvest, increasing fruit and vegetable production five times, and trebling milk output.

Pakistan has fertile land and a vast irrigation system but crop productivity is very low as compared to other agricultural countries mainly because we ignored proper research and development. There is no doubt that Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has been working hard to introduce new and better varieties of various crops especially wheat, rice, maize, cotton and pulses but unfortunately it is not provided enough budget to carry out its activities at the optimum level.

The low priority given to PARC became evident from efforts made in the past to grab its land in Islamabad for developing a housing society.

Similarly, the famous University of Agriculture, Faisalabad has not received proper attention despite the fact that the institution contributed immensely to agricultural growth in the country.

In this backdrop, the commitment of the Prime Minister to invest heavily in good quality seeds and pesticides, credible research and development and technology transfer is reassuring and one hopes it will be followed by a substantial increase of funds for the purpose.

There is also a plan to import semen for free distribution among farmers to boost livestock productivity, supplying subsidized fertilizers, increasing the number of crops grown and encouraging fruit and vegetable production.

These measures apart, there are other serious issues that need immediate attention of the Government. Agriculture experts point out that high cost of production; low average yield and low quality produce are jointly providing space for imported products to occupy our local markets.

These issues are making Pakistan uncompetitive in the international markets and also affecting the welfare of local consumers adversely. There is also a tendency to use fertile agricultural land for establishment of housing societies besides cutting of fruit trees on large scale.

The United Nations predicts that the world will need to increase its food production by 70 percent by 2050 to feed a population expected to rise from 7 billion today to 9 billion.

This is particularly so in the case of Pakistan, the population of which has crossed 210 million and it is projected to grow to over 380 million by the year 2050, surpassing the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, and Russia to become the world's third largest country behind India and China.

The situation calls for a major investment on problem solving research, production technologies, rural infrastructure, capacity building of stakeholders, agriculture-based vocational institutions and incubators, and public-private partnership to help revitalize the agriculture sector.

China has a greater population and less arable land but has been able to take care of the food needs of its people by focusing on farming production and efficiency.

China and Pakistan have already arrived at an understanding to enter into meaningful cooperation in agriculture under the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and what we need is proper utilization of the opportunities offered by this understanding.

A collaborative framework should be prepared on war footings in close coordination with federal and provincial agriculture ministries/departments, PARC and agriculture universities. At the same time, work on construction of all feasible water reservoirs should be undertaken to guard against water shortages for irrigation.

<https://pakobserver.net/invest-in-agriculture/>

Chinese investment to help Pak overcome water shortage

Pakistan is now categorized as a water-scarce country, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ranking it the third among the water-stressed countries.

Several factors like increasing urbanization, agriculture, mismanagement of water system, droughts, reduced rainfalls, pollution and depleting of dams have contributed to the water crisis.

In Pakistan, 80 percent of people living in 24 major cities lack access to clean drinking water. In the slums of Karachi, 16 million people do not have access to running water.

The Indus River system authority (IRSA) has reported that the country wastes about USD18 billion worth of water every year just because there aren't enough proper storage facilities. Availability of surface water has decreased from 5,260 cubic meters per capita in 1951 to 1,000 cubic meters per capita in 2016. This figure may fall to about 860 cubic meters by 2025, which means Pakistan is moving from "water pressure" to "scarce water".

Pakistan is a country where no dams have been constructed since the decade of 1960s or over the last 50 years. Dam construction is capital-intensive and requires expertise, so no focus has been paid to this area.

In order to build big dams, especially along the Indus, to ensure an abundant supply of water for agriculture and power generation, the country has struggled to raise money from the international financial institutions (IFIs) but it is facing a host of obstacles in this regard.

In these pressing circumstances, China has turned up the trumps with the launch of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China will fund Pakistan to build five dams in the North Indus River Cascade costing \$50 billion. The Cascade is capable of generating 40,000MW of hydel power.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-investment-to-help-pak-overcome-water-shortage/>

The Nation

China, Pakistan cooperate in marine info research

ISLAMABAD - China and Pakistan are closely cooperating in marine information research and marine environmental data sharing.

This was stated at the third China-Pakistan Marine Information Workshop that was arranged by Harbin Engineering University and COMSATS University Islamabad to enhance the Sino-Pak cooperation in marine information.

It is to be mentioned here that as a comprehensive and interdisciplinary field, ocean information involves multiple areas including electronics, information, communication, computer science, network, artificial intelligence.

Due to the complexity and diversity, it is urgent to explore new mechanisms, theories and methods for acquiring and processing information, and achieve the effective the blending of different types of information.

Over the past few years, Harbin Engineering University has integrated its scientific research resources with those from Pakistani research institutes, including the establishment of China-Pakistan joint laboratories to develop cooperation in-depth.

Furthermore, increasingly more communication and exchanges of scholars, students and teaching staff between Harbin Engineering University and Pakistani research institutes in marine science are taking place.

After graduation, Pakistani students return to their motherland to pursue their career in industries related to underwater information technology, thus further deepening the cooperation between the two countries.

“In future, we will promote basic theoretical research and cutting-edge technology cooperation in marine information-related areas and marine environmental data sharing between China and Pakistan,” said

Prof. Qiao Gang, Dean of the College of Underwater Acoustic Engineering, Harbin Engineering University.

“We will advance ocean information through its integration with acoustic, optical, electrical, and magnetic technologies, making the vast ocean safe and controllable, which is an inevitable trend of ocean information technology’s development in the future.

We sincerely hope China and Pakistan could carry out more extensive cooperation in marine information technology in the days to come,” Yin Jingwei, Vice President of Harbin Engineering University remarked.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-26/page-4/detail-3>

December 27, 2021

Dawn News

Delay in Dhabeji industrial zone project irks CPEC Authority chief

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs Kha-lid Mansoor has expressed displeasure over the delay in taking off of the ambitious Dhabeji industrial zone (DIZ) in Thatta and said that three other special economic zones (SEZs) that are part of the corridor project were near completion.

Mr Mansoor, who is also the chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, told Dawn on Sunday that a judgment reserved by the Sindh High Court (SHC) on a petition challenging the award of a contract for developing the DIZ had further caused the delay in initiating the project.

The high court reserved its judgment on December 6 but has yet to announce it.

According to a notification, the winter holidays of the high court started from Sunday and will continue until Jan 9. “It is believed that the judgment will be announced after winter vacations of the court,” a senior official of Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC) said.

The CPEC Authority has already submitted an official statement to the SHC, expressing satisfaction over the bidding process and that no irregularity had been committed in the award of the contract.

Petition in SHC challenging award of contract is also believed to have impeded progress

An SEZMC document shows the Dhabeji industrial zone will be declared a special economic zone later since it is a part of the CPEC.

The multibillion project will be developed under public-private partnership by the successful bidder Zahir Khan & Brothers (ZKB) and the Sindh government.

The project, spread over 1,500 acres, is being executed in a joint collaboration with the federal government, the Sindh government and the CPEC Authority to make it a hub of major economic activity in the province.

The Sindh government received bids of the project in February this year. After a two-month evaluation period, one of the bids was challenged and was declared “technically unfit”. Therefore, the provincial government decided to hold re-bidding in which ZKB turned out to be the successful bidder and was issued the letter of award by the provincial government.

The award of the contract was challenged in the SHC with the plea that SEZ rules had not been followed in awarding the contract.

However, SAPM Khalid Mansoor said the petitioner had challenged the award of the contract on “very weak grounds” and “it is unfortunate that the project is still in the doldrums”.

“It is totally absurd that Dhabeji is not the part of CPEC,” Mr Mansoor said while rejecting the claim of the petitioner.

The Sindh government is of the view that since the DIZ has not been given the status of an SEZ, the rules of special economic zones were not applied to it.

In a meeting on November 23 on development projects in Sindh, Prime Minister Khan expressed a desire that all economic zones, including the Dhabeji industrial zone, should be completed as soon as possible.

Sources said the successful bidder had not yet signed an agreement with the Sindh government amid litigation.

Under the contract, the successful firm will undertake designing, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of the Dhabeji industrial zone on a build, own, operate and transfer basis.

The DIZ is located near the port city of Karachi, some 35 kilometers from the M-9 motorway, close to seaports of Bin Qasim Port and Karachi Port.

According to the layout plan, the DIZ will have 130 heavy industries, 145 medium industries, 211 light industries, 82 warehouses, commercial area, office area, mosques, grid stations, roads, lanes, recreation areas, captive power generation facility and intake points for telephone, gas and electric utility companies.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1665975>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese tech to help boost Pakistan's honey production

Beekeeping and honey production are environmentally favourable non-farming business activities with a huge potential to deliver a diverse range of economic benefits in Pakistan, but unfortunately, this sector is underdeveloped due to a host of factors, including pesticide-damaged nectariferous plants, non-application of current technologies, and a lack of certification resulting in low production.

In Pakistan, each beekeeper produces an average of 11.7kg of honey in 2019, compared to the global average of 20.6kg. Keeping in view a whole range of benefits in this sector, the government has conducted an exclusive analysis to devise a mechanism for improving the quality of honey production, providing livelihood to beekeepers, and sustaining activity through provision of financial resources.

According to the Prime Minister's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program, around 10,000 beekeepers are anticipated to use 300,000 colonies to produce 7,500 metric tonnes of honey per year. Using modern beekeeping equipment, training on the latest practices, standardisation and certification of the product, and intense marketing, the potential to generate 70,000 metric tonnes of honey from the same harvest could be increased. Pakistan is home to four different honeybee species, of which three are native to Pakistan and one western. *Apis Dorsata*, *Apis Cerana*, and *Apis Florea* are the native species found in a variety of biological zones around the country, while *Apis Mellifera* is a western species. Around 7,000 beekeepers are already raising *Apis Mellifera* in modern beehives. Pakistan expects to generate an income of Rs35 to Rs43 billion (around \$218 to \$267 million) and create over 87,000 green jobs from the sale of 70,000 metric tonnes of honey. The country's pleasant environment and bee flora provide an ideal potential for expansion of the beekeeping business. Beehive flora can support over 1,000,000 honeybee colonies and can be found in all provinces, including Northern regions, FATA, and AJK. With the growth of the beekeeping sector, more people are turning to self-employment as commercial beekeepers to supplement their income. Honey production is planned for locations with a lot of wild plantations and agricultural farms.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-tech-to-help-boost-pakistans-honey-production/>

December 28, 2021

Daily Times

60% of Pakistan's total fishery exports destined for China

Out of Pakistan's total fishery exports, 60 per cent are destined for China, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

The report says, that in the processing plant of a seafood company at the fish harbour of Karachi, workers are busying grading, cleaning, and packaging fresh shrimps. Twenty days later, they will make their appearance in some Chinese aquatic market.

From ribbon fish, croakers, cuttle fish, to shrimps, crabs, and lobsters, Chinese' appetite for aquatic products has been growing with a considerable momentum since 2013. "Fishery is a big and emerging industry in Pakistan", said Dr. Saeed Murtaza Hasan Andravi, Director Animal Sciences Institute NARC, Islamabad. It accounts for less than one percent of GDP, but provides vast employment opportunities for the under-developed in Pakistan.

Moreover, it can be a profitable profession and a promising means to earn foreign exchange.

