



# For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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**December 16-31, 2022**

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**December 16, 2022**

**The Express Tribune**

**SEZs to create 575,000 jobs: SEZA chairman**

Says government will conduct short-term courses to train labour for employment

LAHORE: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is likely to create about 575,000 direct, and over one million indirect, jobs in four special economic zones (SEZs) being set up in Pakistan said Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) Chairman, SM Naveed during an interactive session held at Chief Minister's (CM) Secretariat.

“The second and third phases of CPEC will bear more opportunities for Pakistani citizens in terms of employment and growth for the business sector,” he said.

The SEZA chairman explained that in the first phase, some Chinese companies had faced problems finding suitable candidates to work on energy and infrastructural projects because there was an acute lack of skilled labour in Pakistan.

“In order to prepare the youth to find employment opportunities in the second and third phase of CPEC, the government is planning to conduct short-term courses to train the aspirants in their respective fields,” he said.

According to statistics provided by the World Bank, about 6% of Pakistanis are unemployed.

“The government has conducted a study to assess the number of employment opportunities available in four out of nine SEZs,” he said. During the study, it was determined that, in order for the youth to be successfully employed with the SEZs in different fields, they need to be trained. Only after that can the industrial phase be initiated, added Naveed.

Highlighting the potential industries vying for skilled labour he said, “The SEZs are likely to produce 55,000 jobs for locals and have the potential to create 80,000 jobs Food processing, cooking oil, ceramics, gems and jewellery, marble, minerals, agriculture machinery, iron and steel, motorbike assembling, electrical appliances and automobiles are all potential employment hubs.”

“Trained and skilled labour and engineers will not only secure good jobs in the SEZs, but will also encourage the companies to find skilled professionals from within the local areas instead of hiring them at additional cost from other parts of the country,” said the chairman.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2391260/sezs-to-create-575000-jobs-seza-chairman>

**The Nation**

**Huge market exists in China for Pakistani pine nuts**

ISLAMABAD-A large market exists in China for Pakistani dried fruits. China is also one of the biggest buyers of pine nuts from Pakistan. Talking to WealthPK, Dr Nurullah, Senior Scientific Officer at the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), said Pakistan is an incredibly fortunate country with a wide range of abilities in every genre. It is especially true

for dry fruits. Pakistan produces a lot of different types of dried fruits, and it also exports a lot of them.

“Pakistan can generate a huge amount of income if it focuses on pine nuts production on a larger level. They are grown in areas like Waziristan, Zhob, and Chillas. The tree is hard and tall and can endure excessive drought, high winds, and severe cold in winter. The harvesting of pine trees takes place in September or October. Nearly 20% of the Pakistani forests are comprised of chilgoza trees,” he said. “In terms of market share, Pakistani pine nuts enjoy a huge amount of popularity in China,” he added. The amount of Pakistani pine nuts exported to China from January to September this year has reached a record high figure of \$47.691 million, according to the official data published by the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC).

Dr Nurullah mentioned that more than 42% of China’s imports come from Pakistan, making Pakistan the second largest exporter of pine nuts to the neighbouring country. According to the GACC, in the first nine months of 2022, China imported 4,290.642 tons of pine nuts from Pakistan, which are worth nearly \$48 million. At the same time, China imported 15,253.90 tons of pine nuts from all over the world, worth roughly \$112.98 million during the same period. According to WealthPK research, China has become the main market of Pakistani pine nuts in the last few years, which is why local growers are pleased that they can make a good profit from the neighbouring country. Since the Chinese government has played a crucial role in having flexible trade policies with Pakistan, Pakistan has been able to export pine nuts in huge quantities to China even during the pandemic. In the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistani pine nuts don’t have any tariffs on their export to China, so we can sell them at a competitive price. This year’s prices may be raised as a result of the floods and fire that destroyed thousands of pine trees, which might result in a shortage of pine nuts. To earn a big income, the government should focus on promoting the production of this fruit, where it can be grown easily. Also, we lack good storage facilities, as dried fruits are not perishable, thus they can be stored for a long time.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-16/page-8/detail-3>

**December 17, 2022**

**Business Recorder**

### **Cherries: MoC acquires market access to China**

ISLAMABAD: In a recent major development, the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has acquired market access for Pakistani cherries to China, which is being termed as important milestone for the country, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

As of FY 2021, the total import of cherries in China was \$ 3.6 billion. In 2021, Chilean cherries accounted for 95 percent of China’s cherry imports.

“With this success, not only would Pakistani farmers, orchid growers, and exporters get freight advantage, the Chinese importers will save revenue by importing quality fresh cherries from Pakistan, given the physical proximity of Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan

with China,” the sources said, adding that this achievement has the potential to develop and transform the G-B region.

In its notification, the General Administration of China Customs (GACC) People’s Republic of China declared that China has opened up its market for Pakistan fresh cherries.

According to sources, Pakistani orchards wishing to export to China, as well as packaging houses, cold stores and the cold treatment facilities taking part in the respective export process, shall be registered by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), and approved by both the MNFSR and the GACC. The export of cherries will be subject to certain requirements relating to inspection and quarantine, biosecurity, food safety and phytosanitary measures.

To establish traceability system, all orchards registered for export shall adopt the good agricultural practices (GAP), including keeping good sanitary conditions in orchards and the integrated pest management (IPM) programmes shall also be implemented, including pest monitoring, chemical or biological control and farm operations. The packing and processing of cherries for export will be supervised by the MNFSR to ensure good sanitary conditions to prevent pest re-infection.

The efforts of the government of Pakistan were instrumental in initiation, execution and completion of this crucial market opening for Pakistan. Secretary Commerce, Sualeh Ahmed Faruqi played an important role in achievement of this milestone, said an official of Commerce Ministry.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/12/17/8-page/950088-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **Minister directs to expedite work on CPEC SEZs**

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Friday directed to expedite the work on Special Economic Zones under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for their early completion.

He was chairing a meeting here at the Ministry of Planning and Development to review the implementation status of CPEC projects.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, officials from the ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Energy, Communication, Commerce and Aviation; Board of Investment, Embassy of Pakistan – Beijing, National Highway Authority, Transport Department – Government of Punjab, and Lahore Electric Supply Company; and chief executive officers of Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G), Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC), Peshawar.

The planning minister said the prime minister’s visit to China and 11th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC ) had infused a new lease of life in CPEC.

He directed the departments and ministries concerned to ensure review progress on the implementation of the decisions taken in the 11th JCC meeting. The minister also the relevant



officials to expedite the development process of the 1000 acre Islamabad Special Economic Zone, while advising the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing to follow up the matters pertaining to the CPEC projects.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed displeasure over the inaction on the part of departments concerned on the matters relating the uninterrupted power supply to Orange Line Project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1040172/minister-directs-to-expedite-work-on-cpec-sez/>

**December 18, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **CPEC agri corridor sows seeds of economic growth: report**

As 2022 draws close, the agriculture sector has gained manifold tractions under China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation promising the phenomenal agri growth in the length and breadth of Pakistan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

Given the comprehensive spectrum of cooperation under “CPEC Green Corridor” throughout the year in 2022, the agriculture sector has recorded a remarkable growth of 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5% as well as last year’s growth of 3.48% during FY2022.

According to Economic Survey, the growth in the agriculture sector recorded 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5%.

This remarkable growth is mainly underpinned by China-led assistance to Pakistan of many facets relating transfer of hands-on experience in the fields of intercropping, high-yield seeds, pest control, hybrid cultivation, corporate farming, innovate irrigation technique, agri machinery training, agri research & development, protocol for Pak agri exports to China, digital farming and agri labor skills.

Since Sino-Pak agriculture has continued to deepen in 2022, Pakistan’s agricultural products exported to China from January to August 2022 reached \$730 million with a year-on-year increase of 28.59%.

Pakistan’s agricultural exports to China are expected to exceed a record high of \$1 billion next year.

On the back of 2022 agri sector’s milestone achievement, the focus of next year under CPEC Green Corridor will be continuing on improving land cultivation area, water management, better access to markets for inputs (seeds, fertilizers, farm mechanization, credit, water) and outputs, improved infrastructure including storage and cooling facilities, reduction in post-harvest losses, greater investment in research, development and extension, improved quality and fulfillment of quarantine requirements for international markets and competitiveness, greater diversification, especially minor but high-value crops, farm input and effectiveness of markets.

The announcement of three new corridors under CPEC including China-Pakistan Green Corridor (CPGC), which focuses on agricultural environment and food security speaks volumes about the significance of agricultural cooperation in CPEC. The inauguration of the

Intercropping Research Center jointly established by Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU) and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) in 2021 showed fantastic results in the 2022 season.

According to a news report a few weeks ago, China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology completed harvest at 65 demonstration sites in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recently, and the production of maize and soybeans reached 8,490 kg and 889 kg per hectare respectively in the intercropped fields.

Compared with the production of solely cropped maize and soybeans at these 65 sites which are 8,995 kg and 1,531 kg per hectare respectively, the intercropping technology definitely creates much more economic benefits.

Good news is that the researchers are also developing the strip intercropping systems of maize-peanut, maize-pea, sugarcane-soybean, sugarcane-mustard, wheat-mustard, wheat-soybean, wheat-chickpea, potato-maize and canola-pea.

Another healthy development in the agriculture sector happened in June, 2022 when a newly developed centre at Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR), the CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Centre (ACC), announced to perform policy research, assist Chinese businesses in working in the agriculture sector, and foster institutional cooperation. Pakistan is also looking forward to enhance banana production with Chinese cooperation. According to Noshawan Haider, CEO of the Sprouts Biotech Laboratories, Pakistan contributes less than 0.5% to the global banana market whereas China contributes about 4.5%.

Cotton germplasm is another significant component in Pak-China agricultural cooperation. For many years, China and Pakistan have cooperated in the field of gathering and identifying cotton germplasm resources.

In order to determine which cotton germplasms are resistant to heat, drought, diseases, and insect pests in various locations and environments, Institute of Cotton Research (ICR) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), collaborated with Cotton Research Institute (CRI), Multan, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), and some other universities and scientific research institutions.

During July, 2022, Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TMVTC), China and MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM), Pakistan signed an online agreement for an agricultural machinery training program of Luban Workshop in Pakistan. The two institutions will jointly promote the sci-tech exchanges and cooperation on agricultural machinery, germplasm resources and agricultural environment. Earlier this year, Zhang Jishu from Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. announced that his company would implement a 1,000-acre pepper cultivation demonstration garden in Multan during the 2022-2023 growing season.

In partnership with local agribusinesses and farmers in Pakistan, it intends to take over 15,000 acres of pepper orders in South Punjab, with a planned harvest of 30,000 tonnes of dried pepper. Additionally, the company intends to construct two pepper processing plants in Lahore and Multan and is in the process of locating suitable sites.

Pakistan is also working to grow the sorghum crops as, along with the three main basic foods of the globe, sorghum is a crop that has increasingly gained acceptance around the world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1040773/cpec-agri-corridor-sows-seeds-of-economic-growth-report/>

## **The Nation**

### **China to support Punjab for rapid industrialisation**

ISLAMABAD-China will support Punjab for rapid industrialisation, a senior Chinese diplomat said, according to Gwadar Pro.

Zhao Shiren, Chinese Consul General in Lahore, during his visit to Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) held discussions on different areas for increasing mutual cooperation between the two sides. During the interaction, the two sides resolved to enhance the collaboration for rapid industrialization in the province, especially for encouraging B2B level engagement of Chinese investors and businesses with their local counterparts from Punjab.

The consul general deeply appreciated the efforts of the former and current Secretary Industries for promoting the relocation of labour intensive industries from China to Punjab by leveraging a strong network of Special Economic Zones across the province both in the public and private sectors. Jalal Hassan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PBIT, who is also the Secretary of Punjab Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Authority, apprised the participants about effective facilitation by PBIT for promoting private sector led growth model which entails the recent grant of three new SEZs licenses to private sector developers in Punjab, two of which are a result of direct investment and cooperation by Chinese business enterprises.

Secretary Industries Punjab Sohail Ashraf emphasized that Punjab must develop its capacity to train a strong pool of skilled labor force as per modern industrial demands for local as well as international markets. A strong consensus was also developed between the two sides to further strengthen the technical education and vocational training canvas of Punjab by benefiting from the Chinese experience, especially to uplift the on-going partnership between Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Punjab and Tianjin consortium of technical universities for Punjab Tianjin University of Technology (PTUT) in Lahore.

The Chinese consul general assured of complete support for reinvigorating the PTUT project and other steps to encourage Chinese investors to relocate to Punjab and form Joint Ventures (JV) based partnership with local investors. Other areas of mutual collaboration including visa facilitation for Pakistan business persons, also came under discussion. The consul general was received by Secretary Industries Punjab, Sohail Ashraf, Chairman PBIT Fazeel Asif Jah, Chairman SEZs Authority Punjab, S M Naveed and CEO PBIT, Jalal Hassan. Both sides deliberated upon a multifaceted strategy to enhance the collaboration between Punjab and China for rapid industrialization in the province, especially for encouraging B2B level engagement of Chinese investors and businesses with their local counterparts.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-18/page-9/detail-0>



## The News

### **Baloch students briefed on CPEC**

*Muhammad Saleh Zaafir*

ISLAMABAD: Students from Balochistan, mainly belonging to the Gwadar region, find bright prospects for their future endeavours through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as they are availing of facilities offered by the project currently in various parts of the province.

A group of students and teachers recently visited the federal capital and met the diplomats in the Chinese embassy to convey their gratitude and sentiments to the government and the brotherly people of that country through them.

Bahram Zahid, a vibrant 21-year-old from the Gwadar district of Balochistan, was curious about the opportunities the CPEC offers for the people of his province so they can enjoy its perks and make their lives better.

According to a Chinese wire service report, he has been witnessing the development of Gwadar under CPEC for years and has had meetings with Chinese officials and visited companies operating in Pakistan to know more about the future of Gwadar and the cooperation in several projects.

“I met many Chinese, and I got the impression that they are earnest about CPEC, and I am sure that it will be implemented to its full potential one day, so the main thing for us is that we should participate in it as much as we can to share the development,” he told the service.

As a student at the University of Gwadar, Zahid is being accompanied by 11 other students and interestingly, most of them are visiting the capital city for the first time.

In a conversation with the Chinese wire service, the students said they had many questions about CPEC, and the visit was an eye-opening experience for them as they learned many things about Chinese investments and the good work the companies are doing in Pakistan. The students said that due to a lack of information in Gwadar, they had missed many good opportunities, but now they have a clear picture.

“I have heard about Chinese government scholarships. Now I have a clear idea about the application process,” Shahnaz Shafi Muhammad, a 22-year-old business administration student, said. The students also watched a documentary about the development of Shenzhen. They demonstrated a determination to work hard for Gwadar’s development.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Islamabad-based think tank Pakistan-China Institute, told the wire service that the students are the real stakeholders in the development because they are the future of Gwadar and the future of Pakistan-China friendship.

“The students have a lot of hope and confidence in the future of themselves and Gwadar, and that is very inspiring for me,” he said. He said that his institute coordinated the visit and shortlisted the students for a visit, adding that more students will visit the capital in the next phase.

Mujahid Hussain, head of the Department of Commerce at the University of Gwadar, who is accompanying the students on the visit, said CPEC is “bringing about a lot of positive changes to Gwadar. The prospects of a bright future for Gwadar are clear as the sky. The value of CPEC has increased, and many development programmes have been initiated,” he noted.

The visiting students thoroughly enjoyed Chinese hospitality during their stay in Islamabad, and they also visited some important places in the capital.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=158067>

**December 19, 2022**

**Pakistan Observer**

### **UoG students visit Chinese Embassy**

A group of 12 students from the University of Gwadar visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad where they were apprised of the many benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative for Balochistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, the visit was part of the youth engagement programme initiated by the Pakistan-China Institute in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy. The initiative aims to inform the Baloch youth about the benefits of CPEC and to counteract the negative stereotypes about China and the mega project.

Bao Zhong, Counsellor of the Political and Media Section at the Chinese Embassy, stressed the need for continued engagement with the youth to deepen understanding and increase people-to-people ties. She said that the visit will initiate a constructive dialogue aimed at benefitting from the opportunities created by CPEC.

She also highlighted that CPEC was not only aimed at bilateral cooperation but also had significant importance in regional connectivity and development.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute emphasised that Baloch youth must be involved in the decision-making process related to CPEC and also be equipped with the necessary skills and expertise to benefit from the project.