Since aquatic products enjoyed tariff concession under the second phase of China Pakistan Free trade Agreement (CPFTA) implemented in Dec 2019, Pakistan's fishery sector witnessed a boom in terms of export. According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan's exports of frozen seafood were increased by 83.70% to \$73.947m in the first seven months of 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Statistics from Chinese customs show that in the first half this year, Pakistan's fish meal exports to China topped 20,000 tons with a value of over USD 20 million.

But still, more is expected out of these abundant aquatic resources, especially amid the pandemic. "In our seafood industry, we have 450 million dollar export at the time, but we can increase it to 1 billion dollar", envisaged Muhammad Zafar Kundi, Chairman of Pakistan Fisheries Export Association." The requirements for fishing in Pakistan have not yet been met as in other countries because people are using traditional methods and they are living a hand to mouth life", observed Irfan Ahmad, Incharge of Karachi Fisherman Cooperative Society.

Most of Pakistani aquatic exports are captured fishes. Unlike processed products, they faced a lot of uncertainties. A net, a boat, and an engine—these are all the tools used by some fishermen. Unequipped by modern devices, they face the challenges of unpredictable waters and weathers. Engines can be damaged, wind may overthrow the boats, net can get torn, and people can get drowned... "We sometimes go deep into the ocean. If we are unable to find fish, then we have to bear the loss", complained a fisherman based in Karachi." If we have up-to-date cameras as China does and learn how to use them, we can find targets relying on the advanced technology instead of the old experiences", Bashir Mahmood, a fisherman at Gwadar said.

Freshness is another important dimension of keeping the value of captured fishes. Statistics show that over 60% of the captured fishes are wasted as they have already been dead by the time they reach the market and can only be sold as fish meal. The United Nations estimates that Pakistan is losing \$60 million annually due to low-value cost.” We are still using old methods that consume more electricity and add to the expenses. There is only one factory that has just started working on nitrogen-based quick freezing. We should use the latest technology because it freezes products fast and maintains their quality”, suggested Muhammad Rafique Awan, CEO of Hei5 International Food Pakistan. “For inshore fishing, acquisition vessels, mostly provided by cold-chain logistics companies, are getting popular in China these years. With adequate freezing facilities, more fish can be saved from being wasted”, introduced Cui He, Chairman of China Aquatic Products Processing and Marketing Alliance.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/860441/60-of-pakistans-total-fishery-exports-destined-for-china/>

Pakistan Observer

China helping boost e-commerce in Pakistan

A paradigm shift has been observed in the e-commerce landscape of Pakistan which has been further fueled by the Covid-19 pandemic.

E-commerce is essentially the sale and purchase of goods through electronic mediums. While the startup ecosystem is getting a boost in Pakistan in general, e-commerce may be one of the phenomenally well-performing sectors. One of the reasons for the recent boom of the e-commerce streams in Pakistan is the ease of doing internet-based businesses.

Pakistan has improved in terms of doing business. On the World Bank’s index, Pakistan’s ranking rose from 136 to 108 in the year 2021. The government of Pakistan has been taking initiatives – like the Kamyab Jawan programme – to foster entrepreneurship. However, a lot of obstacles still exist. The cost of doing business is high although Pakistan is one of the cheapest countries and has been a hub of outsourcing for developed countries. The legal and regulatory framework adds to the problems of small business owners who do not have sufficient resources to compete with large businesses.

One of the roadblocks for startups is the informal economy of Pakistan. Some reports estimate the undocumented economy to be as large as 50% of the current GDP. This entails that a large segment of the population is unbanked. Mobile banks like EasyPaisa and JazzCash – while increasing in popularity – still have a low penetration in the market.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-helping-boost-e-commerce-in-pakistan/>

The Express Tribune

China seeks conservation of grotto temples in Pakistan

Beijing's cultural administration earlier signed agreements with Islamabad for cross-border exchange

China's National Cultural Heritage Administration has said that closer links will be forged between the Chinese grotto temples and their overseas counterparts along the ancient Silk Road.

Earlier this year, the national administration signed cooperation agreements with its counterparts in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran to improve cross-border exchanges on the conservation of grotto temples.

"This would improve people-to-people connectivity," Director of China National Administration Li Qun projected while addressing a conference, China Daily reported on Monday.

A total of 635 grotto temples have been newly found across China in the first nationwide investigation on the status of these ancient sites.

According to the study, which was launched in September 2020, there are 5,986 grotto temple sites in the country.

In the list, 288 sites have been registered as national-level key heritage sites, and 417 were under provincial-level protection. The investigation was conducted by over 2,400 researchers in 28 provincial-level regions.

Grotto temples, which are religious sites carved into mountains or rock, were introduced to China along the ancient Silk Road in the 3rd century, and gradually became a key form of Chinese Buddhist art in the following millennium.

In 2019 and 2020 on various occasions, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasised the importance of the study and preservation of such sites to demonstrate their philosophy and values, as well as the history of Sino-foreign cultural communication.

In October last year, China's State Council released the country's first national-level guidance for the protection of grotto temples. A blueprint to protect and study grotto temples in China during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) was released by the National Cultural Heritage Administration earlier this month.

According to Li Qun, 14 provincial-level administrative regions had also drafted their own detailed plans for the protection of grotto temples since 2020. A group of new institutions and academies overseeing the sites had been newly established in provinces such as Sichuan and Shaanxi.

The wide geographic distribution of the sites, many of which are in remote areas, and their age make the efforts to protect them all the more challenging.

For example, in Sichuan, over one-third of the province's grotto temples face the potential hazard of unstable rocky foundations.

A lack of facilities and personnel taking care of and studying these sites is another problem. In Sichuan, research academies have been established to deal with just five sites, and only 112 grotto temples across the country have dedicated security facilities.

In most provinces, no more than 10 per cent of their grotto temples are regularly supervised by teams of professionals.

As many as 3,361 grotto temples, over half of the total, have not been registered as any level of key protected units.

Li vowed that the protection and conservation of the medium- and small-scale grottoes will be a focus during the 14th Five-Year Plan period. A national-level database to oversee the registered sites is also due to go online.

In addition, the protection of these sites can also be part of the broader effort to revitalise rural areas through tourism.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2335858/china-seeks-conservation-of-grotto-temples-in-pakistan>

The Nation

Pakistan strategically aligned with China, ties with US tactical: Speakers

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is strategically aligned with China while its relationship with the US is tactical, multidisciplinary experts asserted during a national conference titled 'Ongoing Sino-US contestation and future trajectory of US-Pak relations.'

The conference was organised under the banner of Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR), an Islamabad based think tank.

The panellists included Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator PML-N; Prof Dr Rifaat Hussain, Head Department of Government Policy and Public Administration at Pakistan's National University of Sciences and Technology; Ambassador (Retd) Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies Centre at the NUST School of Social Sciences & Humanities; Faheem Sardar, Senior Policy Specialist, SPPC, NSD Pakistan; Qamar Cheema, a faculty member at the Department of International Relations in the National University of Modern Languages Islamabad. Sabah Aslam, Executive Director IICR gave her opening remarks and welcomed guests and panellists whereas Senator Hussain moderated the working session.

In his opening address Mushahid Hussain remarked that current trends indicate that China has the strength, skill and ambition to exceed the United States in artificial intelligence within next ten years.

While citing Ash Centre report on China published in July 2020, he said that 85 percent of Chinese respondents were satisfied with the system in place in China under the Communist Party of China (CPC). While discussing the dichotomy between the global political behaviour of both Washington and Beijing, he said that US foreign policy has been indulged in waging war on terror whereas on the other hand, China avoided walking on the same path and steered its foreign policy towards economic excellence and mutual development.

He said that there is a need to develop a broad-based relationship with China. “Pakistan must develop strategic clarity first and then draw clear red lines. The relation must be based on equality, reciprocity and protection of core interests,” Mushahid Hussain said.

While in his address Faheem Sardar, Senior Policy Specialist, SPPC, NSD Pakistan, emphasised that conflicts and economics are twin brothers and all wars have an economic aspect attached to them.

He said, “A conflict is destined to emerge when it is economically feasible, and this applies to inter-state conflicts as well.” Highlighting the role of economics in creating the geopolitical scenario, Faheem Sardar said that wars meet their end when they are no longer feasible.

He said that Pakistan and the United States have never had a direct conflict and their relationship has always been tactical rather than strategic.

While recommending Sardar said that although conflicts are inevitable and have a direct linkage with economic interdependence, a balance must be drawn so that the threshold or the red line is not crossed. Pakistan as a rising nation needs clarity, whether we want economic interdependence or something else.

“Economics and trade remain the best relationship builder and softener. Economics creates a pathway for traction, growth and mutual benefit. Pakistan can exist with trade and conflict with countries, China and India are at each other throats over certain borders but a few 100 kilometres they are trading in billions.” Faheem Sardar added.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador (Retd) Syed Hasan Javed said that there is no brawl because the contest has already been decided and China is the victim of that contest.

Commenting on the US dilemma, he said that it is no more debatable that US is in a deep trouble nowadays. “The 20th century was American century but now they have lost the credibility and battle of ideas because of its few major blunders,” said Javed.

Similarly referring to China dilemma, he said that China has no strategic competition and is totally against nuclearisation. He said that China does not want a cold war, “China is against forming allies for US enmity and believes in dialogue and wants democracy.

Hasan Javed then shared his views about Pakistan dilemma and stressed that Pakistan cannot be dictated by anyone, and the US is doing every possible political act to pressurise Islamabad. Lastly, he said that the “21st century” belongs to China and Pakistan is the “key”.

Qamar Cheema, while sharing his views about China’s economic excellence, said that China has developed itself without going into war or colonisation, instead it focused upon shared destiny through economics. Referring to the statistical analysis, he said that, according to data, China’s economy will surpass that of the United States by 2030.

While mapping about Pakistan’s strategic options, he said that Pakistan should concentrate on the Asia Pacific area and avail all available opportunities. Pakistan may strengthen its

connections with African nations through CPEC and BRI, and use the OIC forum to gain influence in the Middle East and Africa, said Cheema.

The last speaker on the panel Prof Dr Rifaat Hussain, while talking about Afghanistan in the Sino-US equation, emphasised that the metaphor of rising power China versus declining power like US is misleading, as it ignores the current realities of power.

Bringing an academic lens to the discussion, Dr Hussain said that Islamabad should maintain a policy of equidistance in the emerging competition between China and the US. Suggesting further he said that it is a fact that India has become a preferred US partner in the region and Pakistan will have to choose between China and America and Pakistan is apparently not left with options.

In his concluding remarks Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, urged Pakistan to develop strategic clarity and clear red lines to develop a relationship based on equality, reciprocity and protection of core interests.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-28/page-3/detail-13>

The News

CPEC and future of investment

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

A new wave of propaganda is going on against CPEC and Chinese investment in Pakistan. The campaign has got impetus after Pakistan's refusal to become a part of any bloc at the international level. The actors of campaign are criticizing not only the CPEC investment but also the brotherly relationship between Pakistan and China. They are openly asking Pakistan to reevaluate the relationship with China and blame China for Pakistan's problems. Although, the campaign has been going on for a long time but this time new actors have been deployed to propagate at a wider scale. They have been given the task to correlate Pakistan's economic problems with CPEC and blame China for the economic crisis of Pakistan.