<https://pakobserver.net/uog-students-visit-chinese-embassy/>

**The Nation**

### **The Nation’s Shafqat Ali conferred ‘Friend in Pakistan 2022’ award by Chinese CG**

ISLAMABAD - Shafqat Ali, Special Correspondent of The Nation, has been conferred a special award “Friend in Pakistan 2022” by the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi. Certificates of these awards have been given to Pakistani academicians, scholars and media practitioners in recognition of their services to promote deeper understanding of China. Along with Shafqat Ali, 38 Pakistani nationals were conferred the special award by Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian. CG Li Bijian on this occasion said that awardees were

“vanguards of China-Pakistan friendship as through their diverse medium of communication and expression, they are exerting their energies to sensitize the people of Pakistan about China’s peaceful image, working style & relationship, philosophy and vision.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-19/page-2/detail-2>

## The News

### **China needs aggressive, comprehensive communication policy**

*Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

Communication policy of China could not compliment the evolution of China from a periphery state to one of the major powers of world. China grew at a marvelous pace and expanded economic linkages and cooperation. Go Global Policy of 1998 revolutionised China’s global linkages.

However, communication policy could not grow and remained stuck in pre-Go Global era. China was not able to deploy the required instruments of communication and means of dissemination of message like media and public diplomacy. It impacted the visibility and image of China. It provided space to opponents to play their games and they left no stone unturned to malign China.

They started to create an image of China which does not correspond to real China. They applied multiple tools and instruments like media (print, electronic and social), think-tanks and so-called right organisations. A close nexus was built among these tools to achieve the goals – undermining, maligning and containing China. Media is acting as spearhead to contain China. Thus, media is the first thing to understand and respond.

Analysis of Western media indicates it was built on broad principles of national interests, public engagement, cultural envision and to counter any foreign influence. For example, the broader objectives of BBC at the time of its establishment were to promote British electronics industry, mediate class tensions, cultivate imperial loyalties and fend off cultural competition etc.

West is using media as an alternative to diplomacy, military and economic powers to secure their national interests and lead the cultural invasion in the name of freedom of speech. The media is performing its role with dedication. Whenever, West has to contain any country, they use media as first line of offence. Media propagates message by sticking to above-mentioned principles. Same strategy is being applied in the case of China. Freedom of speech, human rights and lectures on the values are just eyewash. The real objective is to contain China by hook or crook.

Second, the role of think-tanks and so-called right organisations should also be analysed comprehensively, as both are pivotal in narrative-building and propaganda campaigns. We have seen many times think-tanks and so-called right organisations paved the way for Western states to forward their agenda to secure interests. Although, China did a great job on plantation and now is leading the way to combat climate change, but is still a favorite subject for Western think tanks to malign. Another example is China’s contribution on economic and

development fronts. China launched Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank etc. to contribute in achieving global economic and development agenda. Unfortunately, it met with fierce opposition.

Third, ideology is a field where China needs huge investment. Right now, ideological field is quite open because China did not put required efforts to mainstream its ideology. Among other reasons non-interference policy never allowed China to introduce or share its ideology and experiences e.g., economy, governance, whole process democracy (WPD), ecological civilisation, and prosperity. As a result, there is little knowledge available about WPD or unique reform model which highlights the importance of indigenous model of development according to their needs and ground realities.

Fourth, situation further complicated with the introduction of fifth-generation warfare. Communication is spearheading this new war. Now, the Western media, think tanks and so-called right organisations have new mandate to win the war without fighting a war.

On the contrary, Chinese media is following the principle of public interest and has no mandate to lead economic, diplomatic or cultural invasion. Thus, Chinese media was not able to compete with Western media. Therefore, it was easier for the West to spread any type of news or narrative. The support of think-tanks and so-called rights organisations made media's job easier by producing targeted research reports.

In this context, China will have to refine its communication policy according to the needs of new status of major power and to counter the fifth-generation warfare. China needs a policy which can enable it to compete and counter the modern models, tools of disinformation and fifth-generation warfare. The policy should also tackle the issue of cultural and ideological invasion. There should be special focus on branding the Chinese ideology in the fields of economy, culture, governance, environment etc.

Otherwise, China must be ready to bear the brunt of anti-China campaigns. It will not only impact global image of China, but will also introduce multifaceted challenges at domestic level. Although, all the segments of society are vulnerable to impacts, youth will be a major causality. The analysis of anti-China campaigns shows all anti-China campaigns are targeting the youth. The opponents are bombarding youth with anti-Communist Party of China and anti-socialism with Chinese characteristics propaganda material. They are putting efforts to turn youth against CPC and socialism with objective to undermine Chinese leadership. The most recent episode of Hong Kong riots can substantiate the argument. They exploited youth for their goals.

Now, they are trying to use youth to build anti-COVID policy. They are instigating young people in the name of freedom of movement. On the basis of above discussion, it can be inferred that China should act on war-footing. It must realize it is not matter of choice, but direly needed step.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=158400>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### رواں سال سی پیک ایگری کوریڈور کے تحت زرعی شعبے میں غیر معمولی شرح نمو ریکارڈ

لاہور (این این آئی) چین پاکستان زرعی تعاون کے باعث زراعت کے شعبے میں غیر معمولی گروتھ دیکھی گئی جبکہ جنوری سے اگست 2022 تک چین کو پاکستان کی زرعی مصنوعات کی برآمدات بھی 28.59 فیصد کے سالانہ اضافے کے ساتھ 730 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق 2022 میں پورے سال سی پیک ”گرین کوریڈور“ کے تحت تعاون کی وجہ سے زرعی شعبے میں 4.4 فیصد کی غیر معمولی نمو ریکارڈ کی گئی جو مالی سال 2022 کے دوران 3.5 فیصد کے ہدف کے ساتھ ساتھ گزشتہ سال کی شرح نمو 3.48 فیصد سے بھی تجاوز کر گئی ہے۔ یہ قابل ذکر ترقی بنیادی طور پر چین کی قیادت میں پاکستان کو مخلوط فصلوں، زیادہ پیداوار والے بیجوں، کیڑوں پر قابو پانے، ہائبرڈ کاشتکاری، کارپوریٹ فارمنگ، اختراعی آبپاشی تکنیک، زرعی مشینری کی تربیت کے شعبوں میں تجربات کی منتقلی، ایگری ریسرچ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ، چین کو پاک زرعی برآمدات کا پروٹوکول، ڈیجیٹل فارمنگ اور زرعی لیبر کی مہارت سے متعلق بہت سے پہلوؤں پر مبنی معاونت پر مبنی ہے۔ 2022 میں چین، پاک زراعت میں مسلسل اضافہ ہوا ہے، جنوری سے اگست 2022 تک چین کو پاکستان کی زرعی مصنوعات کی برآمدات 28.59 فیصد کے سالانہ اضافے کے ساتھ 730 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئیں۔ پاکستان کی چین کو زرعی برآمدات اگلے سال ایک ارب ڈالر کی بلند ترین سطح سے تجاوز کرنے کی توقع ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-19/page-12/detail-2>

## December 20, 2022

### Daily Times

#### **BRI offers numerous benefits to Pakistan: SAPM**

“The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have significant international influence and can effectively help developing countries promote infrastructure construction and economic development.

Pakistan is the biggest beneficiary of BRI,” said Zafaruddin Mahmood, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, according to Gwadar Pro on Monday

Zafaruddin Mahmood gave remarks at the high-end academic forum on Sino-Pakistan ties. The forum was hosted online and offline by Jiangxi University of Science and Technology (JXUST).

The forum focused on CPEC, China-Pakistan language, culture, and education cooperation, China-Pakistan nonferrous metals cooperation, China-Pakistan economy and trade, and Pakistan hot issues. The special assistant has studied in China for many years and claims himself a “China-made student”. He stated at the forum’s opening ceremony that BRI, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Security Initiative are all very important and have the potential to make the world a better place in the next 100 years.

He specifically affirmed the “2+2” talent training model jointly established by JXUST and the University of Punjab, and expressed his expectation that future exchanges and cooperation between the two parties would be strengthened.



In his welcome remarks, Wen Herui, President of JXUST, expressed his optimism for the forum as an opportunity to build on the momentum and make new and greater contributions to the high-quality development of Sino-Pakistan ties.

Luo Lin, Director of Secretariat of International and Regional Studies of the Ministry of Education of China, highlighted that “China and Pakistan have supported and forged ahead with each other in the face of changes and chaos in the world, which demonstrates our unwavering friendship.” He expressed support to the Pakistan Studies Center of JXUST for its efforts to strengthen liaison with various parties and build a distinctive think tank platform by combining the university’s superior disciplines.

Tu Anbo, Vice President of the Jiangxi People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, explained that in recent years, Jiangxi has continuously expanded cooperation and exchanges with Pakistan in the implementation of the BRI, and achieved fruitful results in the areas of CPEC construction, the fight against the epidemic, economy and trade, education and culture. He said the association is willing to work with other parties to expand Sino-Pak cooperation mechanisms and platforms, promote the of establishment Sino-Pak sister cities, schools and hospitals, and add new impetus to the building of an even closer Sino-Pak community with a shared future in the new era.

In his closing remarks, Liu Chengsheng, Secretary of the CPC Committee of School of Foreign Languages at JXUST, proposed to hold similar forums on a regular basis in the future and looked forward to smooth communication channels between the governments, universities and researchers of the two countries to continuously promote exchanges and cooperation.

Zulfiqar Ali, Director of the Board of Investment, Prime Minister’s Office of Pakistan, Luo Jianxue, President of the Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, Mahboob Hussain, Chairman of Department of history and Pakistan studies, Ma Zhiwei, Deputy Director of the Liaoyuan South Asia Institute, other scholars and over 200 faculty and students also attended the forum.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1041230/bri-offers-numerous-benefits-to-pakistan-sapm/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **‘China-Central Asia rail project should be extended to Peshawar’**

Envoy says Kyrgyzstan exported 3,000 tonnes of coal to Pakistan this year

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuiaev, on Monday said the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project should be extended to Peshawar through Afghanistan to boost trade relations with Pakistan.

Addressing the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the envoy said, “Kyrgyzstan wants to enhance trade relations with Pakistan as both countries have the potential to trade in many items.”

“Kyrgyzstan exported 3000 tonnes of coal to Pakistan this year and, being a country rich in natural resources, can supply other items too,” said Totuiaev, adding that the country plans to

establish a ‘Kyrgyzstan house’ in Lahore to introduce Pakistani consumers to Kyrgyz products.

“Pakistani mangoes and citrus have great potential in Kyrgyzstan. Pakistan can also export pharmaceuticals, textiles, agricultural products,” suggested the Kyrgyz ambassador.

“Currently, Kyrgyzstan is importing marble from India,” noted the envoy, suggesting that Pakistani marble exporters could use the opportunity to capture the market in the central Asian country.

An investment summit will be held in Kyrgyzstan early next year, the ambassador said, urging Pakistani investors to participate in the summit to explore business and investment opportunities in the country. He also invited ICCI to send a delegation to Kyrgyzstan and assured his embassy’s full cooperation.

ICCI VP Muhammad Zafarul Islam Zafar said, “While Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan enjoy cordial relations, their bilateral trade is only around \$8-9m – much lower than the actual potential.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2391931/china-central-asia-rail-project-should-be-extended-to-peshawar>

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

#### **پروفیسر قمر بھٹی کا چائنہ پاکستان سٹڈی سنٹر کا دورہ**

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) سابق برطانوی وزیر اعظم گورڈن براؤن کے مشیر اور گوانگ ڈونگ یونیورسٹی آف فارن سٹڈیز کے پروفیسر قمر بھٹی نے انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز اسلام آباد میں چائنہ پاکستان سٹڈی سنٹر کا دورہ کیا۔ دورے کے دوران قمر بھٹی نے برطانیہ، یورپ اور چین کے تھنک ٹینکس کے درمیان تحقیقی تعاون پر زور دیا اور بیرون ملک مقیم پاکستانیوں اور خاص طور پر نوجوان نسل کی ترقی کے بارے میں خیالات کا تبادلہ کیا۔ دورے کے اختتام پر چائنہ پاکستان سٹڈی سنٹر کے سربراہ طلعت شمیر نے انہیں سونہرے پیش کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-20/page-2/detail-2>

### **December 21, 2022**

#### **Business Recorder**

#### **Oil refinery project**

Chinese team visits Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: In order to materialise the \$4.5 billion oil refinery project in Gwadar, five-member delegation of Chinese Company “East Sea Group Limited (ESGL)” is visiting Gwadar, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

ESGL official Jason Zhou said that ESGL chief engineer Liu along with other officials will be in Gwadar from December 20. The delegation consisting of technical team with marine engineering, commerce and petroleum professional background will be headed by Group’s General Manager Fang Haixia.

Delegation will stay for three or four days in an effort to tune in conceptual and practical frameworks.

They will hold meetings with leadership of China Overseas Ports Holding Company and Gwadar Port Authority to review the proposed site for the establishment of oil refinery in Gwadar Free Zone phase II.

As per initial plan, ESGL will install five million tons capacity oil refinery in Gwadar. Later ESGL will upgrade it with annual oil processing capacity of eight million tons in Gwadar.

China Overseas Port Hold Company (COPHCO) and ESGL have already mutually developed understanding to make things happen at Gwadar Free Zone phase II.

ESGL is a diversified multinational company, mainly engaged in energy trade, energy storage logistics and oil refining, and has invested in many countries such as South America, the Middle East and Indonesia.

Chinese entry came at a time when uncertainty was brewing about fate of oil refinery in Gwadar after international players dragged their feet and went indecisive on the offer of establishing oil refinery in Gwadar.

And following Chinese move, many international firms have signalled for interest afresh to develop oil refinery in Gwadar.

Sources in GPA told Gwadar Pro that oil refinery project will be constructed in two phases. The first phase will have an annual refining capacity of five million tons. East Sea Group will place at least six crude oil transshipment vessels totalling two million tons at Gwadar Port in Pakistan every month, starting from and supporting its own oil source business, and will also provide oil transshipment and transshipment services for major Middle East oil producing countries.

According to sources in Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), the refinery will provide a substantial storage capacity to Pakistan, enabling it to maintain reserves for longer time and save foreign exchange.

The multi-billion dollar project, upon implementation, will provide an impetus to further investment in the petrochemical industry in Gwadar.

In order to greenlight the mega project by government of Pakistan, concerned institutions are gearing up to scrutinize the detailed business plan and feasibility study for further processing. For this purpose the services of an international consultant has already been hired and both documents are in the process of preparation. For planning and construction, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) will fulfill the licensing requirements under OGRA Ordinance 2022.

The move of launching the oil refinery seems to have encouraged other foreign investment that had stalled due to many reasons in the oil refinery sector during recent past. In January 2019, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih announced that the Arab nation was planning to set up a \$10 billion oil refinery in Pakistan's deep-water port of Gwadar. However, the plan was rolled back.

Later it was indicated with vagueness that instead Gwadar, oil refinery may be established somewhere else in Pakistan.

As a bolt from the blue, few days back Saudi Arabia has sprung back into action with signalling renew engagement to come up with oil refinery project in Gwadar amid fresh activism of newly appointed Secretary Petroleum Capt Muhammad Mahmood (retd). On October 27, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar also held a virtual meeting on First Joint Economic Sub Committee of the Saudi – Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council with HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Energy Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/12/21/12-page/950444-news.html>

### **The Nation**

#### **Chinese enterprises to increase logistic opportunities in Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD-The Chinese enterprises have increased logistical options for Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which increases the strategic position for transit trade in the region, reported WealthPK.

Pakistan's logistics sector is growing rapidly, making it an excellent investment time for Chinese enterprises. Efficient logistical procedures are essential to reduce costs and maintain and increase efficiency. The country's economy relies on a functional and well-developed transportation system. Currently, the government is working to build a modern network of links that will help Pakistan become a regional hub. A strong inward and outward linkage would make the private sector more efficient, attract foreign investment, increase exports, create employment, and enhance prospects for long-term, inclusive prosperity.

Talking to WealthPK, Professor Zahid Mehmood Akhter, a lecturer at the National University Modern Languages (NUML), said CPEC was improving the country's transportation infrastructure and will help eliminate regional inequities, and bring prosperity to the country. Although CPEC has made significant progress in the past two years, more efforts are needed to achieve a well-balanced transport model, he added. Pakistan has embarked upon various infrastructure development programmes to enhance regional connectivity, and improve the efficiency of transport and trade and logistics for the socio-economic growth of the country. China's expansion in logistical choices will draw investors to Pakistan since there will undoubtedly be a favourable atmosphere for foreign direct investment in Pakistan when there is infrastructure development and facility expansion.