First of all, the energy sector has been picked up to malign the CPEC and Chinese investment. It is the prime target of propaganda. The critics did not analyze the facts and data, but they started the campaign. They conveniently forget that Chinese investment came at a time when no one was ready to invest in Pakistan. Load shedding was rampant across the country. Industry was closing down or shifting out of Pakistan due to load shedding. Bangladesh was the new destination for many Pakistani investors and industrialists. People were losing their jobs due to closure or shifting of industry. Jobs became a scarce commodity and youth of the country was pushing Pakistan to create more jobs.

Load shedding also agitated people and they started to protest in various parts of the country. According to Vision 2025 of Pakistan, Pakistan was losing US\$4-5 billion annually due to electricity load shedding. The calculations were made on the basis of major industries like textile

and others. Pakistani exports also started to decline. The household losses were more severe, as livelihoods of people were directly impacted. Youth was another segment, which was impacted severely due to lack of job opportunities.

Pakistan was desperate to secure investment from anywhere. Our friendly countries refused to recognize the needs of Pakistan and turned a blind eye towards Pakistan. They added salt to injury by introducing sanctions like FATF on the basis of so-called allegations. They did not stop here. They started to launch malicious campaigns against Pakistan. The Western media joined hands and kept on airing and printing malicious stories against Pakistan. They created such an environment where Pakistan looked like a fragile state and dangerous place to invest. It severely impacted the image of the country and investors refused to invest in Pakistan. The opponents wanted to pressurise Pakistan and compel her to accept all the demands of the West. Pakistan was running pole to pole to find any investment but not with much success. In this frantic situation, China extended its hand of friendship and offered to invest in Pakistan.

Unfortunately, the critics refused to recognize this, and they started to present the Chinese investment in energy sector as a source of circular debt, which is not true. First of all, the Chinese companies invested in Pakistan according to the domestic policy and laws of Pakistan. Second, the Chinese companies were not given any special concessions. Third, the Chinese companies were entertained according to the Power Policy of 1994, which was operational decades before the Chinese investment. If there is any problem, that is in Power Policy 1994, which was hailed by the West as one of the best policies. Fourth, in reality, the basic cause of circular debt is the Power Policy 1994, which has tied the hands of Pakistan. It was criticized by many experts and politicians. It has given rise to the problem of circular debt, which is impacting the country severely. Unfortunately, no political party tried to refine or change it. Although, the PML-N was a staunch opponent of this policy, but they did not touch it, even in 1997 when the PML-N had 2/3 majority. The government of President Musharraf also did not give any heed towards it.

Second, there is a lot of noise about the debt crises of Pakistan and some people tried to tag it with the Chinese investment. The opponents have also invented the terminology of debt trap. However, facts tell us that share of CPEC debt in total Pakistani debt is less than 5 percent and rest of the debt belongs to IMF, World Bank, Paris Club and other sources. Besides, the major chunk of CPEC projects comes under the category of investment and FDI. The data of committed and proposed projects till 2020 shows that from US\$52 billion, the loans constitutes only US\$11 billion and rest of the projects are investment projects. It is common sense that debt is different from FDI. So, the question is how investment can be a debt trap? Thus, the argument of CPEC debt has no weight or value.

In reality, the CPEC related investment and debt are helping Pakistan to break the shackles of the debt trap, which have been woven by the IMF, World Bank and other Western institutes. Investments and debt under the CPEC are productive in nature, which are helping Pakistan to expand economy and revenue base.

Third, the protest of Gwadar situation also gave a chance to the opponents to propagate against the CPEC and China. The analysis of facts shows that Gwadar work, which was committed by the Chinese companies and government, has been completed or near completion. The Gwadar Port is now operational, and it is helping Pakistan to improve connectivity with world. It has also emerged as one of the most suitable options for the regional landlocked countries like Afghanistan and Central Asian states. Regrettably, the work which the Government of Pakistan had to take on is in shambles. The Gwadar Development Authority is unable to deliver on the assigned task. On top of that, the mismanagement of fishing sector created anxiety among the locals. The emergence of new mafias has complicated the situation. They are disturbing the fishing habitats and impacting the livelihoods of the fishing community. It led to an agitation by the local fishing community against these mafias. Unfortunately, the opponents of CPEC were trying to tag it with China and CPEC with the purpose to undermine both.

Fourth, CPEC-related investment also helped Pakistan to improve the transport infrastructure. Owing to NATO supply through Pakistan, the road infrastructure was in a bad shape and Pakistan was in dire need of investment. Pakistan also required the new investments for building new transport infrastructure. The investment from China has provided a chance to Pakistan to rehabilitate and build new infrastructure, which has improved the connectivity of the country.

Fifth, it is pertinent to highlight that CPEC is not only helping Pakistan to come out of infrastructure problems but also paving way for the future development of Pakistan. It is a well-established fact that better infrastructure and connectivity always help attract foreign direct investment. Pakistan has already started to reap the benefits of improved infrastructure and many global companies are now showing interest to invest in Pakistan. Pakistan can benefit from the opportunity by improving the domestic business environment.

Thus, from the above discussion we can infer that propaganda against CPEC does not have any data or facts; it is only built on the basis of self-assumed assumptions. Therefore, Pakistanis should ignore this rumor-based propaganda.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=39752>

December 29, 2021

Daily Times

China to work with Pakistan to strengthen e-commerce, digital trade

The Chinese foreign ministry on Tuesday welcomed the launching of the Pakistan Pavilion on JD.com, one of the most popular and influential e-Commerce platforms in the Chinese online market. Foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that China was ready to work with Pakistan to strengthen cooperation in cross border e-commerce and digital trade.

“I have noticed the relevant information and welcomed this. We are ready to work with Pakistan to continue strengthening our cooperation in cross-border e-commerce and digital trade

cooperation,” Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP.

On December 24, Pakistan’s first online national pavilion on JD.com was launched aimed at providing a useful platform to Pakistani and Chinese traders to promote Pakistani high-quality products through China’s huge online market.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque inaugurated the pavilion on the e-commerce platform at a simple ceremony held at the Embassy of Pakistan.

Zhao Lijian remarked that China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends and brothers. Since 2011, China has become the largest trading partner of Pakistan. The exports from Pakistan to China are also on fast growth, he added.

The spokesperson said that the Chinese side was ready to work with Pakistan to continue strengthening our cooperation in cross-border e-commerce and digital trade.

“We support more quality and specialties from Pakistan to the Chinese market and take concrete actions to promote high quality development of bilateral trade cooperation to develop more benefits to our two people,” he added. Talking to APP, Ambassador Haque said that in view of growing trade and business ties between Pakistan and China, the national pavilion would provide a useful platform to Pakistani and Chinese traders to promote Pakistani products through China’s huge online market.

He said that while the pavilion would serve as a starting point in further exploring excellent opportunities offered by the Chinese digital economy, it would also complement the efforts of Pakistan’s offline pavilions which have already been in active operation in various cities of China including Chengdu, Kunming, Urumqi Yiwu, and Zhengzhou.

“Moreover, this pavilion would also provide a window for promoting Pakistan’s culture, cuisine, tourism, and people to people exchanges,” he added.

While terming the launching of the pavilion on China’s largest e-commerce platform a historic occasion, he said that this online pavilion would give a very important platform for Pakistani traders as well as Chinese importers to promote Pakistani products to the one of the largest markets in the world.

Ambassador Haque also mentioned that this platform would promote Pakistani products to the Chinese markets.

“Our traders and exporters can open their shops and introduce their products through this platform and Chinese importers can also sell their Pakistan products,” he added. Ambassador Haque observed that China was already the world’s largest e-commerce market and for Pakistani traders, it was a very important time to benefit from this opportunity.

“We are not only training our traders, raising awareness about this green e-commerce business in China but also doing their capacity building,” he added.

He said that Pakistani food products, garments, leather products, sports goods, and even furniture could be promoted through this online platform. He informed that a bilingual app in both English and Chinese was being developed to bridge the language barrier and the Pakistan traders could use this app to connect to this platform.

It is worth mentioning that as a comprehensive 2C online retailer in China, having 700 million active customers, JD.com is one of the most popular and influential e-Commerce platforms in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/861166/china-to-work-with-pakistan-to-strengthen-e-commerce-digital-trade/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese tech to help boost Pakistan's honey production

Beekeeping and honey production are environmentally favourable non-farming business activities with a huge potential to deliver a diverse range of economic benefits in Pakistan, but unfortunately, this sector is underdeveloped due to a host of factors, including pesticide-damaged nectariferous plants, non-application of current technologies, and a lack of certification resulting in low production.

In Pakistan, each beekeeper produces an average of 11.7kg of honey in 2019, compared to the global average of 20.6kg. Keeping in view a whole range of benefits in this sector, the government has conducted an exclusive analysis to devise a mechanism for improving the quality of honey production, providing livelihood to beekeepers, and sustaining activity through provision of financial resources.

According to the Prime Minister's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program, around 10,000 beekeepers are anticipated to use 300,000 colonies to produce 7,500 metric tonnes of honey per year.

Using modern beekeeping equipment, training on the latest practices, standardisation and certification of the product, and intense marketing, the potential to generate 70,000 metric tonnes of honey from the same harvest could be increased.

Pakistan is home to four different honeybee species, of which three are native to Pakistan and one western. *Apis Dorsata*, *Apis Cerana*, and *Apis Florea* are the native species found in a variety of biological zones around the country, while *Apis Mellifera* is a western species. Around 7,000 beekeepers are already raising *Apis Mellifera* in modern beehives.

Pakistan expects to generate an income of Rs35 to Rs43 billion (around \$218 to \$267 million) and create over 87,000 green jobs from the sale of 70,000 metric tonnes of honey.

The country's pleasant environment and bee flora provide an ideal potential for expansion of the beekeeping business. Beehive flora can support over 1,000,000 honeybee colonies and can be found in all provinces, including Northern regions, FATA, and AJK.

With the growth of the beekeeping sector, more people are turning to self-employment as commercial beekeepers to supplement their income. Honey production is planned for locations with a lot of wild plantations and agricultural farms.

Chakwal, Mianwali, Attock, Sargodha, and Daska in the Punjab province are great locations for honey bee cultivation, while Karak, Kohat, Swat, Bannu, and Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are the best. According to experts, a few places in Sindh, including Thatta, Sujawal, MirpurKhas, Hyderabad, and Gularchi, are suited for honey production.

In 2020, Pakistan's export of commodity group "0409" (natural honey) was worth \$9.8 million. Export of 0409 increased by 18.3 percent in 2019. This category accounted for 0.044 percent of overall exports (total merchandise exports from Pakistan in 2020 were \$22 billion). In comparison with 2019, the share of 0409 in total exports increased by 0.009 percent (it was 0.034 percent in 2019 and cumulative exports from Pakistan increased by 0.009 percent).

According to a report produced by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Information Cooperation (CPAIC), Pakistan's honey productivity has the potential to increase tenfold.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) figures, roughly 390,000 people in Pakistan are active in beekeeping and they annually produce around 4,000 tonnes of honey.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), if the current production technology and standard production techniques are used, the country's honey production is estimated to increase to 70,000 tonnes per year, creating over 87,000 green jobs. However, due to low yield and low prices, the full potential of this lucrative business has yet to be realised.