“CPEC is a huge investment and requires highly specialised labour for the economic operations. For instance, if we need industry, we will also need a skilled workforce. Therefore, the Chinese logistical help will play a crucial role in monetizing our skills. In the long run, it will be advantageous to us and we will be sufficiently specialised to reap the greatest rewards from it, i.e. increased efficiencies, lower costs, increased knowledge and experience, and facilitation in market expansion and business growth.”

“The integration of computer techniques and automation in infrastructure will allow simultaneous achievement of logistical effectiveness goals. In addition to developing the

infrastructure, we will also be able to transform our economy into a sort of industrialised economy by creating economic zones related to CPEC.” According to Prof Akhter, the expansion of logistical options will strengthen the country’s efficiency, which will ultimately have a favourable impact on the national debt, currency value, international competition, availability of investment capital, and economic growth, thus raising employment and living standards.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-21/page-9/detail-0>

### **China to continue to support Pakistan: Zhao Shiren**

LAHORE-Consul General of China in Lahore Zhao Shiren has said that China will continue its support and cooperation with Pakistan for joint research and also facilitate the Pakistani businessmen in China.

In a meeting with Chairman of Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) S M Naveed here Tuesday, he added that Pakistan and China were set to enhance collaboration for rapid industrialization in Punjab, especially for encouraging B2B (Business to Business) engagement of Chinese investors with their Pakistani counterparts. Zhao Shiren assured that he would make every possible effort to strengthen the unique China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship and work with Pakistani side to bring the tangible benefits of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) to both the countries and their people.

On this occasion, S M Naveed said that Pakistan wanted to work with the Chinese business fraternity to promote bilateral ties. He stressed the need for tapping the enormous potential between the two countries. Both countries had opportunities for cooperation in the textile, automobile, halal food, and agriculture industry and that a joint strategy would further boost the industry, he maintained. The SEZA chairman urged the Chinese business community to invest in Pakistan, assuring that the government would provide all facilities. “Today, we are here to seriously engage ourselves with you because you are very serious-minded and enthusiastic person, and your achievements are outstanding and a shining example for all of us,” he remarked.

S M Naveed mentioned that Pakistan and China enjoyed historic, unique and special bilateral relations. It is a timeless and time-tested friendship nurtured by successive generations of the leadership and the people of the two countries. “Regardless of change in regional and international political landscape, our two countries have always stood together and have always extended solidarity and support to each other,” he concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-21/page-9/detail-2>

### **Express News**

#### **چینی حکومت کی پاکستان کو مکمل تعاون کی یقین دہانی**

چین نے پاکستان کو مسلسل تعاون کی یقین دہانی کروا تے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ چینی حکومت پاکستانی عوام کے ساتھ کھڑی ہے اور ہر قسم کی مدد فراہم کرنے کو تیار: اسلام آباد

ہے۔



عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفیر روئنگ نوئنگ نے بدھ کو وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اور ریو نیو سینٹر محمد اسحاق ڈار سے ملاقات کی، وزیر خزانہ نے جمہوریہ چین کے سفیر کا خیر مقدم کیا، اس موقع پر دو طرفہ تعلقات بالخصوص اقتصادی اور مالیاتی شعبوں میں مزید وسعت دینے کے دستیاب مواقعوں پر غور کیا گیا۔

چینی سفیر نے حکومت کی جانب سے مالیاتی اور اقتصادی استحکام کو برقرار رکھنے اور بڑھانے کے لیے کیے جانے والے پالیسی اقدامات کی تعریف کی۔

انہوں نے چینی حکومت کی جانب سے پاکستان کو مسلسل تعاون کا یقین دلایا اور مزید کہا کہ چین کی حکومت پاکستانی عوام کے ساتھ کھڑی ہے اور ہر قسم کی مدد فراہم کرنے کو تیار ہے۔

وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے ملاقات کے اختتام پر چینی سفیر کے مسلسل تعاون اور معاونت پر شکریہ ادا کیا اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دیرینہ اور مضبوط دوستانہ تعلقات کو سراہا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2417727/1/>

**December 22, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **CPEC charges up IT, digital economy in Pakistan**

A positive stir in IT industry and digital economy in 2022 has set the tone of resilient growth and progression for 2023 on automation, e-governance, e-commerce, IT parks, Research & Development, Internet density and computer Technology in Pakistan.

Benefited by CPEC-led cooperation on IT and digital economy, it is predicted that the total value of Pakistan's IT industry will reach \$10 billion by 2025. During onset and till end of current year, Pakistan has more than 2,000 software R&D centers. At present, Pakistan is the fourth largest base for free IT practitioners in the world.

Owing to multiple strategic, development and trade compulsions, China and Pakistan are specially focusing on the development of IT sector for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and beyond.

In July 2022 the first-ever China-Pakistan Technology Investment Conference was jointly organised by Special Technology Zones Authority, the Pakistan Embassy in China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad, and the Zhong guancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA) in order to forge new connections with the Chinese technology sector and open the door for Chinese and Pakistani technology players to collaborate in the field of technology.

July 2022 also marked an important development when The Ministry of IT and Telecommunication hosted the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Information Technology. The decision was made that both nations would gain from one another's expertise in the areas of spectrum, policy regulations, cyber security, human resource development, and 5G.

Similarly, in October 2022, Pakistani ambassador to China Moin ul Haque shared a news that the two countries have decided to build three new corridors, including the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor, which would help improve collaboration in many information technology

industries. He also envisaged an international conference on artificial intelligence in March, 2023 where local and foreign businesses will attend.

A lot of commitments and agreements were reached between the two countries in 2022 regarding IT and beyond. Now, 2023 is the year when we should consolidate on our previous work by enhancing the cooperation in the IT sector. If we look around the world, a lot is happening in the world of IT. For example, hybrid or multi cloud management technology, tools, and procedures will be used by 70% of businesses in the near future. With expectations of speeds up to 100 times faster, 5G will simultaneously provide network speeds that are around ten times quicker than those on existing 4G LTE networks.

Another great news came in November 2022, when China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Centre was inaugurated in Beijing by Ambassador Moin ul Haque and Mr. Zhang Xiaodong, President of Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA), while Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) joined virtually from Pakistan.

“Pakistan’s technology sector especially the newly built IT parks offer globally competitive opportunities for the Chinese partners and investors”, said a senior official at the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom (MOITT).

At the launching ceremony of Pakistan’s largest information technology park project in Karachi he said, the launching of three new corridors, including China-Pakistan Digital Corridor, will create many opportunities for the Chinese investors.

The IT Park of Karachi is an eleven-storey building covering an area of 106,449 square meters. The technology park will provide office space to approximately 225 startups, small to medium enterprises and other ancillary facilities like testing laboratories, classrooms, industry academia linkage center and auditorium.

The official source from MOITT believed that this will provide a platform to the Chinese companies with the local companies in promoting research and development, technology sharing while giving a boost to IT exports. Pakistan’s largest information technology park project in Karachi is expected to be completed in June 2026. Presently 22 software technology parks are operative in small cities and the government has set the target of taking the number of technology parks up to 40 by December 2022.

President Dr. Arif Alvi recently said that Pakistan’s information technology sector has the potential to increase its exports to \$50 billion.

Pakistan’s telecommunication, computer and information services exports during the first 11 months of fiscal year 2021-2022 surged to ?2.381 billion at a growth rate of 25.45 percent in comparison to ?1.898 billion during the corresponding period of last fiscal year, according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1042176/cpec-charges-up-it-digital-economy-in-pakistan/>

## Dawn News

### **Academics urge country to seek Chinese help in higher education**

HYDERABAD: Speakers at a seminar have urged national universities to identify new areas of cooperation with China in higher education and research and underscored the need for collaborative efforts to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and promote the spirit of friendly cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

They were addressing a seminar on the “Strategic and Economic Dimensions of Pakistan and China Relations Amid Deepening Global Geopolitical Divide” at Sindh University on Wednesday.

SU Thatta campus Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rafique Ahmed Memon in his presidential address said that there were vast opportunities for cooperation in the field of higher education and research in China.

He said that Chinese varsities could admit a large number of Pakistani students. Chinese educational institutions should register themselves with Pakistan accreditation bodies to resolve problems faced by Pakistani students on their return after obtaining higher degrees from various Chinese varsities.

Pakistan Ambassador to China Moinul Haque said China’s production of Al-Khalid tanks and GF-17 Thunder fighter jets with Pakistan was actually a great proof of extraordinary defense cooperation between the two countries.

He said that a cynical propaganda was being spread that the CPEC project would push Pakistan deeper into the debt mire, but it was not the case at all.

Mr Haque said that it was important to open the CPEC project to public so that no propaganda could affect the friendship between the two countries.

The two countries would soon start working on an important project to prepare submarines for Pakistan Navy and China would ensure access of Pakistani engineers to its manufacturing plant.

He announced that the SU would be provided with opportunities to enter into educational agreements with top varsities of China so that it could advance in the field of higher education and research being an old varsity of Pakistan.

Centre for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CSSS) Executive Director and former ambassador Kazi M. Khalilullah said: “Pakistan has a successful foreign policy, which we have to trust,” he said. Both countries had supported each other in testing times while in terms of defense, China had always helped Pakistan to stand on its own feet, he added.

Former Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) chairman Dr Ansar Pervez said that Pakistan initially bought a nuclear power plant from Canada, but due to Canada’s coldness, the project could not go ahead and then China started the same project and it assisted Pakistan.

He said that 325 megawatt nuclear power plant provided by China was successfully operationalized, adding that China's cooperation was continuing to meet energy needs of Pakistan.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed and others also made speeches online.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1727536/academics-urge-country-to-seek-chinese-help-in-higher-education>

### **The News**

#### **China willing to provide all assistance to Pakistan: envoy**

*By Muhammad Saleh Zaafir*

Nong Rong calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD: China on Wednesday said that it stands with Pakistan and its people as it is willing to provide all kind of assistance to Pakistan. The assurance came from Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Wednesday when he held an important meeting with Federal Finance and Revenue Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar. The meeting that took place at the Finance Division and is being viewed as a significant development since Pakistan is eyeing for potential assistance from the friendly capitals. Welcoming the Chinese Ambassador, Senator Dar who is also Leader of the House in Senate, praised the long-standing and deep-rooted friendly relations between the two countries. Both sides deliberated on a number of avenues for expansion of bilateral relations especially in economic and financial sectors. Ambassador Nong Rong appreciated the policy initiatives being taken by the government of Pakistan for sustaining and boosting fiscal and monetary stability. Senator Ishaq Dar thanked the Chinese ambassador for continuous support and assistance.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project of Chinese President Jinping Xi's Belt and Road (B&R) initiative. The present government in Pakistan has enhanced pace of work on the project. Several developmental plans are underway in difference parts of the country.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=159350>

**December 23, 2022**

### **Dawn News**

#### **Pakistan-China scholars emphasise on close cultural, educational ties**

*Iftikhar A. Khan*

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China's collaboration in areas involving education and cultural cooperation has seen an upward trajectory. Both countries have strong bilateral ties that have shaped the regional future by encouraging amicable dialogue and scholastic interactions.

These views were expressed by speakers during a webinar titled 'China-Pakistan Cultural and Education Exchanges under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)' organised by the Centre for BRI

and China of the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) and the Pakistan research centre of Honder College of Art and Sciences.

Speakers talked about the strong relationship between Pakistan and China in terms of their cooperation in culture and education. They said China has played a key role in creating regional awareness to underscore the significance of cultural and educational exchanges via its ventures like BRI and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This has resulted in substantial educational, political, economic, and trade cooperation, they added.

In her opening remarks, Farhat Asif, president of IPDS said that both countries enjoy a strong all weather strategic partnership and friendship with exemplary bilateral cooperation. CPEC is the epitome of such cooperation, thriving in the length and breadth of Pakistan.

She also emphasised on the strong collaboration in education and cultural exchange between both countries, adding that there are 7,000 Pakistani students currently studying in various universities in China.

Prof Tang Jun, director of the Pakistan Research Centre at the Inner Mongolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences in China, highlighted the strong partnership between Pakistan and China.

He said that academic engagement is growing with each passing day, adding that both sides are collaborating towards promoting the research and development culture and human resource and are ready to make it an effective part of CPEC's overall progress.

Dr Safdar Ali Shah, the director general of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan's CPEC cell spoke latest statistics about education, cooperation and exchanges. Dr Xie Xiaoqing, the director of the China University of Geosciences' China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Research Centre said that China offers great potential and opportunities for students to learn and build themselves for the future.

Additionally, Dr Ma Jianfu, dean of the Pakistan Studies Centre at North Minzu University explained his own experience of the cultural exchange and how the China-Pakistan cultural exchange will help build strong ties between the friendly countries. Dr Shahid Ahmad Hashmat, former high commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka spoke about the long-standing ties between the two states.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1727709/pakistan-china-scholars-emphasise-on-close-cultural-educational-ties>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **China's influence in Pakistan**

Pakistan is on the top of the list of countries influenced by China

It is hard to deny that China has a lot of influence in Pakistan, given the longstanding security and diplomatic cooperation between the two countries which, over recent years, has been supplemented by increased economic linkages as well. However, there is need to temper some of the external assessments concerning this influence, especially when it is framed by



rival hegemons like the US, as an illustration of Pakistan being trapped by Chinese debt diplomacy.

The impacts of growing great power competition are evident around the world, especially within South Asia, where India seems to have forged an alliance with the US to compete with China. On the other hand, American relations with Pakistan have experienced significant stress over the past two decades. Yet, the US is increasingly wary of Pakistan becoming a Chinese client state. Several US based think-tanks and high-ranking American officials have warned Pakistan of predatory Chinese lending and cast doubts about Chinese investments in Pakistan via the CPEC.

Now, a new index (the China Index 2022) has placed Pakistan at the top of the list of countries beholden to Chinese influence. While other entities like AidData at US-based William and Mary's Global Research Institute had already been analysing China's expanding portfolio of overseas investments and soft power activities, the China Index 2022 is said to be the first research initiative to comprehensively measure China's influence overseas. This Index is not created by an American think-tank but instead it has been published by the China in the World (CITW) Network, an initiative of Doublethink Lab, a Taiwan-based non-profit entity. Yet, the Index's committee includes several American academics and policy analysts as well.

The China Index 2022 focuses on 82 countries which are thought to be within the Chinese sphere of influence. While Pakistan tops this ranking, Singapore is listed in third place. Germany is ranked 19th, which places it first amongst European countries to be mentioned on this index.

While Pakistani media and academia is said to be less beholden to Chinese influence according to this China Index 2022, Pakistan is considered a frontrunner in the so-called 'dependence cluster'. This 'dependence cluster' refers to Chinese influence over Pakistan's economic, technological and domestic politics domains. Pakistan has also been placed first under the 'rulemaking cluster' which implies that China exerts significant influence over Pakistani military, law enforcement and foreign policy domains as well.

Pakistan being on the top of the list of countries influenced by China is obviously receiving pushback within the country. However, it is concerning that about 30% of Pakistan's foreign debt is now owed to China, according to another recent report released by IMF. It is also evident that China has now replaced the US to become the largest supplier for military hardware to Pakistan.

Nonetheless, placing Pakistan on the top of a list of countries where domestic politics, foreign policy decisions and law enforcement policies are being largely influenced by China is overkill. It is particularly unfair for countries wary of Chinese ambitions (especially the US) to raise fears about an authoritarian Chinese regime further undermining the prospects of Pakistan's already fragile democracy. Such alarmist assessments of Chinese influence in Pakistan tend to forget how US support enabled the longevity of the Ayub, Zia and Musharraf regimes.

Pakistan certainly does need to diversify its foreign direct investment portfolio and desist from providing blanket endorsement to problematic Chinese policies concerning Taiwan or the situation in Xinjiang. However, it is unfair to entirely dismiss Pakistan's agency over its policymaking decisions. After all, at the time when other foreign direct investment was drying up, it was Pakistani leaders who approached China to invest in Gwadar seaport and to then launch CPEC. Attempts to portray Pakistan as a Chinese client state will further harm its international reputation and risk making Pakistan even more dependent on China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2392359/chinas-influence-in-pakistan>

### **The Nation**

#### **SCO triggering Pak-China overall prosperity: Envoy**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, has said that promoting mutual trust and learning between the peoples of both the countries, especially our younger generation within the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), will undoubtedly contribute to overall bilateral progress and prosperity. He expressed these views while addressing the Forum on SCO Country People-to-People Exchange 2022 held by China Center for International People-to-People Exchange of the Ministry of Education, Qingdao Municipal People's Government, and Secretariat of SCO in Beijing, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. He said that SCO has become an influential, constructive force in global affairs and an example of new type of international relations based on mutual respect. Peace and development are the shared goals of all member states in this context, he added. "Pakistan as a member state of SCO, has contributed constructively and proactively towards these goals," the envoy added, "we have proposed a number of initiatives such as setting up the SCO special working group, to pursue the development of science, and technology under the framework." According to Xi Ru, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education, China, three years ago, the China Center for International People-to-People Exchange and the Qingdao Education Bureau jointly established the first batch of experimental zones for people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and other countries. Nearly 200 schools have joined the program to build schools featuring people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and have vigorously carried out programs such as international friendship school pairing. On the occasion, Deputy Secretary General of SCO Sohail Khan underlined that people-to-people exchanges are an integral part of state-to-state relations and one of the key directions of SCO cooperation. The forum also witnessed the release of 2022 Qingdao Initiative on Educational and People-to-people Exchanges and Cooperation among SCO countries, the signing of SCO Sister Schools cooperation agreement, the opening of the Qingdao Education Research Center for People-to-People Exchange, and the inauguration of the Qingdao International Education Exchange Week

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-23/page-4/detail-13>

**December 24, 2022**

**Dawn News**

**Hubco, Chinese firm resolve dispute**

*Kazim Alam*

KARACHI: The Hub Power Company Ltd (Hubco) said on Friday its joint-venture (JV) partner in a coal-based 1,320-megawatt power plant has withdrawn the encashment notice it served on Hubco's bank last month.

The announcement removes the analysts' earlier apprehensions that the notice — served on the bank that issued a \$150 million standby letter of credit (SBLC) on behalf of Hubco — would lead to increased financial costs for the country's largest independent power producer.

The SBLC is a guarantee through which lenders ensure that equity partners cover any cost overruns or funding shortfalls that may occur before the project completion date (PCD).

Even though the plant has been producing electricity for many years, its PCD was still pending because the lenders were waiting for the fulfilment of their last condition: the establishment of a revolving fund by the Central Power Purchasing Authority-Guarantee (CPPA-G) to help independent power producers overcome their liquidity shortfalls.

The government recently set up the revolving fund, which has eliminated the need for the JV partner, China Power Hub Generation Company Ltd (CPHGC), to call the SBLC.

Hubco and CPHGC informed investors on Friday that the SBLC has been extended on "mutually agreed terms." They didn't state any details.

The JV partner called the SBLC on Nov 23, which was the day the facility was going to mature. Hubco didn't renew it, which meant its JV partner would be out of options in the case of any funding shortfalls in the future.

As for the reluctance shown by Hubco in renewing the facility, analysts referred to the fact that SBLCs constitute a liability and use up the available credit lines. That's because the issuing bank must make immediate payment on behalf of its client — Hubco, in this case — as soon as the SBLC is called upon.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1727971>

**The Nation**

**China to provide free cancer screenings for 10,000 Pakistani women**

ISLAMABAD - A medical technology company Landing Med, based in Wuhan, China has dispatched three self-developed cervical cancer screening devices along with 5,000 sets of supporting consumable items to Pakistan. With these AI-powered devices, 10,000 Pakistani women will receive free cervical cancer screening and early diagnosis of tumours, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. This is the first batch of devices under the China-Pakistan AI Cervical Cancer Screening Programme. In the future, more will be provided to Pakistan. Landing Med will also establish a Cloud Diagnostic Research Centre for Akbar

Niazi Teaching Hospital to provide nationwide cervical cancer screening in Pakistan. Compared with artificial diagnosis, AI screening excels in speed and accuracy. Even an experienced pathologist can only examine up to 100 cell slides a day. In addition, some pathological cells that do not show obvious changes in the early stage may be missed when being observed through the microscope. The AI-powered screening device, on the other hand, can automatically find traces of cancer cells in digitized images within minutes based on decades of manually accumulated diagnosis data and algorithm models. According to Sun Xiaorong, founder and President of Landing Med, as Pakistan has a huge population, there are a large number of women who need cervical cancer screening. In this regard, efficient testing methods are required to enhance coverage. To benefit women in remote areas with scarce medical resources, the company has developed a 5G+AI cloud diagnosis platform where experts from over ten countries can hold consultations on reports uploaded to the cloud platform, which saves patients the trouble of repeatedly visiting the hospital for sample collection and report analysis. The China-Pakistan AI Cervical Cancer Screening Programme started in 2019 on the ninth meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Joint Cooperation Committee when two think tanks of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences signed an MoU with Pakistan's Ministry of Health to jointly provide AI cervical cancer screening services in Gwadar Port and other cities in Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-24/page-10/detail-0>

**December 25, 2022**

**Business Recorder**

### **Govt urged to focus on renewable energy projects under CPEC**

KARACHI: Economists and experts have urged the government to have more focus on renewable energy projects under the CPEC to overcome the current energy crisis.

Addressing to “Green Financing, CPEC and Industry” session of the 2nd International Conference on CPEC, organized by the Economics and Management Sciences Department (EMD) at NED University, State Bank of Pakistan's Director SME, Housing and Sustainable Financing Dr Mian Farooq Haq said that despite of Pakistan's contribution of less than one percent in greenhouse gases emissions, one-third of the country came under flood waters due to climate change.

He said that the State Bank had issued voluntary Green Banking Guidelines in 2017, and the central bank was going to engage two banks; one small and another major bank for the implementation of the Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM) framework to make them model banks. Later on, other banks will also replicate it.

He said that under renewable energy financing through commercial banks, 2,300 projects with 1,600 MW were underway but the financing was also available to individual consumers at a discounted rate of 6 percent.

CEO Younus Energy Limited Abdul Sattar Jumani said that the wind corridor in Jhimpir had provided benefits to the local population, where 100 percent population was employed and provided solar panels.

CEO Petroleum Institute of Pakistan, Shehryar Omar, said Pakistan's peak energy demand in winter was 12,000 MW, which increased to 30,000 MW because of air conditioning only. He said CNG was a huge mistake and there would not be any indigenous gas in 8 to 10 years. Any pipeline gas import would not work as well, as it happened in the case of Europe.

CEO of Indus Consortium and co-organizers of the session, Hussain Jarwar, said despite 4 months passed on to monsoon rains, 3 to 4 feet of water was still standing in several areas of Sindh while 75,000 pregnant women, who did not contribute to greenhouse gases, suffered during the floods and were still standing at the flood relief camps.

He said that just before the monsoon there was a water shortage of up to 70 percent in the province.

"There will be either floods or droughts under climate change," he said.

Mirza Faizan Ahmed, a research associate at the NED University, presenting findings on "In-depth analysis of GBG" said that 18 commercial banks out of 33 commercial banks had taken some initiative to follow the GBGs.

He said around 21 projects in CPEC were energy focused with 5,000 MW projects based on coal.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/12/25/3-page/950683-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **Keel laying ceremony of first HANGOR class submarine held**

The indigenous submarine development project at Pakistan achieved another mega milestone, wherein, the Keel Laying Ceremony of first HANGOR Class Submarine and Steel Cutting of second Submarine held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW). Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The defence agreement between Pakistan and China included development of 08 x HANGOR Class Submarines including 04 under constructions at Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group (WSIG) in China and remaining 04 being built at KS&EW under Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement. The construction work of first submarine to be made at KS&EW Pakistan commenced in Dec 21 and now the Keel Laying is being laid which is a major milestone in history of any naval vessel being constructed. Concurrently, construction work on subsequent submarine has started with its Steel Cutting at the same shipyard.

HANGOR Class Submarine is capable to undertake variety of missions as per operational dictates. The submarine possesses advanced stealth features and fitted with State-of-the-Art weapons and sensors to operate under multi-threat environment and can engage targets at stand-off ranges.

On the occasion, the honorable Chief Guest expressed that it is a matter of great pride to witness the Keel Laying and Steel Cutting of two submarines concurrently. He added that Pakistan Navy is aware of the evolving Geo-strategic situation in our region and will continue to develop naval potential, improve shipbuilding infrastructure and equip platforms with advanced weapons/ sensors to counter traditional as well as asymmetric threats. The Admiral



showed confidence that these submarines will play leading role in catering the operational needs of Pakistan Navy.

Earlier the distinguished Rep of M/s China Shipbuilding Offshore Company (CSOC) expressed his gratitude for the ceremony. He added that his company will ensure seamless provision of all resources/ support for smooth construction of submarines in Pakistan. He further said that Pak-China friendship is deep rooted and share common objectives.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of M/s CSOC (China) and other high ranking officials including distinguished guests from Embassy of China, Ministry of Defence Production (MoDP), Pakistan Navy (PN) and KS&EW.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1043193/keel-laying-ceremony-of-first-hangor-class-submarine-held/>

### **Chinese beekeeping technology contributes to honey production**

With the use of Chinese technology, Pakistan has witnessed a historic breakthrough in the processing of bee-related products, especially honey production.

Dr. Muhammad Asif Aziz, Associate Professor of the Department of Entomology Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, is in charge of the Billion Tree Honey Initiative and a participant in the online training course on beekeeping and honey processing technology sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and organized by Hunan Agricultural Group Co., Ltd., last year.

For him, the training came just in time as he was eager to learn more about royal jelly production, bee breeding techniques, honey production technology, and bee-related product processing to reach the goal of the Billion Tree Honey Initiative, that is to produce 70,000 tonnes of honey through the introduction of modern beekeeping equipment, training in the latest technologies, standardization and product certification, and marketing.

“It is challenging to receive technical training online, but I'm lucky to have a great online management team to make everything organized,” he told China Economic Net. “Chinese professors demonstrated the country's beekeeping technology through theoretical explanations and demonstrations on apiaries. And there were interesting introductions of Chinese culture, so we not only learned Chinese beekeeping technology but also had a deeper understanding of China”, he termed the training “beyond expectation” and was awarded excellent trainee at the end of the training program.

The training made him realize that to further develop the apiculture industry in Pakistan, the first step should be to improve the skills of local practitioners in the production of various bee products, including royal jelly and other higher-value bee products, through training and capacity-building programs.

Therefore, he started to train local beekeepers in two categories. One is a short-term course that teaches modern apiculture technology for professional bee farmers. The other is middle-to-long-term training for green hands. Previously, local beekeepers used to think that royal jelly can only be produced in natural beeswax cups and in queenless colonies. Therefore, mostly they remained reluctant to produce this valuable product due to the fear of a loose bee

population in the absence of queens and considered royal jelly production costlier than net profits.

“After learning about China’s royal jelly technology, Dr. Muhammad Asif Aziz along with his students decided to use Chinese technology. Then, he invited several bee farmers to learn and practice together. To everyone’s surprise, royal jelly was successfully produced with plastic queen cells in colonies with queens.

“The approach of Chinese people to work for the betterment of humanity through knowledge sharing is remarkable, which ultimately will pave the path towards social and economic stability of both the nations”, he said, looking forward to more exchanges in the future.

“Online training can never replace offline practice. I’m very much looking forward to coming to China in the near future to meet with experts in the apiculture industry face to face”, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1043308/chinese-beekeeping-technology-contributes-to-honey-production/>

**December 26, 2022**

**The Express Tribune**

### **330MW from Thar coal added to national grid**

Will take Thar’s coal contribution to power generation up to 3,000MW

HYDERABAD: Hub Power Company Limited (HUBCO)’s 330-megawatt (MW) power plant, fired by Tharparkar’s coal, formally started supplying electricity to the national grid on Friday in Islamkot. Inaugurated by the Minister of State, Mahesh Malani, this fresh addition of 330MW will take Thar’s coal contribution to power generation up to 3,000MW.

Due to bad weather, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah’s flight was cancelled, leaving him unable to inaugurate the power plant. The Chief Executive Officers of Hubco Group and ThalNova, Kamran Kamal and Saleemullah Memon briefed the minister about the project.

The project is part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and is a joint venture among Hubco, Thal Engineering, Novatex Limited and China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) which is also the EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) contractor. The construction of the plant began in March, 2019, but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

ThalNova will utilise the indigenous coal being mined by Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company in Thar Coal Block II. The cost of power generation from Tharparkar’s coal stands at Rs9 per KW/hr. In comparison, the electricity produced from imported coal costs at least Rs20 per KW/HR.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2393593/330mw-from-thar-coal-added-to-national-grid>

## **Green investment on rise, Pakistan to get 30 % renewable energy**

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2022 is going to be wound up with spillover opportune in Pakistan's green energy landscape underpinning the nation's plan to boost the share of its electric power that comes from renewable to 30 percent by 2030.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday, during the culminating year, China-Pakistan green electricity romanticism has blossomed that helped CPEC energy-mix momentum gain perpetuality igniting the ongoing spark and future projects in the sphere of hydro, wind, solar, and others will transform Pakistan environment outlook.

Anchoring Pak-China new green corridor announced in 2022, green electricity bond between the two nations will also support Pakistan to meet its Climate targets and UN sustainable development goals.

When renewable energy is talk of the town across the world, Belt & Road Initiative of China is not behind in contributing towards green revolution. On similar lines, CPEC energy investments from China are now focusing on green energy. It won't be an exaggeration if we say that 2022 brought a new era in Sino-Pak cooperation in renewable energy, as we have witnessed extremely encouraging signs in green energy sector between the two friendly nations.

Until now, renewable energy sources make up a very minor fraction of Pakistan's overall power generation mix. According to a recent report of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, the installed capacity for wind and solar accounts for roughly 4.2% (1,831 MW) and 1.4% (630 MW) of a total of 43,775 MW, respectively.

China is already the biggest investor in green energy in Pakistan. Currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly 87% of the total.

Thanks to Chinese investments, a few weeks ago Federal Power Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan inaugurated two new wind energy projects in Jhimpir, Thatta District, Sindh, with an aim to produce cheaper and clean electricity through indigenous energy sources. Wind projects in this region have been one of several renewable energy projects to have received Chinese investment in recent years. Around 90 kilometers from Karachi, Jhimpir is the heartland of the country's largest 'Wind corridor', which has the potential to produce 11,000 megawatts (MW) of energy from green resources.

Another major development took place in Wind Energy promotion when Beijing-based multinational wind turbine manufacturer, Goldwind corporation launched the first-of-its-kind solution factory in Pakistan. The Solution Factory aims to develop localized solutions for Pakistani wind power plants.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif recently announced the quick installation of 10,000 MW of solar energy throughout the country to lessen reliance on imported fuel. Experts believe that China will play a big part in installing Solar Power projects as it has previously installed a mega Quad-e-Azam Solar Park.

Furthermore, China is also building the cheapest solar material, therefore domestic and commercial consumers prefer Chinese solar kits in Pakistan. Regional Sales Manager of Longi Solar, Li Xia opening said that “we will focus on the distributed solar power in Pakistan by providing more solar panels on roofs for residents as well as industrial and commercial buildings.”

The company is also customizing the operation and maintenance of solar devices amid high temperatures, which plagued Pakistan this summer, to adapt its goods to the escalating climate change.

There will be measures in place to protect the solar gadgets when a flood occurs after the prediction and alert of extreme weather conditions. During mid 2022, Power Division of Pakistan decided that the 300MW imported coal-based power facility at Gwadar will be abandoned, to replace it with a solar project.

China has also been investing in Pakistani hydro power sector for the last several years under CPEC and otherwise. According to a recent report in Pakistani media, China is prepared to assist Pakistan with cleaning its Tarbela Dam using steel straw. Chinese firms will be clearing silt from the nation’s largest reservoir using a 120-meter steel rod.

Tarbela Dam is one of the largest earth and rock-filled reservoirs in the world and the largest project to develop water resources, according to Pakistan’s Water and Power Development Authority.

2022 also marked a breakthrough as mega CPEC hydro power projects have started its operations.

China Three Gorges Corp’s first hydroelectric joint venture under CPEC, the Karot hydropower project, began commercial operation during June 2022. The project, which has a total installed capacity of 720 megawatts and is situated on Jhelum River, is the first significant hydropower investment project under CPEC.

The hydroelectric power plant, whose construction began in April 2015, is anticipated to produce about 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually and supply Pakistan with reliable and affordable energy to suit the needs of its approximately 5 million population.

Other CPEC-related hydropower projects include Kohala Hydropower Project, Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, and Azad Pattan Hydropower Project. Furthermore, Diamer Bhasha, Neelum Jehlum, Mohmand, and Dasu Dams are also contributing towards Chinese commitment to provide clean and affordable energy in Pakistan.