China, which has been the world's top honey producer for many years, is prepared to offer its large-scale apiculture, nectariferous plant growing, bee breeding, and other skills to Pakistan.

According to a Pakistani industry insider, exports currently account for only 20% of overall production. If the industry is modernised, sales will increase by a factor of 20. While introducing Chinese techniques and production methods, Pakistan can sell by-products such as bee milk, beeswax, and propolis to the Chinese market, which have significantly higher value than honey.

Research conducted by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Information Platform (CPAIC) has advised that the government should intervene in beekeeping areas, improve the industry value chain, and connect beekeepers to regional and national markets.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-tech-to-help-boost-pakistans-honey-production-2/>

Green BRI & Protection of Ecological Environment

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Increasing global temperatures, abrupt melting down of glaciers, high carbon footnotes, constant decrease in agriculture productivity and last but not least depleting water levels all indicate urgent need of green economic development, rise to renewables and befitting proposition of productive channels in the world.

In this regard, the Chinese One Belt, One Road Initiative (BRI) being the project of the century has been further transformed into green.

Thus green is the means of human survival, safe productive channels and a befitting proposition for the protection of the ecological environment in the days to come.

Most of the participating countries of the BRI are developing countries and emerging economies which badly need a comprehensive policy and holistic approach for sustainable economic development through green mode of production and growth alike.

According to the latest data (December 2021), these countries account for 31 percent of the global GDP, but constitute about 62pc of the world's population due to which their ecological environments and biodiversity are very fragile.

Unfortunately, 58 percent of the world's deserts are also concentrated in the connecting areas of the BRI.

BRI is the modern replica of the ancient historical Silk Road which had been famous for its international transmission channel for dust and pollutants.

Even before inclusion to BRI, balancing environmental protection and economic development was a persistent challenge for these countries.

So it is inevitable and necessary for China to transform the development model of "polluting first and then treating" to "developing while treating through various holistic policies to reduce levels of climate change in these countries.

In this connection, environmental protection has become one of the important areas in BRI which is reflected in providing the necessary resources and environmental support for economic activities.

Since its inception, China has played a leading role of "Green Lead" from the perspective of the green industry.

In addition, it helped the BRI countries communicate better to build consensus to achieve the desired goals of ecological environment in these countries.

Fortunately, the environmental protection projects in BRI are not just engineering projects and facilities, but also involve themes of economy, policy, law, platform construction and other aspects.

In this context, China has successfully institutionalized the concepts of environmental pollution control; nuclear and radiation safety, climate change adaptation and mitigation; environmental tracking and evaluation of major project; development of environmental protection industry; development of green financial instruments and last but not least, promotion of environmental awareness training, etc.

in these participating countries and thus initiated noble concept of green BRI.

In addition to this, environmental protection policies and measures in BRI are mostly related to urban development.

The environmental protection measures are directly related to sites. The Lancang-Mekong environmental cooperation project is the prime example as it passes through six countries and is an important economic growth belt in Southeast Asia.

Along the Lancang-Mekong River, there are important cities such as Qamdo and Jinghong in China, Vientiane and Pakse in Laos, and Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

China initiated numerous measures like the top-level design of sustainable use of water resources, air and water pollution prevention, and the ecological health of the river basin can be guaranteed, which is crucial to the sustainable development of the city cluster.

The Yangtze River Delta Ecological and Green Development Strategy, the Bohai Rim urban agglomeration in China, the Baikal Basin City Cluster in Russia and so on are the prime examples of green BRI in these countries.

The BRI forwarded stricter requirements for the environment of node cities. Urban green space construction is an important way to promote green urbanization and enhance the urban environment.

In this connection, the “Park City” in Chengdu in China is one of the prime examples, which emphasizes the importance of “ecological value”, which is an ideal city construction model that takes urban green space system and park system, park-oriented urban and rural ecological pattern and scene as the basic and pre-configuration elements of urban and rural development.

China also proposed a new plan of afforestation and urban forest construction of one million mu (164736.9 acres) in 2018 which is on the rise.

Internationally, the BRI cooperation projects are mainly focused on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, such as the China-Laos cross-border biodiversity conservation corridor, etc., which has a weak direct relationship with the improvement of the urban ecological environment.

Urbanization projects like industrial parks, eco-tourism areas, and new urban districts are the focus of cooperation among countries along the BRI.

Along BRI, the construction of ecological and green development demonstration zones can have a wider influence and may form urban construction templates for other cities.

Now China has launched the construction of the first green development demonstration zone, the China-Singapore Eco-City in Tianjin, which is 30 square kilometers in large, with a planned population of 350,000 inhabitants.

The eco-city is located in coastal saline-alkali land, and the planning requires that green buildings and clean energy use ratio reaches 100 percent.

The renewable energy utilization rate strives to reach 20 percent. Despite the problems of the sustainability of saline-alkali land reconstruction, this exploration path is worthy of recognition.

Moreover, Beijing Green Development Demonstration Area, the Leading demonstration zone of ecological civilization in Tianfu New District of Chengdu and so on all indicate the existence of green BRI.

“The construction of eco-city and green demonstration areas are also gradually being promoted in typical cities such as the China-Belarus Industrial Park of Belarus in Minsk, and in Gwadar too.

To conclude, China’s BRI has been described as the largest infrastructure project in history, affecting around 60pc of the global population.

Whilst promoting a narrative of connectivity, growth and “win-win partnerships”, the project has received opposing assessments regarding its wider impact, particularly in the environmental domain which has now been mitigated through announcing and implementing diversified but integrated green policies within the domain of BRI in all the participating countries around the globe.

Despite Western propaganda many regional as well as international research studies confirm that the BRI is recognised as instrumental in meeting global CO2 emission targets.

Fortunately, Chinese President Xi Jinping committed to create a green and sustainable BRI in 2016.

It followed the implementation of the concept of ecological civilization introduced in the Constitution of the Communist Party in 2012.

Consequently, Xi promised to pursue climate change cooperation and oversee China’s renewable energy transformation in 2013.

In the framework of “greening the BRI”, Chinese banks (NDB, AIIB, Silk Road Fund) involved in funding BRI projects have tried to include this concept in their investments, by creating their own befitting environmental policies.

Afterwards, Beijing has launched green financing initiatives to encourage both Chinese and international banks to finance the BRI.

In this regard, the Singapore branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China issued the first green BRI Bond worth 2.2 billion US dollars during April 2019.

More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused considerable financial distress for many BRI participant countries due to which Chinese banks and private companies have started a refinancing process to help these countries to achieve the desired goals of green BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/green-bri-protection-of-ecological-environment-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Need of the Hour: Skilled workforce in Gwadar

N.Zafar

THE Gwadar Port is bestowed to play an instrumental role in spurring maritime activity at the national as well as regional level.

Its associated benefits are expected to boost the socio-economic development of coastal communities all along the Makran Coast.

Realizing the need for skilled and qualified workforce in various emerging maritime industries, a full-fledged Technical and Vocational Training Institute is being developed as part of the CPEC plan to support the envisioned economic expansion.

The trained locals with requisite capabilities will add into efficient functioning and sustainability of the Gwadar Port and associated China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

There is no doubt that without developing a training facility; aforesaid initiatives would not accrue the desired outcomes.

Therefore, Vocational Training Institute (VTI) has been given high importance both in the CPEC-led initiatives and at the level of the Government of Pakistan.

The success of any vocational training institute is directly dependent upon certain factors such as the size of the local population, prospects of economic growth and future industrial expansion.

Therefore, keeping in view the demographic and geographic setting in Gwadar, the upcoming training facility at Gwadar must pursue some rationales.

For instance, development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ's) in Gwadar under CPEC will be driving the industrial expansion in the region; therefore the primary training plans under VTI should revolve around the prospective growth of enterprises in these Zones.

Second, since economic activities at Gwadar are mainly related to the maritime domain, therefore shortage of trained workforce in maritime sectors can also be addressed through this initiative, particularly in the context of the blue economy which is closely linked with the progress and empowerment of coastal communities.

With the expansion of business at Gwadar and increased travel, we expect substantial growth in the tourism industry in the area.

Therefore, before proposing skill training for workers in the hospitality industry, it is essential to bridge the communication gap.

Basic language skills (Balochi, Brahvi, Chinese, English and Urdu) are considered essential for people working in local businesses, travel and tourism-sector industry.

Furthermore, training for hotel management, hotel operations, travel agents, clerical work, transport management, culinary skills, baking, cooking, sanitary and cleaning, event management, basic accounts and revenue handling should be considered and carried out.

All these trainings and courses will not only be helpful in the promotion of travel and tourism but also support other auxiliary sectors such as the overall economy of the country.

The fishermen community represents a large segment of the local population, so trainings related to sustainable fishing practices and catch handling can be included in the training plan.

Initially, to make the vocational training initiative economically viable and sustainable, trainings in the field of refrigeration, generator repairs and maintenance, caning and packing, boat engine repair and maintenance can be considered.

Such programmes/courses will not only fill the gap of trained people in the existing pool of workers but will also make a base for advanced or specialized training for the fishing community.

Similarly, courses related to seafood handling, fish seeding, farming, mari-culture can also be added to empower the local community which will enable them to explore avenues for sustainable earning opportunities from the sea.

Collection and farming of marine vegetation and other marine products like salt, shells etc., is also an untapped maritime potential that can be explored for economic development.

In addition to the above, the lack of skilled manpower in two big maritime industries of Pakistan – Shipbreaking and Shipbuilding – should also be taken into account keeping in view the Government's decision of establishing a new shipyard and vision to transform the shipbreaking industry into a sustainable environmental friendly sector of the national economy.

In this regard, basic skills like crane operations, welding, handling of hazardous material, fire fighting etc., will be of great use to create a pool of workers to work in these industries.

Besides, there are some courses such as basics of Supply Chain, Finance Management, Accounting and First Aid which are not inherently part of the maritime sector but are important skills which ultimately complement other all type of industries.

Balochistan is the least developed province of Pakistan with a deficit in human resources, especially there is a huge lack of technically empowered people.

Therefore, the establishment of a vocational training institute is critically significant as viability and sustainability of development projects at Gwadar will likely be hampered due to non-availability of requisite manpower.

Establishment of skill development and training facilities will enable locals to become part of emerging job and employment opportunities offered by the CPEC.

Moreover, the existing misperception that the projects under CPEC benefit only people outside Balochistan and sense of deprivation amongst locals will also be addressed through this initiation.

<https://pakobserver.net/need-of-the-hour-skilled-workforce-in-gwadar-by-n-zafar/>

The Nation

Speakers for strengthened Pak-China cooperation, BRI

ISLAMABAD - A nine-nation webinar on Tuesday saw benefits in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and rejected any 'New Cold War.'

The Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) hosted the extraordinary nine-nation conference on regional economic connectivity themed on 'Belt and Road Cooperation: Promoting People-to-People Bond.'

The Webinar was attended by the representatives from 'Friends of Silk Road' organisations of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand plus representatives of think-tanks from Indonesia, Philippines and China.

The speakers, representing various walks of life called for strengthening multilateral cooperation, promoting the BRI as it represents shared interests of Asian countries.

They also put forth suggestions for high quality development of the BRI through exchanges and consultations. The nine countries agreed to institutionalize their interaction, counter disinformation and fake news, and rejected any notion of a 'New Cold War'.

The webinar was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of PCI. He said that 'Friends of Silk Road Pakistan' since its launch in 2019, has provided both a better understanding and information about benefits and numerous opportunities arising out of the BRI through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, said that BRI, through CPEC benefits the people. He said that BRI is not directed against any country and termed it as a win-win model of cooperation, since it is inclusive and aims to promote connectivity.

The year 2021, he remarked, was an important year in the history of Communist Party of China since it marked the centenary of CPC and the year when China eliminated absolute poverty. He also lauded China's successful containment of the COVID-19 pandemic and its vaccine's help to other countries which saved millions of lives plus China's leadership on climate change.

Prof Wang Yiwei, Director of Institute of International Affairs, Renmin University of China, said that the post-pandemic era is all about adaptation to the 'New Normal'.

Kalyan Raj Sharma, General Secretary of Nepal 'Friends of Silk Road Club' said that China-Nepal economic relations have been further cemented since the start of BRI and the economic

and social development trajectory of Nepal now depends on BRI. He said that impetus to advance this relationship with China came after India blockaded Nepal in 2015-16.

Dilip Barua, Chairman of 'Bangladesh China Silk Road Forum' called for jointly countering the anti-BRI propaganda which emanates from India and western countries. He termed BRI as an economic masterstroke of President Xi Jinping, which has improved infrastructure in Asia. Moreover, he said there is a positive perception of BRI in Bangladesh, since it has started reaping the benefits of this initiative.

Dararat Puechmongkol, Assistant Secretary General of Thai-Chinese Culture and Economy Association said that Thailand has been increasingly cementing its relationship with China especially in the context of BRI, accruing benefits for its people.

Professor Dai Yonghong, Director of Institute of Global Governance and Area Studies, Shenzhen University said that the international environment calls for advancing green development, adapting green business practices, and promoting human development.

Prof Gayathri De Zoysa, senior researcher, Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka, said Sri Lanka is one of the most important BRI partner countries and Chinese Foreign Direct Investment has increased significantly since the inception of BRI.

Dr GP Doraisamy, a leader of Malaysia-China Friendship Association said that Malaysia enjoys a close relationship with China. He urged shedding of the 'colonial mentality'.

Ananda Prasad Pokharel, Political Bureau Member of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) talked about the Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network which is an economic corridor between Nepal and China as part of BRI which is an historic opportunity to overhaul Nepal's infrastructure. Despite international pressure, Nepal has continued its commitment to high quality development of BRI projects in the country since both countries signed MoUs in 2017.

Prof K D N Weearasinghe, Convener, Asia Progress Forum, Colombo said that BRI has led to the economic revitalisation of partner countries.

Herman Laurel, Founder of Philippine-BRICS Strategic Studies lauded China's vaccine humanitarianism which has contributed a lot towards containing the spread of the pandemic.

The participants agreed to institutionalize their relationship through digital partnerships. At the conclusion, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked the participants and said the real reason for US ire against China is because, as a recent Harvard University study, underlined: 'China has displaced the US as the world's hi-tech manufacturer, producing 1.5 billion smartphones, 250 million computers, and 25 million cars in 2020'.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-29/page-3/detail-6>

Pak-China TVTI at Gwadar to be functional from January

ISLAMABAD - The Pak-China Technical and Vocational Training Institute at Gwadar is likely to be functional from January next as the development work on the project has been completed.

The first-ever state-of-the-art Vocational and Technical Training Institute in the port city of Gwadar would accommodate 360 trainees at one time and provide training opportunities for at least 1,000 people every year, said an official on Tuesday. The institute would create job opportunities for 249 people whereas half of them would be local people of Gwadar, he added.

Under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the project was initiated in the port city to provide standard vocational education to the people of Balochistan in modern technological field, he added. The official said the students belonging to Gwadar district would be enrolled free of cost to get modern vocational skills in the institution. The students after completing their course work would be sent to China for field visits of various industries to get hands on exposure of modern technologies and industrial advancements.

The province was going to embrace huge economic and employment opportunities after CPEC's operational phase and it was imperative to ensure quality education of the local masses to benefit from the game changer project, he added. According to official sources, the project was being built under CPEC at the total cost of \$10 million.

“The project will enhance skills of local population of Gwadar to participate in the growth of the port city and bring investment, business and tourism in the area,” he added.

The Institute would help fulfilling maritime skilled manpower requirements of the Gwadar Port after the development of industrial projects including the Gwadar Port Free Zone, Export Processing Zone and other industrial and port-related projects.

The Institute comprises a main building, having two blocks, an administration block, four workshops, cafeteria, hostels, parking areas, an examination block and a teachers lodging facility, he said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-29/page-9/detail-5>

December 30, 2021

Daily Times

CPEC has made huge progress despite Covid pandemic: China

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Wednesday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project has made huge progress in the outgoing year despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“We are very pleased to see that Prime Minister Imran Khan attaches great importance to the CPEC. He chaired a series of meetings on CPEC, including the one for industry development, and held two seminars with Chinese entrepreneurs. Pakistan government established the China-Pakistan Relations Steering Committee to coordinate and resolve CPEC issues; introduced the special visa policy for CPEC to facilitate investment; set up a Foreign National Security Cell to strengthen security measures. These practical measures have injected more confidence in the development of the CPEC,” Ambassador Nong Rong said while addressing an award ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of the CPEC projects, held at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.

Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, Director General of Department of International Affairs of NDRC of China Ying Xiong and Chairman of All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association Yang Jianduo attended the ceremony. A number of officials, Pakistan staff of CPEC projects and journalists attended the ceremony virtually.

The ambassador said with joint efforts, the Rashakai Special Economic Zone has been launched, the north part of the Gwadar Free Zone is under construction, the Matiari-Lahore HVDC Transmission Line has brought Pakistan into a new era of AC-DC hybrid power grid, the Karot Hydropower Project started water storage, the Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute was completed. “These developments brought by the CPEC, from the perspective of individuals, will create more jobs, increase their incomes and improve their skills; from the perspective of the country, will boost Pakistan’s economic and social development, promote industrialization and urbanization, and enhance the connection of the nation and the region as a whole,” he added.

The ambassador said the achievements of the CPEC are not possible without joint efforts of staff from both China and Pakistan. “They are not only the constructors and participants of the CPEC, but also the witnesses and promoters of history. In particular, the 27 outstanding Pakistani staff who participate in the award ceremony today, are outstanding representatives in this regard. You have shown your diligence and dedication in promoting the CPEC and building your motherland,” he said.

The ambassador said the CPEC, as a landmark project of China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era, and a successful regional economic cooperation platform, provides a broad stage for people to display their talents and realize personal values. It is hoped that the Chinese and Pakistani staff will cherish the opportunity, contribute to the construction of the CPEC with practical actions, and continue to consolidate the iron friendship between China and Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/861556/cpec-has-made-huge-progress-despite-covid-pandemic-china/>

‘Karakoram Highway’ — film based on Pakistan and China’s friendship released

The premier of the film “Karakoram Highway: where Men and Mountains Meet” highlighting KKH, an emblem of Pak-China friendship, was released here on big screen.

According to Gwadar Pro, the premier of the documentary film was arranged at The Arena Cinema in Bahria Town with a full house of audiences.

The film highlights the sacrifices made during the construction of KKH, which is a gigantic 1300 kilometres project and often considered as the 8th wonder of the world.

The film is produced by Delirium Film Productions Inc. in association with the Frontier Works Organization (FWO), one of the major science and technology commands of the Pakistan Army.

The hour-long documentary highlights the importance of KKH, which is an overland route connecting the brotherly courtiers of China and Pakistan.

About 692 Pakistani and 108 Chinese lost their lives during the construction of the project. The film is based on some of the events recorded during that period. In the film, former Pakistani military officials who were part of the projects recount what they saw during the construction of the project.

Lt. General (retired) Javed Nasir, Major General (retired) Sabih Uddin Bukhari, Major General (retired) Muhammad Afsar and Brigadier (retired) Iqbal Ahmad are amongst those former officers of Pakistan Army who share their stories in the film.

Renowned Pakistani author and novelist Mustansar Hussain Tarar highlights the historical background of KKH and the changes the projects brought to the locals.

The documentary also highlights how the project mainstreamed the people of the northern area.

“The purpose of the documentary is to tell our people how KKH was built; how many difficulties and hardships were encountered during the construction of the project; and what were the challenges in completing the 8th Wonder of the World,” said FWO Director General, Major General Kamal Azfar.

According to Mustansar Hussain Tarar, after examining the terrain, many foreign contractors and engineers called the project impossible to carry out. He said that even a German engineer made a sarcastic remark, saying, “Let the Pakistanis do it” and Pakistanis did the miracle.

Secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan Karrar Haidri told Gwadar Pro that KKH brought revolution to Gilgit-Baltistan by connecting its people with the rest of the world. “KKH further strengthened Pak-China friendship and opened the door of bilateral trade,” he said and added, “Today KKH is the backbone and main artery of CPEC”.

According to him, films like “Where men and mountains meet” will also stimulate tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Shamsa, 23, was delighted to learn about KKH’s history through the film. “There is no doubt that KKH is the 8th wonder of the world, which was made possible by the soldiers of the Pakistani army and their colleagues from brotherly China,” she said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/861711/karakoram-highway-film-based-on-pakistan-and-chinas-friendship-released/>

Dawn News

Investment process in special zones simplified, says Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has said that Pakistan has simplified the process of investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) not only for Chinese companies but also for other international companies.

Speaking at a ceremony held for the distribution of awards among 27 outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects at the Chinese Embassy, he said two days ago the government had approved the simplified investment process for industries and companies willing to invest and operate in the SEZs.

Besides, he said, the federal and provincial governments had developed a mechanism to facilitate companies interested in investment in SEZs. He said that despite Covid-19, CPEC made remarkable progress in 2021.

“We have seen completion of projects and most importantly broadening of CPEC that is through the industrial cooperation framework and now it is showing results such as construction work at Allama Iqbal, Rashakai SEZs as well as expansion of Special Economic Zone in Gwadar.

“The north zone is 35 times larger than the south zone and that shows the confidence of Pakistan’s commitment towards progress and future of CPEC,” the minister said.

He said in the second phase of CPEC, the two countries were focusing on agriculture and science and technology sector.

The minister said that CPEC was expanding in all fields and many projects started in the first phase had been completed or about to be completed.

“This is the testimony of not just the quality of relationship between Pakistan and China but also evidence of our strong bond and commitment for completion of CPEC projects,” Mr Umar said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1666599>

Pakistan Observer

Trust in BRI

CHINA is a peace loving country, an international co-operator and a great global responsible power.

By launching mega Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the aim of visionary Chinese President Xi Jinping was shared prosperity and to offer the world to be part of China’ fortune.