China is also assisting Pakistan in establishing a waste-to-energy facility in Lahore after research revealed that the nation has enormous potential to produce electricity from garbage by utilizing cutting-edge technology. The proposed plant is anticipated to have a 40MW installed capacity. It will have two turbine generators with a combined output of 20MW each.

During the recent visit of Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif to China, the Chinese side appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani government to vigorously develop renewable energy projects including solar projects which aligns with the green, low carbon and environmental

development of energy sector, and encouraged participation of Chinese companies in this endeavor.

Leading Chinese companies have shown keen interest in investing in Pakistan's solar, water and other infrastructure projects during the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing. The prime minister invited Chinese corporate heads to come to Pakistan and pour capital into the government's comprehensive solar power programme aimed at generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity.

<https://pakobserver.net/green-investment-on-rise-pakistan-to-get-30-renewable-energy/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Pak-China defence cooperation fortifies**

*SHAFQAT ALI*

ISLAMABAD - Defence ties between Pakistan and China got bolstered over the years as the two allies multiplied cooperation in other sectors too.

Over the weekend, the Keel Laying Ceremony of first HANGOR Class Submarine and Steel Cutting of second Submarine was held in Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works - an evidence of the Pakistan-China friendship.

The defence agreement between Pakistan and China included development of 08 HANGOR Class Submarines including 04 under constructions at Wuchang Ship-building Industry Group in China and remaining 04 are being built at KS&EW under Transfer of Technology agreement.

Recently, China described the Chinese military's relationship with Pakistan's armed forces as "serving as the mainstay of China-Pakistan friendship."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said "China is an all-weather strategic cooperative partner and friendly neighbour of Pakistan." China's military has also recently hailed the importance of military-to-military relations between the two countries.

People's Liberation Army (PLA) Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence, said that "military-to-military relations, serving as the mainstay of the China-Pakistan friendship, have played an important role in the development of bilateral relations for a long time". About Pakistan receiving China's J-10CE fighter jets, he said "China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, true friends and iron brothers that share weal and woe." "China is willing to work with Pakistan to accelerate the construction of a closer China-Pakistan community of shared destiny in the new era," he said, adding that "the Chinese and Pakistani militaries stand ready to expand practical cooperation in various fields to a new level and inject a new impetus into the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries". China has over the years maintained close relations with both military and civilian leaderships in Pakistan. For decades, the leaders of China and Pakistan have eulogized the relationship between the two countries as "higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, sweeter than honey." Former President Asif Ali Zardari and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif promoted the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) – an infrastructure investment megaproject in Pakistan financed by China since 2015 – as a “game changer.” Sort from governments, there is firm evidence in the form of survey data that Pakistanis love China. As part of the Sinophone Borderlands public opinion survey in Pakistan in June 2022, over 1,200 Pakistani respondents were asked two open-ended questions about their perception of China. Respondents were drawn from all regions of Pakistan and included a representative sample of age groups and genders. The same questions have also been asked in many other countries and very rarely have the answers been as significantly positive as in Pakistan. The first survey question asked what first came to people’s minds when thinking of China. The most common answers, as the word cloud reveals, were “friend,” “best friend,” “good friend,” and even “trusted friend.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-26/page-1/detail-5>

### **China-Pakistan Youth Community brings warmth to GB**

ISLAMABAD - The China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community paid a three-day visit to the Gilgit- Baltistan region and handed over 1,700 packages of food, tarpaulins, quilts, blankets and other supplies to the local people. Following the recent biblical floods, a significant number of GB people are living in tents and makeshift wooden houses as their homes have been devastated by the deluge. Standing by the people of GB, the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community distributed the second batch of relief supplies to Gilgit, supported by the Tencent Charitable Foundation and the China Foundation for Rural Development. Relief supplies were distributed in the areas of Gilgit, Ghizer, Khunjerab, Hunza, Nagar and other areas. Accompanied by officials from the local governments and chambers of commerce, the community drove for nearly four hours to the Ghizer district, to distribute anti- disaster and cold-weather supplies to 800 families. Qurban Ali, Chairman of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Capital Office, lauded the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community for its long-term assistance to Pakistan. The community was warmly welcomed and received at the office of the GB Disaster Management Authority (GB-DMA). Zaheer Uddin Babar, Deputy Director of the Authority, briefed the community on the situation in Gilgit and the difficulties faced by the affected people. He also revealed the measures taken by the GB government to rehabilitate the flood victims.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-26/page-4/detail-5>

### **China to increase investments in Pakistan’s power sector: Chinese envoy**

ISLAMABAD - The Chinese government would further increase investment in the power sector of Pakistan, said Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong while addressing the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) ceremony held here. The National Electric Power Regulation Authority (NEPRA) has celebrated the outstanding achievements of NEPRA’s licensees in Occupational HSE. Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H Farooqi chaired the ceremony while the Chinese ambassador graced the event as chief guest. The Ambassador appreciated NEPRA’s efforts of organising an amazing ceremony and shedding light on various CPEC energy projects initiated by the Chinese government in Pakistan visa- vis HSE and reiterated his government’s resolve to help Pakistan’s Power Sector.



“The Chinese government would further increase investment in the power sector, especially in renewable energy,” Rong added. Chairman NEPRA remarked that HSE issues are at the forefront of his priorities and therefore each licensee shall strive hard to improve its performance in this area. He also elaborated that NEPRA through its PWS drive is making tremendous headways by developing safety protocols and conducting awareness sessions which have resulted in a decrease in accidents and electrocutions.

Ambassador Nong Rong and Chairman NEPRA Tauseef H Farooqi presented awards to the top-performing organisations. UCH & UCH-II Power (Pvt) Limited was recognised as the top performer and presented Gold Award, followed by Foundation Power Company (Daharki) Limited with the Silver whereas the Bronze award was shared by Karachi Nuclear Power Generating Stations, M/s Chashma Nuclear Power Generating Stations, and Nishat Power Limited. Similarly, NEPRA also recognised eighteen individuals from power companies for their outstanding safety performance in the field.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-26/page-4/detail-8>

### **US, China, UK remained top three destinations of Pakistani exports in 5 months**

ISLAMABAD - The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first five months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US from July-November (2022-23) were recorded at \$2604.966 million against the exports of \$2682.332 million during July-November (2021-22), showing decline of 2.88 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by the China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$877.444 million against the exports of \$1016.380 million last year, showing a decrease of 13.66 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth \$846.999 million during the months under review against the exports of \$944.335 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.30 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$744.938 million against \$691.247 million last year, showing an increase of 7.76 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$614.916 million against \$691.247 million last year.

During July-November (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$622.999 million against \$544.654 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$213.282 million against \$207.407 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$491.636 million against the exports of \$407.750 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$568.560 million against \$410.094 million last year. Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at \$365.290 million against \$316.680 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$252.691 million against \$210.421 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$184.017 million against \$163.931 million.

Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at \$139.825 million during the current year compared to \$127.513 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$201.717 million against \$159.586 million, and Australia stood at \$127.583 million during the current year against \$113.894 million during last year.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-26/page-8/detail-3>

## **December 27, 2022**

### **Nawaiwaqt News**

#### **پاکستان سی پیک کے 9 میں سے پانچ SEZs کو ترقی دے رہا ہے: ایم نوید**

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) ایم نوید چیئر مین سٹیٹل اکنامک زونز اتھارٹی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اس وقت سی پیک کے تحت نامزد کردہ 9 میں سے پانچ شامل ہیں۔ انہوں نے SEZ، ریشمی SEZ کو ترقی دے رہا ہے جن میں علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی فیصل آباد، پنجاب، سندھ میں دھابھی SEZs گزشتہ روز اپنے دفتر میں ہونے والی ایک میٹنگ کے دوران بتایا کہ خیبر پٹی کے میں اور بلوچستان میں بو سٹن ایس ای زیڈ۔ ایک اور فاسٹ ٹریک گوادر میں ہے یعنی گوادر فری زون بھی جاری ہے۔ گوادر فری زون کا پہلا فیئر 60 ایکڑ اراضی پر پہلے ہی مکمل طور پر کام کر رہا ہے جبکہ SEZ 2200 ایکڑ اراضی پر پھیلے ہوئے زبردست دوسرے فیئر پر کام جاری ہے۔ پاکستانی اور چینی حکام نے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پر پیش رفت کا جائزہ سے ملک میں اقتصادی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ دینے، روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنے اور زر مبادلہ کمانے میں SEZs لیا۔ ان کا ایک عام خیال تھا کہ مدد ملے گی۔ ایس ایم نوید نے مزید کہا کہ متعدد چینی کمپنیوں کے نمائندوں نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا ہے تاکہ وہ کچھ دیرینہ مسائل پر بات چیت کر سکیں اور انہیں بتایا گیا کہ ان منصوبوں کو کامیاب بنانے کے لیے تمام مسائل کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر حل کیا جائے گا۔ پاکستان کمپنیوں کی مہارت سے میں چینی صنعتوں کو منتقل کرنے میں دلچسپی رکھتا ہے۔ CPEC SEZs فائدہ اٹھانے کے لیے

ٹیکسٹائل، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، زراعت، سائنس اور ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے اور کان کنی کے شعبے وہ کلیدی شعبے ہیں جن میں پاکستان برآمدات کو میں آنے والے منصوبے بنیادی طور پر CPEC بڑھانے اور ملکی درآمدات کے متبادل کیلئے براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری لانے کا خواہاں ہے۔ ان شعبوں میں ہوں گے جو دوہری فائدہ مند آلے کے طور پر کام کریں گے، ملک کی درآمدات کو کم کریں گے اور برآمدات میں اضافہ کریں میں تقریباً 10,029.64 ایکڑ صنعتی اراضی ہے جس میں SEZs نے بتایا کہ ملک بھر میں تمام مطلع شدہ SEZs گے۔ ایس ایم نوید، چیئر مین سے 15,220.62 ایکڑ (52%) سرمایہ کاروں کو صنعت کے قیام کے لیے مختص کی گئی ہے جس میں 2000 روپے کی منصوبہ بند سرمایہ کاری کی گئی پر مشتمل ہے۔ مجھے یقین ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری پاکستان (بلین USD 1.73) جزو FDI % ہے۔ 633.9 بلین، اس کا 43.6% کیلئے اپنی معیشت کو فروغ دینے اور گہری ہوتی ہوئی معاشی کساد بازاری پر قابو پانے کا ایک نادر موقع ہے۔ چونکہ، ملک کو تجارتی خسارے، کم ہوتے ذخائر، روپے کی قدر میں کمی اور دیگر چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے۔ یہ اقدام ملک کو معاشی استحکام کی طرف لے کر چیزوں کو بدل سکتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-27/page-7/detail-6>

**December 28, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **Chinese embassy briefs journalists about Happy Chinese New Year**

Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and China Cultural Center in Pakistan organized a live 2023 Happy Chinese New Year Press Conference which was attended by the senior journalists from renowned Pakistani media groups, newspapers and TV Channels at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad.

The 2023 Happy Chinese New Year Press Conference was held in Beijing. Gao Zheng, Director General, the International Exchange and Cooperation Bureau, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, vice-president and secretary-general of the China International Culture Association; Zhao Cong, head of China National Traditional Orchestra, and well-known pianist Lang Lang, cultural ambassador of the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, attended the conference, introducing the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year activities.

Gao said the Happy Chinese New Year, an annual brand activity held to celebrate Spring Festival, has taken off in recent years and is increasingly becoming an important platform for China to share Chinese culture with people from all over the world. The 2023 Happy Chinese New Year will be guided by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China and hosted by China International Culture Association. Various online and offline activities, including music concerts, temple fairs and parades, will cover the globe.

The press conference also released the mascot of 2023 Happy Chinese New Year. As the coming Chinese New Year is the Year of the Rabbit, the mascot, designed by Central Academy of Fine Arts, is a cute rabbit with long ears based on the shape of a lucky bag.

China will be celebrating 2023 traditional Chinese New Year, generally known as "Chinese Spring Festival" on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023 and lasting until February 9th, 2023. It is one of the most important and biggest festivals in traditional Chinese culture, and one of the longest holidays, lasting up to 7 days.

Chinese New year is celebrating in China as well as neighboring countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea, and all around the world where there are Chinese communities. In Pakistan, there are thousands of Chinese who have lived there for various periods of time. They will also be celebrating the festival in its full cultural and traditional spirit. Many similarities exist between Chinese New Year and Pakistan's traditional "Eid" Festival. Both are based on the lunar calendar and are one of the most important and biggest festivals in their societies and both are family-centric festivals.

Mr. Xing Lijun, the Second Secretary, the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan briefed to the Pakistani media about 2023 Happy Chinese New Year and upcoming events in connection with celebration of Chinese Spring Festival. He also highlighted the Pak China Cultural exchange programs with Pakistani journalists community. He informed that the year 2023 is a year of Rabbit as per Chinese Lunar calendar. Furthermore, Xing said The cultural bonds existing between the two nations is strong enough to support our everlasting friendship. This relationship will expand into all domains of

Pakistani life and grow further with the passing of each day. The media interaction were ended by the question answer session.

Cultural office of the Embassy of China People's Republic of China and China Cultural Center in Pakistan will comprehensively utilize all the humanity resources in the future to showcase Chinese history, culture and tourism will continue to make relentless efforts for a new chapter of China-Pakistan friendship. For more details please follow the official Facebook, WeChat and Twitter accounts of Embassy of China and China Cultural Center in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1044466/chinese-embassy-briefs-journalists-about-happy-chinese-new-year/>

### **CPEC Health Corridor seeks inspiration from Health China Plan**

As 2023 draws closer, CPEC's newly announced health corridor set the direction to revamp and modernize Pakistan's healthcare infrastructure, bioengineering, telemedicine, pharmacy, life sciences and medical market.

According to Gawadar Pro on Tuesday, CPEC Health corridor has been announced in 2022. It has unleashed a new chapter of Sino-Pak synergic collaboration encompassing health domain. Luckily, CPEC has a robust model of "Health China 2030" to pursue to make things happen.

With Chinese cooperation, CPEC Health Corridor is likely to follow the policy that include training for primary health-care physicians, incentivizing high-quality and high-value care, integrating clinical care with basic public health services, and coordination between primary healthcare and hospitals.

Pakistan has a mixed health system that includes public, parastatal, private, civil society, philanthropic contributors, and donor agencies. According to a survey by The Lancet, the performance of Pakistan's healthcare system as a whole, places it 154th out of 195 nations. Pakistan struggles to maintain a suitable healthcare system in terms of quality and accessibility as a developing nation with only 2% of its GDP allotted for total health expenses. The frequent cases of infectious and vaccine-preventable diseases in Pakistan illustrate that the country has a troubled healthcare system.

Today, telemedicine, 5G artificial intelligence, and big data-connected healthcare facilities are essential for sustainable development. Apart from Pak-China cooperation in various sectors, the two brotherly countries are also making strides in the health sector.

Besides various developments in Pak-China health sector cooperation in 2022, the announcement of the Health Corridor in CPEC is undoubtedly the biggest highlight of the year. According to Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of the China Pakistan Medical Association, China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC) will offer a framework on which Pakistan's healthcare system can develop.

Alongside the major announcement of the health corridor under CPEC, health related cooperation between the two brotherly countries reached new heights in 2022. Some of the highlights of new strides in health sector are listed below.

In a major development, recently a symposium on medical device innovation and application was held in Shanghai, where three Chinese and Pakistani groups inked an agreement on medical cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Shanghai High-End Medical Equipment Innovation Centre, China-Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA), and the Journal of Economic Affairs Pakistan. The agreement aims to encourage Chinese and Pakistani cooperation on cutting-edge medical items and medical equipment.

According to the MoU, the trio will host the China-Pakistan International Medical Exhibition soon, which will feature exhibitions of medical supplies, equipment, and services. Additionally, efforts will be made to work together in medical staff training, particularly in the use of cutting-edge medical technology.

According to Dr. M. Shahbaz, the three parties will also work together to prepare for the Belt and Road China-Pakistan Medical Forum, which will alternately be held in China and Pakistan and invite experts and companies that manufacture medical equipment from both nations to encourage the integration and cooperation of the medical industry.

Apart from millions of Covid-19 vaccines over the last two years, Pakistan also received more than 100,000 doses of China's hepatitis A vaccination for adults and children in 2022. The Sinovac biopharmaceutical business in China, which produces the doses, donated them during a ceremony on during November, 2022 at the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS).

Moreover, earlier in 2022, a clinical trial of a Chinese herbal treatment to treat coronavirus succeeded in Pakistan. The drug, which is produced by Juxiechang (Beijing) Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, is already being administered to COVID-19 patients in China.

Chinese medical teams also helped Pakistani flood victims during the hour of need. The expert teams, comprising experts on gastroenterology, infectious diseases, respiratory medicine, dermatology, general surgery, nursing, monitoring, analysis and prevention of infectious diseases, drinking water sanitation, mosquito vector monitoring and transmission, environmental elimination, and laboratory testing, visited Islamabad, Karachi, and the badly-hit Khaipur District in Sindh. During meetings with Pakistani experts and policy makers, in order to improve urban and rural sanitation, increase the capacity for flood control, increase the resistance to drought, and prevent disasters, as well as effectively control epidemics, it is suggested that national health campaigns, medium- and long-term plans regarding the construction of hydraulic projects, and epidemic surveillance should be implemented.

The Chinese government is also funding the construction of the Pak-China Friendship Hospital, which will be built on 68 acres of land, which is a cutting-edge medical facility for the residents of the port city of Gwadar, as part of the game-changing CPEC Project.

According to an official source briefing on the massive project, the project has been submitted for the implementation of Phase-II of a 50-bed hospital to be built under the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Business Plan. The hospital is expected to be completed soon.



Earlier in 2022 a major breakthrough took place in research on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), when China's Tang International Education Firm signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese education group and a Pakistani institution.

According to Que Haitao, vice director of the overseas operation centre at Tang International Education Group (TIEG), the MoU, which was signed between TIEG and Pakistan's Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), aims to increase cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) between the two countries. According to Que, China-Pakistan Health Corridor is a contributing factor to the partnership. The deputy director stated that there has been continuing collaboration on TCM between the two nations for some years.

"We want to advance it through collaboration with educators." In order to create a China-Pakistan medical centre and to develop TCM talent at the technical, undergraduate, and graduate levels, Que stated the first step is to work with Pakistani universities. The vice director stated, "More will be done to combine education with the industry, such as creating academic and industrial standards for TCM," adding that the organisation has a team of about 20 foreign experts to work toward this objective. Such a partnership might be an addition to Pakistan's current medical curriculum. "In Pakistan, few universities provide programmes in traditional medicine, including TCM."

According to Prof. Dr. Yang Zhigang, deputy dean of the faculty of pharmacy at Lanzhou University, "knowledge of traditional medicine may be taught in the course of Pharmacy in several Pakistani medical colleges." Dr. Yang told Chinese Media that Pakistan has thousands of varieties of medicinal plants, but the nation has lagged behind in both health-related and economic use of medicinal plants, an essential component of traditional herbal medicine, after conducting a field study of medicinal plants in the plant-rich province of Gilgit Baltistan in Pakistan in 2017.

Another fantastic news came during 2022, when the China-Pakistan Medical Association and the China Academy of Chinese Medicine jointly established the Pak-China Traditional Medical Alliance in Jinan, China. The Alliance will promote Research, professional training and the use of modern technology to foster partnerships in traditional herbal medicine.

Building healthcare facilities is one way CPEC may support the health sector. People's medical requirements can be met by building BHUs, trauma centres, burn centres, and medicine stores close to CPEC projects. The issue of a shortage of safe drinking water facilities in rural places can be solved by installing tube-wells and water filtration plants as part of CPEC, notably in Sindh and KP. Pakistan should consider building "medical towns" in the urban cores of all four provinces, as well as GB and AJK, as part of CPEC. In Gambat, Sindh, the Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jillani Institute of Medical Sciences is a prime example of a medical city with a collection of hospitals and health facilities outfitted with contemporary amenities. Pakistan may suggest building medical cities in significant urban centres during the second phase of CPEC, which is now under construction and has a primary focus on socioeconomic development.

To sum it up, the announcement of the Health Corridor can be a game changer for public wellbeing of the countrymen, as it will not only boost health of hundreds of millions but



would also open new gateways for health tourism that would boost the health economy of Pakistan. Neighbouring India has been making billions of dollars through health tourism.

The availability of comparatively cheaper health labour coupled with modern health facilities in Pakistan may attract patients throughout the world to use Pakistani healthcare facilities in the future.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1044509/cpec-health-corridor-seeks-inspiration-from-health-china-plan/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **Festive events planned to celebrate Chinese New Year**

ISLAMABAD: Various online and offline activities, including concerts, temple fairs and parades, will be organised all over the world as the Cultural Office of the Embassy of China and China Cultural Centre in Pakistan announced Chinese New Year festivities on Tuesday.

The 2023 Chinese New Year press conference was held in Beijing and aired live at the Embassy of China in Islamabad.

Gao Zheng, director general of the International Exchange and Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, vice-president and secretary-general of the China International Culture Association, Zhao Cong, head of China National Traditional Orchestra and well-known pianist Lang Lang introduced the 2023 Chinese New Year activities.

Gao Zheng said the Chinese New Year was held to celebrate Spring and was an important platform for China to share its culture with people all over the world.

The 2023 Happy Chinese New Year would be guided by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China and hosted by China International Culture Association.

The press conference also released the mascot of 2023 Happy Chinese New Year. As the coming Chinese New Year was the Year of the Rabbit, the mascot, designed by Central Academy of Fine Arts, was a rabbit with long ears based on the shape of a lucky bag.

Journalists were informed that China would be celebrating the Chinese New Year, generally known as Chinese Spring Festival on Sunday (Jan 22, 2023) and activities related to it would go on till Feb 9, 2023. It was one of the most important and biggest festivals in the traditional Chinese culture, and one of the longest holidays, lasting up to seven days.

Chinese New year was being celebrated in neighbouring countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and all around the world where there were Chinese communities. In Pakistan, there were thousands of Chinese people who had lived here for various periods of time.

“They will also be celebrating the festival in its full cultural and traditional spirit. Many similarities exist between Chinese New Year and Pakistan’s traditional Eid festival. Both are based on the lunar calendar and are one of the most important and biggest festivals in their societies and both are family-centric festivals,” the organisers said.

Xing Lijun, the second secretary, Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan informed journalists about the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year and upcoming events in connection with celebration of Chinese Spring Festival.

He also highlighted the Pak-China Cultural exchange programmes with the Pakistani journalist community. Xing Lijun said cultural bonds existing between the two nations were strong enough to support everlasting friendship.

All resources would be utilised in the future to showcase Chinese history, culture and tourism, he added.

### **Climate-induced disaster management**

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Tuesday called for strong Sino-Pak collaboration in the sphere of climate-induced disaster management and stressed on further expansion of the existing working relation with Pakistan.

The Chinese ambassador, who called on National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, suggested chalking out of a comprehensive bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the NDMA and Ministry of Emergency Management of China (MEM) for remodeling of the national preparedness and response regime complemented with technology and information sharing, establishment of an early warning system and weather prediction analysis.

He further stressed on enhancing bilateral communication between the NDMA and MEM.

Both sides discussed various aspects of mutual collaboration and proactive approach of disaster management in Pakistan.

The NDMA chairman thanked the overwhelming support by the Chinese government in rescue and relief operations during the floods.

He also acknowledged continued assistance from China for the rehabilitation phase in flood-affected areas.

He shared details of transformation plan of the futuristic and technology-driven National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) which will be the interface of integrated emergency response with all government stakeholders, humanitarian agencies and international donors.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1728552>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **CPEC health corridor seeks inspiration from health China plan**

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<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-health-corridor-seeks-inspiration-from-health-china-plan/>

## **CPEC and Uzbekistan: Prospects of Greater Regional Connectivity & Socio-Economic Integration**

*Dr Mehmood*

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has “brightened” the prospects of greater regional connectivity and socio-economic integration with the Central Asian Region in which the Republic of Uzbekistan has played an important role. It has now become an “effective” and “sustainable” connecting hub between Central Asia and South-East Asia.

In this connection, a trans-regional mega project of railway amounting to US\$ 4.5 billion will connect Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan which will hopefully “revolutionize” all the regional economies. The ML-1 has already been approved and “included” in the CPEC Phase-II which would be clubbed with a trans-regional railway project in the future. It would connect Termez-Mazar-e-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar and Karachi. Ultimately it would further enhance connectivity of Central Asia with Southeast Asia, Middle East, Europe and the Caucasus. It would be a lifeline for an integrated Eurasia.

The most recently published report of the World Bank (December 2022) approved the “Advancing Uzbekistan’s Economic and Social Transformation Development Policy Operation” which supports the continued implementation of economic and social reforms in Uzbekistan. Hopefully these structural reforms will help support an inclusive transition to a private-sector-led economy by strengthening market institutions and ensuring all citizens take part in the benefits of economic growth. It appreciated Uzbekistan’s government’s strong commitment to constantly implement crucial reforms despite a challenging situation globally and in the Europe and Central Asia region.

Undoubtedly, Uzbekistan has made impressive economic development gains over the past five years by relentlessly pursuing the path of market-oriented reforms. It will need to sustain momentum to achieve its ambitious goal of reaching upper-middle-income status by 2030.

According to the latest report of the IMF (November 2022) continuation of structural reforms since 2017, Uzbekistan has become much more resilient to external socio-economic and geopolitical shocks. Its GDP is projected to expand by 5.3 percent in 2022. Uzbekistan will be one of the fastest growing of the Europe and Central Asia region’s 23 countries, along with Armenia, Croatia, Georgia and Montenegro. Interestingly, its GDP is projected at 4.9 percent next year, currently the region’s highest forecast growth rate.

Critical analysis reveals that Uzbekistan has an impressive record of market-oriented reforms. In the last five years, it has streamlined and systemized a foreign exchange mechanism and trade restrictions, liberalized prices and improved the business environment which has attracted substantial inflows of FDIs in the country.

Moreover, an overhaul of the tax system has made the budget more transparent and oriented to the socio-economic basic needs of vulnerable groups. Inflation targeting and new fiscal rules will help keep consumer prices and public debt in check which is indeed a good omen for its economic stability and sustainability.

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has initiated “holistic” and comprehensive structural reforms to strengthen social protection systems in the country which has reduced the economic development gap between urban and rural regions. Financial freedom, allocation of funds, transparency and utilization mechanism have been implemented throughout the country which has now transformed its overall economic outlook in the region and beyond.

Moreover, since January 2020, the Uzbek Government has more than doubled the number of poor households receiving social assistance, helping them to get back on their feet (0.6 million in 2019, 1.2 million in 2021, and nearly 1.8 million beneficiary households by April 2022) which has further reduced the poverty ratio in the country.

For the further strengthening of bilateral relations and achieving the desired goals of socio-economic integration and greater regional connectivity, the Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Khodjave Jamshid Abdukhakimovich visited Pakistan and met with various federal ministers and signed a number of MOUs.

In this connection, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar has signed nine different MoUs with Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister, Khodjave Jamshid Abdukhakimovich. During the meeting it was mutually decided to prepare an action plan to enhance the trade turnover to USD 1 billion. Both agreed to a joint action plan proposed by Uzbekistan.

The two sides agreed to implement the Pak-Uzbekistan Preferential Trade Agreement from February 1, 2023. Uzbekistan will complete internal formalities by Jan 2023 while Pakistan has already completed them. Both sides agreed to start awareness sessions for business communities of the two countries.

Furthermore, both sides also agreed to the implementation of a transit trade agreement between the two countries. The notification of rules is now awaited from the Uzbekistan side in February 2023. Both sides would take up all the issues with Afghanistan during a visit to Kabul to address the problems being faced by the Pakistani/ Uzbek Transporters.

Moreover, they also agreed to formulate a joint strategy for transit trade through Afghanistan. A regional understanding on Transit and Trade Framework would be prepared including creation of a joint fund/mechanism for upkeep of road infrastructure in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani side extended its full support for the Uzbek side’s inclusion in the WTO during 2023. The Uzbek side requested for an off dock terminal for Uzbek Cargo at Karachi and Gwadar for which Pakistan offered full facilitation. Both sides agreed to organize trade exhibitions in each other’s country and prepare strategy for e-commerce cooperation. They

also agreed to finalize MRA for SPS measures on a priority basis. The Uzbekistan delegation informed the Pakistani side about the incentives offered by Termiz Economic Zone, while Pakistan agreed to disseminate information to the business community about it. Earlier in a meeting between Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister Khodjaev Jamshid Abdukhakimovich agreed to explore possibilities for establishing road and rail links between the two countries.

The delegation comprised Kudratov Laziz Shavkatovich, 1st Deputy Minister-Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Mahkamov Ilkhom Rustamovich, Minister of Transport, Siddikov Furqat Ahmedovich, 1st Deputy Minister- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yuldashev Kahramon Anvarjanovich, Deputy Minister-Ministry of Agriculture, Ergashev Ibrohim Kenjaboevich, Chairman Agency of Plant Protection & Quarantine and Oybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan.

To conclude, both countries enjoy cordial and brotherly relations based on common faith, shared history and cultural affinities. Policy makers and private sectors of both countries should participate in “constructive strategic dialogue”. There are immense potential for cooperation in economic and investment sectors which should be “channelized” and “diversified” to achieve optimal levels of bilateral trade and economic linkages between the two countries.

Sincere efforts should be made to promote various economic corridors in terms of “aviation”, “TIR”, “Cluster transport trading facilities”, a road and “rail link” between the two countries through Afghanistan.

In this regard, improvement of road infrastructure from Tashkent to Pakistan, Pakistan-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan Rail link, export/import facilitation, etc. should be expedited. For further strengthening of bilateral trade relations the establishment of “Reciprocal Trade Houses” in Tashkent and Karachi may be a value addition. Moreover, the same model of mutual cooperation may also be applied in “Special Economic Free Zones” in “Navoi” and “Gwadar”.

Both sides must cooperate in further strengthening of “financial and banking” sectors. Qualitative cooperation in e-commerce, digitalization, science & technology, automobile, pharmaceutical, agriculture, IT, industrialization, green energy, higher education and last but not least health should be further strengthened to achieve the desired goals of immense socio-economic integration and regional connectivity through CPEC-BRI platform in the days to come.

From ideal strategic “geographies” to converging “geo-political understanding” and from “genie of geopolitics” to “gamut of geo-economy” both countries are getting momentum to make bridges of mutual trust, cooperation, coordination and connectivity. It is hoped that the “grand economic agenda” and “regional strategic priorities” of President H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev will further accelerate economic ties between the two countries.

It seems that CPEC has great potential in Central Asia and its synergies with other existing regional connectivity projects, both regions get the chance to cooperate with each other to expand economic relations and to overcome financial and energy deficits in which strategic

partnership between Pakistan and Uzbekistan would play very important role in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-uzbekistan-prospects-of-greater-regional-connectivity-socio-economic-integration-by-dr-mehmood/>

## **CPEC: A key to Pakistan's economic development**

*Dr Allauddin Kakar*

WITH huge investment in the form of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) combined with diplomatic engagements, Beijing has put the region on the path of economic development and prosperity. China is playing a key role in regional economic development by initiating infrastructural development projects, industrial zones and energy which are key to sustainable development. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the BRI, has deepened the long-standing relationships between China and Pakistan. Under the banner of CPEC, China has made huge investment in Pakistan which is so far the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) agreement signed between Beijing and Islamabad.

With the launch of the CPEC, Pakistan has become a key player for China in achieving its geo-economic goals and becoming a global power. China has made huge investment in various sectors of Pakistan, and many of the projects have been completed successfully, improving Pakistan's energy sector, infrastructure and communication. CPEC has the potential to transform Pakistan's economy and put it on the road to sustainable development. Infrastructure, energy, industrial zones and transportation are the main areas of CPEC that are key to sustainable development. In addition, FDI, technology, foreign exchange, new market access and capital are giving a fruitful outcome for Pakistan.

CPEC projects are presently focused on industrial cooperation, agricultural cooperation, science and technology, information technology, and socio-economic development. So far, 26 CPEC-Early Harvest Projects, 14 projects, including the Karachi-Lahore Motorway, Multan-Sukkur Section, KKH Phase II upgradation and reconstruction from Raikot to Islamabad via Mansehra, the East Bay Expressway, the 1320 MW Port Qasim Power Plant, the 1320 MW Sahiwal Power Plant, and the 720 MW Karot HPP, have been completed, while currently five projects, including the New Gwadar International Airport and the 873 MW Suki Kinari HPP are under progress.