Regardless of a few countries which cast aspersions, more than one hundred and forty states and many international organizations have become part of the BRI, which clearly indicates that it is

on the path of success and will go a long way in changing the living standards, especially those in the developing world.

Representatives of nine Asian countries at a webinar on Tuesday termed the BRI beneficial for the member states saying the Asian Century needed BRI to progress.

The BRI certainly has provided an alternative development model to the developing countries for promoting human development which before it were dependent on the West and its institutions.

BRI economies account for one-third of global GDP and trade, and close to two-thirds of world population.

For some BRI countries, poverty ratios are high – 25 percent in Kenya, 23 percent in Uzbekistan and Djibouti, and 21 percent in Laos.

If projects launched or envisaged to be launched under the initiative are successful, they stand to benefit a large number of poor people and huge swaths of the world's economies, with large positive spill-over effects on global welfare.

With focus on connectivity projects, the BRI will really help boosting international commerce, particularly for countries that have been unable to fully integrate in the world economy.

This has also enabled technology transfer between China and partner countries.

CPEC, the flagship project of BRI, envisages establishment of several SEZs in different parts of Pakistan and their operationalization will help the country bolster its exports and address its longstanding economic woes.

Hence, this is an initiative which will change the fortunes of developing and poor countries.

The Chinese leadership really deserves applause for coming up with this development initiative that will change the whole economic landscape especially of the developing countries.

It is also for the BRI member countries to collectively and in an institutionalized manner counter the anti-BRI propaganda emanating from India and the Western countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/trust-in-bri/>

Rashakai SEZ to attract investors at Expo 2020 Dubai

While the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is all set to participate in the Expo 2020 Dubai and showcase its investment potentials, Rashakai Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will be one of the attractions for foreign investors, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

In January 2022, KP will showcase tourism, agriculture, industry, mines and minerals, energy, infrastructure, information technology, SEZs to potential investors at Pakistan Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.

CEO of KP-Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BIOT) Hassan Daud Butt said that through the Expo they are not only attracting investments but also promoting culture and tourism of the

province. “We have prepared policy framework, investment strategy, industrial policy, digital policy.

<https://pakobserver.net/rashakai-sez-to-attract-investors-at-expo-2020-dubai/>

Embassy of China honours ‘outstanding’ Pakistani workers of CPEC projects

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiative Asad Umar on Wednesday said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) continued to register significant developments in the outgoing year (2021) and would see further expansion and greater activity in 2022 as there was a will as well as the vision to make this flagship project of the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) a game changer not only for Pakistan but the entire region.

The federal minister was addressing an award-giving ceremony announced for 27 Pakistani workers of various CPEC projects for their outstanding performance in the year 2021. The Embassy of China had organized the ceremony.

Ambassador of China Nong Rong and Head of the All Pakistan-Chinese Enterprises association Yang Jiandu also spoke on the occasion.

The event was virtually addressed by Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor and Director General National Development & Reforms Commission of China (NRCD) Ying Xiong.

Three award-winning Pakistani staffers of three different but major CPEC projects—Yousuf Karim from KKH Phase II (Havelian-Thakot Section), Fazal Rahim from Coal Fire Power Plant (Port Qasim Electric Power Company) and Arsalan Khan (Karot Hydropower Project)—represented their other award-winning colleagues. They said they enjoyed working with

Chinese companies and considered themselves lucky to be part of the CPEC projects.

Asad Umar congratulated these Pakistani workers for making him as well as the nation proud. You might have known by now, Asad Umar addressed the Chinese participants, particularly those representing various companies, how professional, diligent and responsible the Pakistani workers are. In their devotion and dedication, Pakistani workers are like their Chinese counterparts and this is the reason we are seeing timely execution of the CPEC projects despite COVID-19 and other challenges, he said.

Asad Umar spoke in detail how important the Pakistani government, particularly Prime Minister Imran Khan, considered CPEC for the stability of the economy. “This is, Excellency, a truly historic project meant for prosperity and progress and President Xi Jinping’s vision is that of collective development. This shows he is not only a leader of China but a global leader,” said Asad Umar while addressing Ambassador Nong Rong.

Asad Umar said his government was broadening the CPEC framework further from infrastructure to Science & Technology (S&T) and Agriculture which are equally important for Pakistan’s development. The government he said had established Special Economic Zones

(SEZs) in north and south and simplified the approval process for the Chinese companies to operate in them.

This shows our resolve to make CPEC an ongoing project for the betterment of the people, he said.

Ambassador Nong Rong said as Pakistan and China were celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the all-round cooperation between the two countries is further deepening.

The ambassador further said that during 2021, the CPEC remained the focus of the two countries. On October 26th, President Xi Jinping called Prime Minister Imran Khan on the phone and expressed will to jointly build the CPEC, to promote cooperation in agriculture, digital economy and people's livelihood, and bring more benefits to the local people.

The Pakistan government he said had established the China-Pakistan Relations Steering Committee to coordinate and resolve CPEC issues, introduced the special visa policy for CPEC to facilitate investment and set up a Foreign National Security Cell to strengthen security measures. These practical measures have injected more confidence in the development of the CPEC, said the Ambassador of China.

Khalid Mansoor said the second phase of the CPEC would unleash huge economic activity generating thousands of jobs in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Ying Xiong said China and Pakistan had joined hands to work together on CPEC for 8 years, by following the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

Even in the face of the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPEC projects still enjoy smooth operation, he said. Earlier, a brief documentary was screened showing the Pakistani workers sharing their success stories and telling how working for CPEC had changed their lives for betterment.

<https://pakobserver.net/embassy-of-china-honours-outstanding-pakistani-workers-of-cpec-projects/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک میں نوجوانوں کیلئے بے شمار مواقع ہیں: فرخ حبیب

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) وزیر مملکت برائے اطلاعات و نشریات فرخ حبیب نے کہا ہے کہ وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات میڈیا یونیورسٹی بنانے جارہی ہے۔ اس میں میڈیا سے متعلق جدید علوم لارہے ہیں، میڈیا یونیورسٹی میں ایک سازگار ماحول فراہم کریں گے۔ نوجوانوں کے لئے کامیاب جوان پروگرام کے تحت 100 ارب کا فنڈ مختص کیا گیا ہے تاکہ ان کے لئے کاروباری آسانیاں پیدا ہوں۔ سی پیک کے تحت خصوصی اقتصادی زونز بنانے جارہے ہیں۔ جن میں نوجوانوں کے لئے بے شمار مواقع ہیں۔ وہ زبیسٹ یونیورسٹی کے 9 ویں میڈیا فیسٹول کی تقریب سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ فرخ حبیب نے کہا کہ اس یونیورسٹی میں ہماری نوجوان نسل کی خداداد صلاحیتوں کی آبیاری کی جارہی ہے۔ کیونیکیشن کا شعبہ اب روایتی نہیں رہا بلکہ بے شمار راستے کھل چکے ہیں۔ 18 کروڑ موبائل سیمیں ملک بھر میں زیر استعمال ہیں، اس کے علاوہ اوٹی ٹی پلیٹ فارم بھی ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-30/page-8/detail-0>

December 31, 2021

Business Recorder

70th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relationship marked

LAHORE: The video conference celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Pakistan with the theme of “Looking Back and Going Forward” co-hosted by Xuzhou Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Jiangsu Normal University and University of the Punjab was held on Wednesday. Prof Sun Hongqi, Director of Pakistan Studies Center, Jiangsu Normal University chaired the session.

On the occasion, Moin ul Haque, Ambassador of Pakistan to China underlined in today’s world, when international ties have become more complex, the role of academic and research work has assumed a greater significance. These academia think tanks, including universities, can keep a faithful record for bilateral ties, identify new areas of cooperation and explore definitely the complex metrics between politics, economics and culture and also bring in two countries together to more and more people to people exchanges.

Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai said, “China is Pakistan’s largest trading partner and largest source of foreign investment. Chinese investment in Pakistan can be used for manufacturing to sell in Pakistan, export to China and EU at zero import duty.” Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, University of Punjab said that the historical background spanning on seven decades of the solid foundations of the mutual, lasting and ever flourishing friendship. The relationships have been established on the basis of mutual trust, cooperation and harmony.

He further added that there are vast opportunities of cooperation in higher education sector. “The Chinese universities can admit Pakistani students in large number. Students who graduate from Chinese universities in Medical and Engineering subjects face difficulties in recognition of the degrees.”

He further explained if those universities are registered with accreditation bodies like Pakistan Engineering Council and Pakistan Medical Commission then the issue can be solved.

Peng Zhengwu, Deputy Consul General of China in Lahore pointed out that Jiangsu has injected new vitality into the in-depth development of China-Pakistan relations. The Chinese Consulate General in Lahore is willing to constantly play an active role as a bridge to support Jiangsu and Punjab in deepening this relation.

Dr Amjad Magsi on the occasion appreciated the generous help from China during the pandemic, In April 2020, Jiangsu provincial government sent pandemic prevention materials to Punjab a sign of brotherhood as the Punjab and Jiangsu are sister provinces.

Through increased technology sharing and joint ventures both can benefit from the true spirit of mutual friendship.

There is need to further broaden the basis of friendship to enhance the people to people relationship by focusing more on cultural and educational relationships. Explaining that China has offered quite good number of scholarships to Pakistani students and number of Pakistani students studying in China has reached to 30 thousands, Dr Magsi added that “as for Pakistanis, learning of Chinese is important similarly learning of Urdu and regional languages will go long way in cementing the cultural relationships but also will be of greater help in economic side.” Muhammad Mehdi, Foreign Affairs expert said that experience has taught Pakistan that our friendship with China is more of an all-weather friendship than a strategic partnership. In his concluding remarks Prof Sun Hongqi expressed his sincere thanks to the Chinese and Pakistani experts and scholars attending the meeting, stressed that joint efforts are needed to make the tree of China-Pakistan friendship evergreen, and said everyone has the responsibility and obligation to build the China-Pak Economic Corridor well and carry forward the spirit of friendly cooperation between China and Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/12/31/3-page/913435-news.html>

Daily Times

China-Pakistan joint research center on nutrition, health unveiled

The China-Pakistan Joint Research Center for Nutrition and Health unveiled in Beijing and Karachi respectively on the sideline of the 2021 Sino-Pakistan Conference on Research and Application of Food and Medicinal Resources held last week, both online and offline.

According to China Economic Net, the center is launched jointly by the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Pakistan.

At the launching ceremony, Wang Fengzhong, Director of IFST, expressed that IFST would carry out projects under the MOU of Sino-Pakistan science and technology agreement signed this year, and research the medicinal and food plant resources and its benefits to human, to strengthen the traditional friendship between the two iron brother nations.

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Dean of ICCBS, hoped to have more cooperation with China in the medicinal and food plant resources and education and training, on the basis of the foundation of Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine (SPCCTCM). Choudhary expected that a public academic platform could be established to strengthen the two nations' synergy in sci-tech innovation and draw more young scientists to take part in.

Dr. Atta ur Rahman, Chairman of Pakistani Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology, pointed out that the two nations have established SPCCTCM. He hoped the

cooperation would boost the development of Traditional Chinese Medicine in China and Pakistan.

Awais Ahmad Khan, Counsellor of Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Beijing said, “China and Pakistan’s cooperation in the field of food and medicinal plant resources is very important, which is conducive to the social and economic development of the two countries.”