The second phase of CPEC has begun and will significantly augment social development, health-capacity building, agriculture development and most importantly a vast network of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). According to Pakistan's annual plan for (2022-23), the CPEC Phase-II will prioritize socioeconomic development, industrialization and the establishment of Special Economic Zones, modernization of agriculture, science and technology collaboration, promotion of ICT-enabled environment and establishment of IT and high-technology Zones. Industrialization appears to be the cornerstone of CPEC Phase-II which will offer crucial sources of economic growth and support the creation of additional jobs in the nation. In the global economic development model of today, the creation of new employment possibilities is regarded as one of the key drivers of economic advantage trickling down.



The IT sector of Pakistan is also witnessing positive changes as the CPEC-led cooperation on IT and the digital economy is expected to reach \$10 billion by the year 2025. Currently, Pakistan has more than 2,000 software Research and Development (R&D) centers, making it the fourth largest base for free IT practitioners in the world. In addition, CPEC has significantly addressed Pakistan's energy shortage. The historic project produced positive results in Pakistan's energy sector, attracting USD\$ 25.4 billion in investment and assisting the country in overcoming chronic energy issues by adding 6040 megawatts of electricity.

Beijing's successful diplomatic engagement with geoeconomic initiatives have resulted in regional countries' interest in becoming part of the CPEC. Saudi Arabia, an important country in the region, has also expressed its willingness to become part of CPEC.

Riyadh is keen to become part of CPEC and BRI by making huge investment in these megaprojects. Riyadh has already signed a \$20 billion investment package with Pakistan during Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's visit to Pakistan in 2019, the largest in the history of Pakistan and carrying extraordinary significance.

The Chinese President's recent visit to Saudi Arabia and the signing of 20 agreements worth more than \$29.3 billion, as well as its interest in harmonizing the implementation of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and the BRI, demonstrate Xi's geo-economic policies' great success. The visit by the Chinese President comes at a critical juncture in the Kingdom's efforts to expand global alliances. The signing of these projects would result in significant growth in Pakistan. Xi's visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia could serve as a "great convergence point" between Pakistan, China and Saudi Arabia. Besides, it could give momentum to the Saudi investment in the flagship project of the BRI.

The strong China-Saudi relations and convergence of their economic interests will also open new opportunities for economic development in Pakistan, benefiting the latter massively. Their agreement on investment in CPEC and economic cooperation is likely to enhance Pakistan's access to the global market enhancing FDI in the country.

CPEC has greatly improved transport infrastructure in Pakistan, helped Pakistan mitigate its long-standing energy issue, improved communication and created a large number of employment opportunities for the local people. Pakistan needs to implement a comprehensive economic plan and utilize these economic opportunities.

CPEC has already entered its second phase, Pakistan needs to review how it can improve the megaproject's effectiveness for mutual benefit. Also, Islamabad should learn about what China got right and how to uplift its economy. Pakistan's National Security Policy 2021 has already signalled a shift from geopolitics to geoeconomics.

Pakistan needs to take pragmatic measures to ensure the successful implementation of its PNSP-2021 and achieve its geo-economic goals and strengthen its economy.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-key-to-pakistans-economic-development-by-dr-allauddin-kakar/>

## The Express Tribune

### **The CPEC's catch-22 situation**

It is a déjà vu for many as China comes down to connect with the southern states in pursuit of warm waters

China and Pakistan have a trial and tribulation trajectory, and thus the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor i.e. CPEC has tales to tell. If an idiom is reworked, it is like “the operation was successful, but the patient is in coma!” Coma is tantamount to a state of disability.

This signifies what is going on in the region as the strategic \$60 billion construction and connectivity project is yet in the doldrums. It has not been able to take off in the sense of generating enthusiasm for development. The sense of marginalisation in Balochistan, supposed to be the theatre of CPEC, is a case in point. It is a déjà vu for many as China comes down to connect with the southern states in pursuit of warm waters.

This is where Pakistan's foreign policy had flunked as it contested the Soviets four decades ago. The change of heart and mind is now apparently owing to increasing economic interdependence and an evolving geo-strategic equation vis-à-vis the United States meddling in the region. Yet, the CPEC is a blessing in disguise for Pakistan as for the first time any major power has come up with a master plan to develop the region — and that too without any political considerations of otherness.

Thus, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC are meant for investment in ports, roads, railways and airports, as well as power plants and telecommunications networks across the region. There is a catch-22 situation nonetheless, as Pakistan reorients its policy perspective in relevance with Chinese wishes to make it a supra-regional success.

Building of infrastructure coupled with laying of industrial special economic zones makes it a win-win equation. But there are inherent bottlenecks and impediments all the way. The first is Afghanistan and the second is, of course, India. Until and unless, Islamabad strikes a chord of regional unanimity with these two western and eastern frontier neighbours, accordingly, nothing will move on.

The regrouping of terror elements in Afghanistan and Pakistan once again slipping into terror trap, as well as the fissures on the western frontiers of Chaman, hint at the emerging vulnerabilities in the security domain. CPEC, nonetheless, is captive to how Pakistan goes out to facilitate Kabul and Delhi, enabling them to become equal trading partners as Beijing goes on to re-enact the ancient Silk Route in the 21st century.

CPEC today has the potential to address the economic vibrancy of more than 100 states in four continents. Islamabad, moreover, is in a fix as it reportedly is sinking in a debt trap with China and its commercial banks, which many believe is not viable for its economy in the long run. The magnitude of loans runs into billions, in the realms of energy, infrastructure and communications. Last but not least, the economy has nosedived and is on the brink of collapse, with dollars trading at two indices and remittances shrinking to the core.

CPEC compulsions are changing the format of doing business with the emerging superpower. Memorandum of Understanding to trade in yuan and rupee poses a strategic international economics challenge, and crosses swords with Washington. Pakistan is also dovetailing a similar deal with Russia in rubles. Thus, the evolving China-Pakistan relationship is the beginning of a new regional order, which conveniently puts Islamabad in the Beijing camp.

This understanding, however, comes at the cost of alienating Pakistan from its neighbours, especially India, Afghanistan and Iran. It is primarily owing to conflict of interest. The sea port of Gwadar is at odds with Iran's Chabahar port, and likewise Islamabad's not being on the same page with India puts it in confrontation with the Chinese in the long run.

So is the case with Afghanistan that does not see through the same prism while dealing with Pakistan and is more tilted towards India. Pakistan, while being a strategic partner with China, must reorient its outlook and rewrite its foreign policy with Iran, India and Afghanistan. Dealing with them and sharing the bounties of geopolitics is a must to further geo-economics. Playing the China card will not work in the long run, as these three neighbours will sooner than later outclass Pakistan's viability and indispensability

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2393081/the-cpecs-catch-22-situation>

### **Eurasian integration for socio-economic development**

Asia and the Pacific's trade grew 29.6% in first three quarters of 2021, compared with global trade growth of 27.8%

Connectivity and embracing technology are the driving forces for socio-economic development of any region. Asia is leading from the front in this change. The vast natural resources, good human capital, geographical endowments and geopolitical significance in world affairs have blessed.

Asia with a unique edge over other continents. Benefitting from liberal market economy, last few years have witnessed Chinese rise as the second biggest economy of the world and Russian resurgence.

However, ensuing great powers competition exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine War, hedging measures in the liberal market economy, denial of technology, rise of the state and nationalism, the US exit from Afghanistan and resurgent terrorism in South Asia are gradually veering the world to de-globalisation with attended consequences; the major one being default closeness and integration of Eurasia. Connectivity, liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment are strengthening Asian integration.

Regional cooperation and integration have already played an important role in helping Asian countries in their development over the past 50 years that can be improved further by peace and stability; as President Xi Jinping said the "old silk roads thrived during times of peace". Asia is the world's largest manufacturer and one of the largest markets too. Seven of the top 10 countries in terms of foreign reserves are Asian.

Asia is now the largest foreign direct investment destination and is likely to contribute 50% to the world's trade growth by 2030. It is emerging as geo-economics destiny of the world. In

the 21st century, Asia led in social mobility and overcoming abject poverty. Asian dependency on Western supply chain system has decreased significantly too.

Asia and the Pacific's trade grew 29.6% in the first three quarters of 2021, compared with global trade growth of 27.8%. According to the Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR) 2022, trade within the region rebounded by 31.2% during the same period. Intra-regional trade made up 58.5% of the region's total trade in 2020, the highest share since 1990. SCO, ECO, ASEAN, AEC, CAREC, GMS, BIMSTEC SAARC EAEU and lately BRI, etc are examples of multilateralism.

These forums can surely contribute more to mutually beneficial economic integration of Eurasia. The BRI is, however, seen by USA and West as a way to re-orientate world economic system to the East, which China denies vehemently. The global economy is currently undergoing significant rebalancing. Asia can play a central role in sustaining global growth.

Russia seeks new markets, and China also looks for newer markets for its affordable commodities. Russia has become a top market for Chinese companies, filling the vacuum left by departing Western brands. Vietnam and India are emerging as newer players in the consumer suppliers. Successful logistics management calls for consistent innovation and leveraging available technology.

The Asian Development Bank estimated that developing transport infrastructure in Asia will need \$1.5 trillion per year, through 2030. This amount increases to \$1.7 trillion per year due to climate change mitigation requirements. This investment shall multiply benefits of connectivity. A new financial mechanism is emerging in Asia. Yuan, ruble and the yen are trying to establish their place. Moscow is pursuing a policy of de-dollarisation, launching of a digital ruble, and currency settlements with China to partly insulate it from economic sanctions.

To diversify its trade basket and currency, Pakistan is also entering into the new financial nexus with ruble and yuan. Few suggestions are offered here to improve Eurasian economic integration for a better future of the people. Efforts be made to liberalise trade and investment, and facilitate goods flows through sub-regional markets. Promotion of regional FTAs can contribute to the multilateral trading and help build an inclusive and sustainable global trade system.

There is a need to institute efficient and easier cross-border connectivity. Greater cooperation is needed in conservation and management of shared natural resources such as rivers, oceans and forests. The agricultural sector generates income, employment and taxes. It also plays an important role in food security and environmental sustainability.

Russia, China, the US and EU can help smaller countries in this regard. For human resource development, the Eurasian countries may share experiences and policies encompassing technical education and training, as well as systems of universal health coverage and social protection. An integrated approach of transport corridors including roads, rail and sea routes within Asia is considered as critical. This can be done by creating quality logistics, dry ports, industry clusters and economic zones along these corridors.

Financing modalities with various sources of financing call for judicious combination. Innovative structures which make the projects bankable and attractive and private sector financing will be helpful in this regard. Climate, agriculture, water management, poverty alleviation, health and education are the areas of mutual benefit that can connect Eurasia immediately.

Mutually beneficial connectivity for trade and socio-economic development for the people of Asia are of significance, where countries like China and Russia and even US/West can help greatly. Facilitation in resolution of bilateral disputes can also help speed up the process of Eurasian integration for a prosperous future of the people. Pakistan looks forward to becoming a useful and responsible partner in Eurasian connectivity projects for trade and socio-economic development for the people and the countries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2393078/eurasian-integration-for-socio-economic-development>

### **The Nation**

#### **Chinese envoy discusses disaster management plans with NDMA chief**

ISLAMABAD - The ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong met Chairman National Disaster and Management authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Inam haider Malik on Tuesday to discuss collaboration in disaster management. According to Gwadar pro, they discussed the various aspects of mutual collaboration and proactive approach of disaster management in Pakistan. The ambassador underscored the strong collaboration at the front of climate-induced disaster management and stressed on further expansion of the existing working relation with Pakistan he suggested chalking out a comprehensive bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between NDMA and the Ministry of Emergency Management of China (MEM) for remodelling the National preparedness & response regime complemented with technology and information sharing, establishment of early warning system and weather prediction analysis. he further stressed on enhancing the bilateral communication between NDMA and MEM. On the other side chairman NDMA thanked the overwhelming support by the Chinese government in rescue & relief operations during the floods in 2022. he also acknowledged the continued assistance from China for the rehabilitation phase in flood affected areas. Lt Gen Inam haider Malik shared details of the transformation plan of futuristic and technology-driven National emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) which will be the interface of integrated emergency response with all government stakeholders, humanitarian agencies and international donors.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-28/page-4/detail-4>

#### **China to celebrate 2023 Chinese new year from January 22 to Feb 9**

*SHAFQAT ALI*

ISLAMABAD - China will celebrate 2023 traditional Chinese new year, generally known as “Chinese Spring Festival” on Sunday, January 22, 2023 and lasting until February 9, 2023. It is one of the most important and biggest festivals in traditional Chinese culture, and one of the longest holidays, lasting up to 7 days. Cultural Office of the Embassy of China and China Cultural Center in Pakistan organized a live 2023 Happy Chinese New Year Press

Conference in this regard which was attended by the senior journalists from renowned Pakistani media groups, newspapers and TV channels at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad. The 2023 online Happy Chinese New Year Press Conference was held in Beijing. Gao Zheng, Director General, the International Exchange and Cooperation Bureau, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, vice-president and secretary-general of the China International Culture Association; Zhao Cong, head of China National Traditional Orchestra, and well known pianist Lang Lang, cultural ambassador of the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, attended the conference, introducing the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year activities. Gao said the Happy Chinese New Year, an annual brand activity held to celebrate Spring Festival, has taken off in recent years and is increasingly becoming an important platform for China to share Chinese culture with people from all over the world. The 2023 Happy Chinese New Year will be guided by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China and hosted by China International Culture Association. Various online and offline activities, including music concerts, temple fairs and parades, will cover the globe. The press conference also released the mascot of 2023 Happy Chinese New Year. As the coming Chinese New Year is the Year of the Rabbit, the mascot, designed by Central Academy of Fine Arts, is a cute rabbit with long ears based on the shape of a lucky bag. Chinese New year is celebrating in China as well as neighboring countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea, and all around the world where there are Chinese communities.

In Pakistan, there are thousands of Chinese who have lived there for various periods of time. They will also be celebrating the festival in its full cultural and traditional spirit. Many similarities exist between Chinese New Year and Pakistan's traditional "Eid" Festival. Both are based on the lunar calendar and are one of the most important and biggest festivals in their societies and both are family-centric festivals.

Xing Lijun, the Second Secretary, the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan briefed to the Pakistani media about 2023 Happy Chinese New Year and upcoming events in connection with celebration of Chinese Spring Festival. He also highlighted the Pak China Cultural exchange programs with Pakistani journalists community. He informed that the year 2023 is a year of Rabbit as per Chinese Lunar calendar. Furthermore, Xing said the cultural bond existing between the two nations is strong enough to support our everlasting friendship.

This relationship will expand into all domains of Pakistani life and grow further with the passing of each day. The media interaction ended by the question answer session. Cultural office of the Embassy of China People's Republic of China and China Cultural Center in Pakistan will comprehensively utilize all the humanity resources in the future to showcase Chinese history, and culture and tourism will continue to make relentless efforts for a new chapter of China-Pakistan friendship.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-28/page-13/detail-1>



## The News

### **‘CPEC projects achieved major progress in 2022’**

*Muhammad Saleh Zaafir*

ISLAMABAD: China has declared that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects have achieved major progress in 2022 ensuring economic stability and well-being of the people.

Terming CPEC as an important pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and demonstration project of Pakistan-China cooperation, Wang Shengjie, Director Political Section of Chinese Embassy has reminded Tuesday that it is significant to deepen all weather Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnership for the building a closer community of shared future.

She recalled that leaders of the two countries agreed to advance CPEC with greater efficiency and make CPEC an example of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visit to China this year. She said that in 2022, the CPEC projects have achieved major progress, ensuring economic stability, and well-being of the people.

It has also continued to train high-quality talents for the country, director political section said. She was of the view that all Pakistani staff at CPEC projects, through their hard work make this progress possible. “In order to recognise their contribution, Chinese Embassy plans to hold an awarding ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC project on Friday (Dec. 30).” The award winners are outstanding representatives’ staff from different fields of CPEC cooperation and demonstrate diversification of Pakistan-China cooperation, she added.