China and Pakistan have strengthened cooperation in traditional medicine Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Traditional Unani Medicine (TUM).

The Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine have been set up respectively in University of Karachi, in Pakistan and Hunan University of Medicine in Hunan province, China.

SPCCTCM will carry out various cooperation between the two nations, including R&D of drugs and healthy and nutritious foods, academic and cultural exchanges, talents training, medical treatment, and industrial cooperation.

The 2021 Sino-Pakistan Conference on Research and Application of Food and Medicinal Resources is organized by Wang Qiong, vice director of SPCCTCM, professor of IFST of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

The launch of the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center for Nutrition and Health is part of the two iron brother nations’ cooperation in traditional medicine.

Dr. Atta ur Rahman, Chairman of Pakistani Prime Minister’s Task Force on Science and Technology and Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Dean of International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Pakistan attend the launching ceremony of The China-Pakistan Joint Research Center for Nutrition and Health on December 22, 2021.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/861865/china-pakistan-joint-research-center-on-nutrition-health-unveiled/>

Pakistan, China pledge to tap full potential of Gwadar port, free zone

Pakistan and China resolved on Thursday to redouble the efforts to tap the full potential of Gwadar port and free zone under the mega project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The both sides also agreed to make sure that the local population of Gwadar and surrounding areas fully benefit from these projects by utilizing the massive opportunities being created in various sectors.

The Governments of Pakistan and China held meetings of the two Joint Working Groups on Gwadar and Socio-Economic Development through video Conferencing.

The 6th Session of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar was co-chaired by Secretary Planning Development & Special Initiatives Abdul Aziz Uqaili and Ying Xiong, Director General of the National Development & Reforms Commission of China.

Secretary Economic Affairs and Maritime Affairs, representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Aviation, Defence, CPEC Authority, PPIB, GPA, Government of Balochistan, GDA as well as representatives of their counterparts in China participated in the meeting.

It reviewed the implementation status of the CPEC projects in Gwadar and deliberated upon the future course of action with regard to development of Gwadar city, port and the free zone.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on steady progress made on various projects including full operationalization of Gwadar Port and its inclusion in the Afghan Transit Trade route; finalization of the Smart Port City Master Plan; completion of the Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute; substantial progress on Eastbay Expressway; commencement of work on New Gwadar International Airport and the Pak-China Friendship Hospital.

It was noted that Gwadar Free Zone Phase -I had been successfully completed, while work on the much larger Phase-II covering an area of 2221 acres had been started.

The meeting emphasized on the need for finalization of Marketing and Investment Plan for Free Zone along with its implementation strategy.

The meeting was informed that the plan would soon be submitted for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC.

Chinese enterprises, including Zhejiang DRC, China Communication Construction Company, Zhejiang Seaport and Huazhang Technology made presentations during the meeting on their planned investments in Low Carbon Recycling Park, within the Gwadar Free Zone. Pakistan side assured the investors of full support and cooperation for their ventures.

It was noted that despite the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting travel restrictions the projects in Gwadar were implemented at a steady pace. The meeting also took note of various operational issues faced by the projects during the course of the year. It was noted that several issues had been resolved through intervention of relevant authorities. Both sides resolved to address any remaining issues on priority.

The meeting was also informed that the Government of Pakistan was actively implementing various projects, in close collaboration with the Provincial Government to ensure provision of all the necessary facilities in Gwadar.

The projects include linking Gwadar to the national electricity grid; provision of water to Gwadar city from nearby dams; establishment of University of Gwadar and Gwadar Safe City project and certain other projects in the socio-economic domain.

Meanwhile the 3rd meeting of Joint Working Group on Socio-Economic Development under CPEC was held under the co-chairmanship of Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Secretary, Planning

Development & Special Initiatives and Deng Boqing, Chairman, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) to review the progress of current projects and deliberated on potential new projects to enhance cooperation in the Socio-Economic Development under CPEC.

The Group was established in November, 2018 under CPEC framework to ensure that economic dividends of CPEC projects reach the less developed areas and peoples' livelihood are improved.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on steady progress of the 1st Batch (17 Fast Track) projects of and 2nd Batch (10 Priority) projects despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The Convenor (Pakistani side) thanked the Government and people of China for their generous support to Pakistan for tackling the Covid-19 Pandemic, especially the timely supply of vaccines.

He also thanked the Chinese counterparts for their support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan for socio economic development. The Chairman of CIDCA (Convenor of Chinese side) reiterated China's strong support for the people and Government of Pakistan and stated that the two iron brothers have always helped and supported each other.

He recalled Pakistan's support to China in the early phase of the pandemic and stated that such help is highly valued.

Pakistani side shared the proposed 3rd Batch of projects for consideration of Chinese counterparts. The projects were finalized after due consultations with stakeholders including all provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. It was decided to further enhance bilateral cooperation and implementation mechanism by constituting sub-committees at working level on both sides.

The meeting was attended by representatives of federal ministries and all the provincial governments, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan and 11 relevant departments of the Government of China. The Embassies of the two countries also joined the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/861843/pakistan-china-pledge-to-tap-full-potential-of-gwadar-port-free-zone/>

Dawn News

China, Pakistan should explore academic cooperation

LAHORE: Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haq says the academia should identify new areas of cooperation and explore the complex matrix between politics, economics and culture.

He was speaking at a webinar held to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations co-hosted by Xuzhou Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Jiangsu Normal University and the University of the Punjab. Prof Sun Hongqi, the director of Pakistan Studies Center, Jiangsu Normal University, chaired the session.

Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, said China was Pakistan's largest trading partner and the largest source of foreign investment.

PU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar said there were vast opportunities of cooperation in the higher education sector as Chinese universities could admit Pakistani students in large numbers. He said Chinese institutions should be registered with accreditation bodies such as the Pakistan Engineering Council and the Pakistan Medical Commission to resolve the issues Pakistanis graduating from China face.

Muhammad Mehdi called for increasing defence cooperation between Pakistan and China. He argued that unlike the West, China does not bar Pakistan from using weapons against any enemy including India.

Mr Mehdi said Beijing had already extraordinary defence cooperation with Islamabad in the form of Al-Khalid tank and JF-17 Thunder combat aircraft. He said a nefarious propaganda was being made to portray that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would plunge Pakistan into a huge debt. He said it's necessary to make the project more open to the public so that no propaganda may affect the friendship. Peng Zhengwu, Deputy Consul General of China in Lahore, pointed out that Jiangsu had injected new vitality into the in-depth development of China-Pakistan relations.

PU's Dr Amjad Magsi said through increased technology sharing and joint ventures both the countries could benefit from the true spirit of mutual friendship.

In his concluding remarks, Prof Sun Hongqi stressed the need for joint efforts to make the tree of China-Pakistan friendship evergreen, and said everyone had the responsibility and obligation to build the CPEC and carry forward the spirit of friendly cooperation between the two neighbours.

Deputy Mayor of Xuzhou Municipal People's Government Wu Weidong, Superintendent of Foreign Affairs Office of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government Huang Xiqiang, and Deputy Chair of the University Council, Jiangsu Normal University Prof Cen Hong also spoke.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1666712/china-pakistan-should-explore-academic-cooperation>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China review implementation status of CPEC projects in Gwadar

A Joint Working Group of Pakistan and China on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during a meeting reviewed the implementation status of the CPEC projects in Gwadar and deliberated upon the future course of action with regard to development of Gwadar city, port and the free zone.

The Governments of Pakistan and China held meetings of the two Joint Working Groups on Gwadar and Socio-Economic Development through video Conferencing.

The 6th Session of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar was co-chaired by Secretary Planning Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Abdul Aziz Uqaili and the Mr. Ying Xiong, Director General of the National Development & Reforms Commission (NRDC) of China. Secretary Economic Affairs and Maritime Affairs, representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs,

Aviation, Defence, CPEC Authority, PPIB, GPA, Government of Balochistan, GDA as well as representatives of their counterparts in China participated in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of the CPEC projects in Gwadar and deliberated upon the future course of action with regard to development of Gwadar city, port and the free zone.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on steady progress made on various projects including full operationalization of Gwadar Port and its inclusion in the Afghan Transit Trade route; finalization of the Smart Port City Master Plan; completion of the Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute; substantial progress on Eastbay Expressway; commencement of work on New Gwadar International Airport and the Pak-China Friendship Hospital.

It was noted that Gwadar Free Zone Phase -1 had been successfully completed, while work on the much larger Phase – 2 covering an area of 2221 acres had been started. The meeting emphasized on the need for finalization of Marketing and Investment Plan for Free Zone along with its implementation strategy.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-review-implementation-status-of-cpec-projects-in-gwadar/>

The Nation

China, Pakistan satisfied over pace of work on CPEC projects

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - China has yesterday informed that work on Gwadar Free Zone Phase-2 has started and the final draft Marketing and Investment Plan for Free Zone along with its implementation strategy would soon be submitted for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC.

In the 6th Session of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar, Pakistan has asked China that they are expecting a comprehensive robust Marketing and Investment Plan for Free Zone along with its implementation strategy for the development of Gwadar Free Zone, official source told The Nation here.

The 6th Session of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar was co-chaired by Secretary Planning Development & Special Initiatives Abdul Aziz Uqaili and Ying Xiong, Director General of the National Development & Reforms Commission of China.

Secretary Economic Affairs and Maritime Affairs, representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Aviation, Defence, CPEC Authority, PPIB, GPA, Government of Balochistan, GDA as well as representatives of their counterparts in China participated in the meeting.

In the meeting China has reiterated that Gwadar International Airport will be ready by 2023, while the Eastbay Expressway will be completed by April 2022, said the source.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of the CPEC projects in Gwadar and deliberated upon the future course of action with regard to development of Gwadar city, port and the free zone. Both sides expressed satisfaction on steady progress made on various projects including full operationalization of Gwadar Port and its inclusion in the Afghan Transit Trade route; finalization of the Smart Port City Master Plan; completion of the Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute; substantial progress on Eastbay Expressway; commencement of work on New Gwadar International Airport and the Pak-China Friendship Hospital.

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Chinese enterprises, including Zhejiang DRC, China Communication Construction Company, Zhejiang Seaport and Huazhang Technology made presentations during the meeting on their planned investments in Low Carbon Recycling Park, within the Gwadar Free Zone. Pakistan side assured the investors of full support and cooperation for their ventures.

The meeting was also informed that the Government of Pakistan was actively implementing various projects, in close collaboration with the Provincial Government to ensure provision of all the necessary facilities in Gwadar. The projects include linking Gwadar to the national electricity grid; provision of water to Gwadar city from nearby dams; establishment of University of Gwadar and Gwadar Safe City project and certain other projects in the socio-economic domain.

The two sides resolved to redouble the efforts to tap the full potential of Gwadar port and free zone as well as to make sure that the local population of Gwadar and surrounding areas fully benefit from these projects by utilizing the massive opportunities being created in various sectors.

Meanwhile the 3rd Joint Working Group Meeting of Socio-Economic Development under CPEC was held.

During the meeting, Pakistani side shared the proposed 3rd Batch of projects for consideration of Chinese counterparts to be completed under Socio Development Program under CPEC. The projects were finalized after due consultations with stakeholders including all Provinces, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan. It was decided to further enhance bilateral cooperation and implementation mechanism by constituting sub-committees at working level on both sides.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-31/page-12/detail-4>

Pak-China 70 years of diplomatic ties celebrated

Shafaqat Ali

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China yesterday celebrated 70 years of diplomatic ties with an online award ceremony.

The All Pakistan-China Friendship Association in partnership with the Embassy of China in Pakistan held a well-attended online award ceremony for the participating students and winners on the topic of “CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) and Pakistan-China Friendship.”

All the speakers agreed that Pakistan and China are strategic cooperative partners based on mutual trust and respect. What makes this friendship unique is that it is rooted deeply in the hearts of the people of the two countries, which makes the bond everlasting, they noted.

In her keynote speech, Pang Chunxue, Minister, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan congratulated the Pakistani youth on the vivid illustration of the friendship between Pakistan and China, and said that these colourful paintings were indeed a wonderful gift to the celebration of the 70 years of Sino-Pak diplomatic relations.

More cultural exchange and cooperation will take this friendship to new heights, she noted.

CPEC, she said was playing a significant role in promoting people to people activity and is reflective of high quality growth of the BRI. The CPEC has achieved good success and made tremendous contribution to the socio-economic development of Pakistan with the joint efforts of both the countries. Muhammad Ikhlaq Usmani, President APCFA in his welcome remarks stated this commemorative art expression has rekindled the hearts of the Pakistani youth to take the Pakistan-China friendship to greater heights.

The CPEC, he said, was the reflection of the mutual trust and confidence both countries have for each other. It has been built upon historically high levels of partnership between the two nations.

Mubashar Tauqir Shah, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said that CPEC is a manifestation of the trusted friendship of Pakistan and China and a vote of confidence for Pakistan. It is a game-changer and both countries are witnessing the socio-economic benefits it is achieving for Pakistan, he added.

Former Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi in her address said that this event is a wonderful ending to the celebrations of this year 2021 to mark the 70th anniversary of Pak-China ties.

She congratulated the youth on their interpretations of CPEC. She said CPEC, as its flagship project, is the buckle of the Belt and Road Initiative and crucial to the socio economic development of this region and beyond.

Pakistani students showcased the all-weather friendship between the iron brothers in a colourful display of dialogues and statements on their love for China. They beamed with tributes to the everlasting friendship of the two countries.

In her concluding remarks, Farwa Zafar, General Secretary, APCFA said that it is important to promote collaboration for promoting youth exchanges and friendly bonds and to welcoming Chinese students to Pakistan.

APCFA organized this national painting competition in which despite covid-19 school closures, over 100 students participated from Gwadar to Peshawar.

Total of 20 prizes for two age groups, 9-15 years and 16-18 years were awarded to students as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners, with four appreciations awards. All students received certificates and winners received other prizes.

This creative competition provided an opportunity to students from participating schools to paint their creations to demonstrate the many facets of Pakistan China friendship as visualized by them.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-12-31/page-13/detail-5>

K2 Daily

پاکستان میں چینی سرمایہ کاری بڑھ رہی ہے، ایف ای بی آر
 بین کی بڑھتی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان کے تجارتی خسارے کو کم کر سکتی ہے
 2021ء کی پہلی ششماہی میں پہلے ہی 12.56 بلین ڈالر تک پہنچ چکی
 اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) فریڈز آف کے تجارتی خسارے کو کم کر سکتی ہے، پاکستان کو چینی
 ایکٹک ایڈیٹریس (ایف ای بی آر) آف سرمایہ کاروں کو راضی کرنے کے لیے زیادہ سے
 پاکستان لے گا ہے کہ بین کی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان زیادہ سمجھیں فراہم (باقی صفحہ 6 بجے نمبر 43)

بقیہ 43

کرنا اچھالی ضروری ہے، لیکن اور پاکستان کے
 درمیان تجارتی حجم میں روز بروز اضافہ ہو رہا ہے
 گوارا ہو کے مطابق بین کی پاکستان کے ساتھ
 وہی سمجھوں سے گہری اور حالیہ سے بند
 ہے، لیکن پاکستان میں اریبل ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کر
 رہا ہے جو ہمیشہ کو بحال کرنے اور صنعتوں میں
 جدید ترین ٹیکنالوجی لانے کی صلاحیت رکھتی ہے۔
 تمام شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری سے دونوں ممالک کے
 درمیان درگزر تعلقات کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہوگا۔
 پاکستان کو غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری خصوصاً چینی سرمایہ
 کاروں کو راضی کرنے کے لیے سرمایہ کاروں کو
 زیادہ سے زیادہ سمجھیں فراہم کرنا اچھالی ضروری
 ہے۔ مندرجہ بالا خیالات کا اظہار فریڈز آف
 ایکٹک ایڈیٹریس (ایف ای بی آر) آف
 پاکستان کے صدر کاشف انور نے گوارا ہو کو ایک
 حالیہ انٹرویو کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ اپنی امراض اور
 عالمی صورتحال کی وجہ سے رواں مالی سال کے پہلے
 چار مہینوں میں ایف ای بی آر کی حوصلہ افزائی نہیں رہی۔
 انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہر چیز کے باوجود بین اور
 دیگر ممالک کے سرمایہ کاروں کو خطے میں پاکستان کی
 اقتصادی اور ترقی پزیر پیشکش پڑھیں کہ وہ کتنا چاہتے ہیں اور
 اس کے مستقبل کے امکانات پر اپنا اصرار برقرار رکھنا
 چاہیے۔ سرکاری اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 2020
 میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارت کا حجم
 17.49 بلین ڈالر رہا۔ اور یہ تعداد 2021
 کی پہلی ششماہی میں پہلے ہی 12.56 بلین
 ڈالر تک پہنچ چکی ہے جو گزشتہ سال کی اسی مدت
 کے مقابلے میں 63.0 فیصد زیادہ ہے۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Classified>

Nawaiwaqt News

گیم چینجر منصوبے سی پیک پر دستاویزی فلم قوم کے عزم کی کہانی: مراد سعید

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) وفاقی وزیر مواصلات مراد سعید نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستانی قوم کے عزم کی کہانی پر مبنی دستاویزی فلم سیاحت کے فروغ میں مددگار ثابت ہوگی۔ جمعرات کو اپنے ایک ٹویٹ میں انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے ملک کی تقدیر بدلنے والے منصوبے پر سی پیک پر مشتمل ایک دستاویزی فلم پاکستانی قوم کے عزم کی کہانی ہے۔ فلم میں سی پیک کے خوبصورت مناظر کا احاطہ کیا گیا جہاں انسانوں اور پہاڑوں کا ملاپ ہوتا ہے۔ ان لوگوں کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتی ہے جنہوں نے اس عجوبے کو حقیقت میں بدل کر سی پیک کو روپ دیا۔ یہ اقتصادی لحاظ سے گیم چینجر ہے۔ دستاویزی فلم یکم جنوری کو پی ٹی وی پر نشر کی جائے گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-31/page-3/detail-3>

پاکستان، چین، سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 برس، اس سال 140 تقریبات

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا پاکستان اور چین نے سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال مکمل ہونے کی خوشی میں رواں سال تقریباً 140 تقریبات منعقد کیں۔ جنہیں بے حد سراہا گیا۔ دونوں ممالک نے اصل میں 120 سے زیادہ سرگرمیوں کے انعقاد کی منصوبہ بندی کی لیکن درحقیقت تقریباً 140 تقریبات منعقد ہوئیں جو مقررہ ہدف سے زیادہ ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے سربراہان اور اہم شخصیات کے درمیان تہنیتی پیغامات کا تبادلہ کیا گیا۔ دونوں ممالک نے سیاسی، سفارتی، نمائندگی، تعلیمی، سائنسی، ثقافتی اور دیگر شعبوں میں صوبائی اور شہری سطح پر تعلقات کے فروغ کے لیے مختلف معاہدوں پر دستخط سمیت دیگر تقریبات بھی منعقد کیں۔ اس بات کا اعادہ کیا کہ چین اور پاکستان کی دوستی اٹوٹ اور چٹان کی طرح مضبوط ہے اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مضبوط بھائی چارہ اور سد بہار شراکت داری ہے۔ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ سیاسی اعتماد کو گہرا کرنے، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کو فروغ دینے اور تبادلوں اور تعاون کو بڑھانے کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ کام کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔ ہم مل کر عنقریب ایک مشترکہ مستقبل کے ساتھ ایک قریبی چین پاکستان کیونٹی بنا سکتے ہیں۔ شراکت داری کو ایک نئی بلندی پر لے جاسکتے ہیں تاکہ لوگوں کو فوائد پہنچ سکیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-12-31/page-3/detail-17>

چین نے گواڈر فری زون فیروز پر کام شروع کر دیا

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) چین کی طرف سے بتایا گیا ہے کہ گواڈر فری زون کیلئے مارکیٹنگ اور انویسٹمنٹ پلان کا حتمی مسودہ اور اس پر عمل درآمد کی حکمت عملی جلد ہی سی پیک پر کامیابی کی کمیٹی کو غور کیلئے پیش کر دی جائے گی۔ سرکاری ذرائع نے کو یہاں بتایا کہ گواڈر پر مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کے چھٹے اجلاس میں پاکستان نے چین سے کہا ہے کہ وہ گواڈر فری زون کی ترقی کے لیے اس کے نفاذ کی حکمت عملی کے ساتھ ساتھ فری زون کیلئے ایک جامع مضبوط مارکیٹنگ اور سرمایہ کاری کے منصوبے کی توقع کر رہے ہیں۔ گواڈر پر مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کے چھٹے اجلاس کی مشترکہ صدارت سیکرٹری پلاننگ ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ سپیشل اینیٹی ایو عبد العزیز عقیلی اور چین کے نیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ ریفرنسز کمیشن کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل یانگ ژیانگ نے کی۔ ملاقات میں چین نے اس بات کا اعادہ کیا ہے کہ گواڈر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ 2023ء تک تیار ہو جائے گا جبکہ ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے اپریل 2022ء تک مکمل ہو جائے گا۔ اجلاس میں گواڈر میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر عملدرآمد کی صورت حال کا جائزہ لیا گیا اور گواڈر شہر، بندرگاہ اور فری زون کی ترقی کے حوالے سے مستقبل کے لائحہ عمل پر غور کیا گیا۔ دونوں اطراف سے مختلف منصوبوں پر پیش رفت پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ پاکستان کی جانب سے سرمایہ کاروں کو ان کے منصوبوں کیلئے مکمل حمایت اور تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی گئی۔ دونوں ممالک نے گواڈر بندرگاہ اور فری زون کی مکمل صلاحیتوں سے استفادہ کرنے کی کوششوں کو دوگنا کرنے کیساتھ ساتھ

اس بات کو یقینی بنانے کا عزم کیا کہ گوادر اور گردونواح کی مقامی آبادی مختلف شعبوں میں پیدا ہونے والے وسیع مواقع کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے ان منصوبوں سے پوری طرح مستفید ہو سکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-12-31/page-8/detail-8>