It would be pertinent to mention that the Chinese Embassy has recently initiated a scheme to encourage Pakistanis, working for the project in different capacities. The scheme is being widely appreciated by the staff from Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=161315>

**December 29, 2022**

**Daily Times**

### **Chinese embassy donates Rs 3.76m to PICS**

The Chinese Embassy donates Rs 3.76 million to Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS) of the Sargodha University for establishing ‘Chinese Ambassador Scholarship’ programme 2023. According to a press release issued by the Sargodha University, the funding will be used to award scholarships to the most talented as well as promising needy students besides promoting Chinese language and cultural activities at the university. Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University Prof Dr Qasir Abass appreciated the initiative of the Chinese Embassy and said that this goodwill gesture would create significant impact on lives of students and generate a healthy competition among students to win the award. The vice chancellor said, in a short span of time, several initiatives had been taken to strengthen China Studies and linking the University with several Chinese institutions to ensure quality education and

research. Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies of Sargodha University Dr Fazal ur Rahman received the cheque from Chinese Ambassador H E Nong Rong in the embassy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1044666/chinese-embassy-donates-rs-3-76m-to-pics/>

### **Chinese companies participate in Solar Pakistan exhibition**

Chinese solar energy companies remained the focus of visitors and customers as Pakistan's largest Solar Pakistan Exhibition and Conference, which was successfully held at Expo Centre Karachi, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. The Conference attracted a large number of local and international solar power companies which had set up their booths to exhibit their products. Key industry leaders, government officials, manufacturers, suppliers, traders, contractors, and partners from across the country and abroad participated in the conference.

The solar energy experts and government officials highlighted the latest innovations in solar and sustainable energy by offering a unique platform to forge partnerships between the public and private sectors to develop innovative solutions. They said that everyone was opting for solar energy which is the cheapest source of energy and Pakistan is blessed with such a geographical location where sunlight falls adequately to run solar systems.

Chinese companies including LONGi Solar, K-Solar and Diwan International (Pvt) Ltd. who is the authorized partner and distributor of Trina Solar, Huawei Fusion Solar, Chint Electric & Leoch Battery in Pakistan and many others participated in the exhibition.

Besides government officials, Hashim Raza, CEO K-Solar, and General Manager LONGi Ali were amongst the panelists to highlight the importance and the future of solar energy in Pakistan while Majid, Robin Xing, Director of Digital Power Business Huawei Pakistan was one of the major speakers on the occasion.

K-Solar's Mr. Raza highlighted the increasing gap between global challenges and local realities, requesting relevant authorities to take immediate necessary steps to support and encourage solar revolution in Pakistan.

LONGi booth attracted visitors with its new Hi-MO6 high-performance modules and they caused hot discussion while the new business model "Solar+" again broadens the application scope of components. LONGi also attracted many visitors with "LONGi Party Time" and offered snack boxes to everyone who visited the booth.

SOLAR Pakistan is the only dedicated platform to bring the latest solar innovations and showcase the largest solar projects in the region providing a unique platform in building partnerships with all government and private sectors in pursuing innovative solutions.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1044718/chinese-companies-participate-in-solar-pakistan-exhibition/>

### **Zhao Shiren presents Pak-China Friendship Award-2022 to PCJCCI**

Chinese Consul General in Lahore Mr. Zhao Shiren on Wednesday presented Pakistan-China Friendship Award-2022 to Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCJCCI). PCJCCI Secretary Salahuddin Hanif received the award here at a ceremony held

in this connection. On this occasion, Mr. Zhao Shireen appreciated the working of PCJCCI related to regional connectivity and bilateral-trade and declared it as one of the best chambers working in Pakistan. He also praised various initiatives of the PCJCCI which included Pak China Knowledge Portal, China-Way magazine, Chinese language courses and Pak-China Technology Gateway. Mr Zhao Shireen said, “Pakistan is the owner of all CPEC projects and we are here to facilitate them in all aspects. The trade, investment, business between two nations could be much better if we work with unity and harmony. So here, I will raise my motto; Let’s work together; let’s grow together”.

Salahuddin Hanif thanked the Consul General for honoring PCJCCI with such prestigious award and said that Pakistan China Joint Chamber was resolute to serve as a model chamber and a vibrant platform for promoting mutual investment and friendship between Pak-China. “Our objective is to adopt an innovative stratagem to promote trade and development not only between Pakistan and China, but also over the entire region in order to ensure future stability, security and prosperity for all of us.” He added China had emerged as second largest economy of the world and international experts were envisaging a far bigger role for China on the economic horizon of the world. The way China managed the global financial crisis was commendable and an example of hard work for all of us.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1044788/zhao-shireen-presents-pak-china-friendship-award-2022-to-pcjcci/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China finalizes tree planting project around N-5**

China’s Yunnan province sponsored a tree planting project around National Highway-5 (N-5), popularly known as “Go Green Pakistan, Yunnan Chapter, Page 1.” has recently been finalized.

Five thousand temperature and drought resistant tree saplings are now standing along N-5 in southern Sindh.

As Pakistan increasingly faces the challenges of Climate Change, China’s Yunnan, a region renowned for its efforts to restore forests and reduce pollution, stepped forward and made the donation via the Yunnan People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the China Yunnan Sunny Road and Bridge Corporation, which is working on various infrastructure projects in Pakistan.

The project was carried out in Southern Sindh, one of the hardest hit areas of extreme weather, along the central separator and the interchange area of N-5, Pakistan’s north-south traffic trunk road. The project is expected to increase green coverage, ease water-soil losses and raise local residents’ awareness of environmental protection.

Following that, the Chinese side will care for the saplings for a year to ensure their survival and maximize the project’s impact. The project has received high praise from Pakistan’s Ministry of Economic Affairs.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-finalizes-tree-planting-project-around-n-5/>

## **The News**

### **Ahsan asks Chinese firm to meet electricity demand of Gwadar Free Zone**

*Mehtab Haider*

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday, urged the China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd (COPHCL) to meet the exact electricity demand needed for the Gwadar Free Zone and share its 10-year plan for electricity required by the company for the 300 MW coal-fired power project.

Ahsan made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review the progress vis a vis the fired power project earlier in the day. The meeting was attended by the Chairman COPHCL, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority GPA and other relevant stakeholders. The project was launched for catering to the needs of around 150,000 local people by the end of 2023.

The project is aimed at improving the reliability of the local power supply and would gradually help solve the crisis in the current economic development and urban construction in the Gwadar region, which is being restricted by the acute shortage of power.

“The government is committed to providing electricity for the Gwadar Free Zone; however, COPHECL should reveal the exact demand for electricity to avoid any capacity issues in the future, said the planning minister, while chairing the meeting.

It is only a matter of time before all major projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC in Gwadar, including the Gwadar Power Plant, the New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute, the Gwadar East-Bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone and the Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

The minister stressed that the government is already working on two transmission lines from Iran that would boost the demand for electricity.

“If the demands are less then it would have a negative impact, as the country is already facing an energy crisis therefore, the exact requirement of electricity is essential to aptly pursue the project.

Ahsan reiterated once again, that the incumbent government has revived all CPEC projects since it came into power in April this year, as the previous government had abruptly stopped it. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has already assured his Chinese counterpart that the CPEC is the top priority of the government and the recent Joint Cooperation Committee, is one of the examples in which both sides have agreed to revive several development projects.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=161656>

## Express News

### معاشی بحران؛ چین اور سعودی عرب سے چھ ارب ڈالر قرض کیلئے مذاکرات جاری

ملکی معاشی بحران دور کرنے کے لیے حکومت کے چین اور سعودی عرب سے 6 ارب ڈالر کے حصول کے لیے مذاکرات جاری ہیں۔ اسلام آباد

سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے خزانہ کا اجلاس سینیٹر سلیم مائڈوی والا کی زیر صدارت پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس میں منعقد ہوا، جس میں سینیٹر فاروق حامد نائیک، سعدیہ عباسی، انوار الحق کاکڑ، مشتاق احمد، وزیر برائے سینیٹر محمد طلحہ محمود، وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ و محصولات ڈاکٹر عائشہ غوث پاشا، وزارت خزانہ اور اسٹیٹ بینک کے سینیٹر حکام نے شرکت کی۔

اجلاس کے آغاز میں سابق فنانس کے صنعتی اداروں کے حوالے سے فیڈرل ایکسٹریڈیوٹی / سیلز ٹیکس کے بقایا جات کے استثنا کے معاملے پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال ہوا۔ اجلاس میں مالکنڈ چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹریز کے عہدیداروں نے کمیٹی سے درخواست کی کہ سابق فنانس اور پائٹا میں واقع اسٹیل، گھی و کوکنگ آئل کی 86 صنعتوں کو رو بہ ماضی فیڈرل ایکسٹریڈیوٹی سے چھوٹ کی تجویز دی جائے۔

علاوہ ازیں ایف بی آر کو ان پٹ ٹیکس کریڈٹ کی واپسی کی اجازت دینے یا ٹیرف ایریز میں سپلائی کے بدلے اس کی ایڈجسٹمنٹ، سابق فنانس میں تیل، گھی اور اسٹیل کی صنعتوں کو بجلی کے بلوں میں ٹیکس سے استثنا، سابق فنانس اور پائٹا کو ایف بی آر کے زیر انتظام لیویز میں چھوٹ کی مدت میں مزید 5 سال کی توسیع کے لیے وفاقی حکومت کو فیڈرل ایکسٹریڈیوٹی 2005 میں ترامیم کی تجویز پیش کریں۔

چیئرمین کمیٹی نے مالکنڈ چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے عہدیداروں کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ ٹیکس استثنا کا مناسب جواز فراہم کریں اور اس معاملے پر حکومت سے مزید بات چیت کریں۔ اجلاس میں لیٹر آف کریڈٹ کھولنے کے حوالے سے پابندیوں اور اسلام آباد میں مووان پک کے نام سے فائیو اسٹار ہوٹل کے امور پر بھی تفصیلی بحث ہوئی۔

پاکستان کو اگلے ہفتے 1 ارب ڈالر سے زائد قرضہ واپس کرنا ہوگا: یہ پڑھیں

وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ و محصولات ڈاکٹر عائشہ غوث پاشا نے کہا کہ زبردست معاشی دباؤ کی وجہ سے بعض پابندیاں عائد کرنا پڑی ہیں، ملک کے بہترین مفاد میں غیر ضروری اور پر تیش اشیا کی درآمد پر پابندی لگائی گئی، یہ پابندیاں عارضی نوعیت کی ہیں اور معیشت و کرنسی کی صورت حال بہتر ہونے پر ان میں نرمی کی جائے گی۔

کمیٹی کے اراکین نے کہا کہ اس حوالے سے 90 فیصد کام پہلے ہی مکمل ہو چکا ہے۔ اراکین نے اسٹیٹ بینک اور وزارت خزانہ کے حکام کو مشورہ دیا کہ وہ درآمد کی مخصوص درخواستوں پر غور کریں اور اس سلسلے میں تاجروں کو درپیش مسائل کے خاتمے کے لیے کام کریں۔

بعد ازاں میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ عائشہ غوث پاشا کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان بیرونی ادائیگیوں کی ذمے داریاں پوری کرے گا، ملک کے ڈیفالٹ ہونے کا کوئی امکان نہیں، سعودی عرب سے 3 ارب ڈالر کے حصول کے لیے بات چیت جاری ہے، چین سے بھی 3 ارب ڈالر کے لیے بات چیت کر رہے ہیں، آئی ایم ایف کی سالانہ تعطیلات چل رہی ہیں، ہم ان کے حکام سے رابطے میں ہیں۔

واضح رہے کہ وزیر خزانہ کی آئی ایم ایف حکام سے ڈونرز کانفرنس کے موقع پر ملاقات ہوگی۔ یہ کانفرنس 9 جنوری کو جنیوا میں ہو رہی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2420946/1/>

## Jang News

چینی کمپنیوں نے اسٹیل ملز بحالی کیلئے دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے، شاہدہ رحمانی

وفاقی پارلیمانی سیکریٹری صنعت و پیداوار شاہدہ رحمانی نے کہا ہے کہ چینی کمپنیوں نے اسٹیل ملز بحالی کے لیے دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

شاہدہ رحمانی نے کراچی میں اسٹیل ملز کا دورہ کیا۔ بعد ازاں انہوں نے اسٹیل ملز کی بحالی سے متعلق اجلاس کی صدارت کی۔ اجلاس کو اسٹیل ملز کے بحران، بحالی کے اقدامات اور دیگر مسائل سے آگاہ کیا گیا۔

سی ای او پاکستان اسٹیل مل سیف الدین جو نجو نے اس موقع پر بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے بتایا کہ پاکستان اسٹیل ملز میں اس وقت تین ہزار 293 افراد کام کر رہے ہیں۔ جن میں 97 افسران، 3 سیکوریٹی افسر اور 589 کے قریب سیکوریٹی اہلکار شامل ہیں۔

سی ای او اسٹیل ملز سیف الدین جو نجو نے مزید بتایا کہ اب تک پاکستان اسٹیل ملز سے 5 ہزار 282 ملازمین فارغ کیے جا چکے ہیں۔

شاہدہ رحمانی نے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ 2009 میں اسٹیل ملز بحالی کے لیے 20 ارب روپے مل جاتے تو صورتحال مختلف ہوتی۔ اسٹیل مل کی 19 ہزار ایکڑ اراضی کے لیے 589 سیکوریٹی اہلکار ناکافی ہیں۔ سیکوریٹی مزید بہتر بنانے کے لیے اضافی سیکوریٹی کا بندوبست کیا جائے۔

شاہدہ رحمانی نے کہا کہ حکومت پاکستان اسٹیل ملز کی بحالی کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ اسٹیل ملز بحالی میں چین کی مختلف بڑی کمپنیوں نے رابطے اور دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پُر امید ہیں کہ اسٹیل ملز جلد اپنی پروڈکشن شروع کرے گی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1176292>

## December 30, 2022

### Business Recorder

### Anti-Dumping Act

CPEC Secretariat for retrospective waiver

*MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN*

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Secretariat has urged the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) to move a summary for retrospective waiver from Anti-Dumping Act to avoid anti-dumping duty on grant projects in future, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

The decision to amend Anti-Dumping Act was taken at a recent meeting held in Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives convened to review CPEC projects.

The issue of anti-dumping duty had been raised by the Chinese government on machinery of a hospital planned for Gwadar with a Chinese grant. The bureaucracy did not clear the machinery due to which hospital could not be established in time. However, when the prime minister took strong notice of the lethargy of the bureaucracy, the issue got resolved.

According to sources, the meeting was apprised that the Anti-Dumping Act has been amended and no further duty will be imposed on grant projects in future. However, duties already imposed on grant projects in FY 2021-22 have not been waived yet. Ministry of Commerce was requested to initiate an amendment in Anti-Dumping Act for retrospective



approval. Moreover, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) was directed previously to create provision in their PC-1 to resolve the matter.

The sources said the dispute issues related to M-5 and Karakoram Highway (KKH) also came under discussion in the meeting. Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal directed Ministry of Communications and National Highways Authority (NHA) to endeavour to resolve the pending issues.

The issue of opening of Revolving Account Fund for the Chinese IPPs also came under discussion. The meeting was informed that the name of Revolving Account Fund for CPEC IPPs has been changed to Revolving Account on Chinese demand.

The sources said Chinese embassy in Islamabad had refused to accept Revolving Account Fund as an alternative to Revolving Account.

The sources maintained that the issues related to follow up with Sinasure for clearance of 700 MW Azad Pattan, 1124 Kohala HPP, 1320 Thar Block -1 and Gwadar coal power plant.

The meeting was informed that these issues are being taken up at the level of Prime Minister and his aides and Pakistan embassy in China.

Insiders claimed that Chinese banks and Sinasure are reluctant to accord approvals due to circular debt issue which is now hovering at around Rs 2.5 trillion.

Chinese Ambassador, Nong Rong acknowledged that Chinese companies in Pakistan have opted for a “go-slow” policy due to delay in payment to the IPPs, rising exchange rate, and “unhelpful behaviour of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra)” with its companies.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/12/30/12-page/951200-news.html>

### Daily Times

#### **Covid: Sindh govt recommends testing travelers from China**

The Sindh government on Thursday recommended to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) and National Institute of Health (NIH) to test travellers coming from China for Covid-19 at airports across the country.

In a letter dated Dec 29, the Sindh Health Department pointed out that Covid cases and mortalities were resurging in global proximities, while a new variant had also emerged.

In this view, it presented some recommendations and requested the NCOC to issue an advisory for people.

“All the inbound passengers on flights from China be tested for Covid-19 at airports. In case of positive results, the person shall be quarantined until they become negative for contagion,” the provincial government suggested, adding that serology tests of confirmed positive cases should be carried out. “A huge number of false negative cases of new Covid-19 variant are also being reported so any person showing symptoms similar to the virus should be isolated and tested on PCR for confirmation.”

The health department advised mandatory administration of Pfizer booster doses for people who got inoculated six months ago, especially those above the age of 65. “Establishment of isolation centres for positive cases and those with symptoms but showing negative tests. They must undergo chest x-rays as a part of pneumonia investigation,” it added.

Other recommendations also included declaring Covid vaccination mandatory for both national and international travel, wearing masks in public, and avoiding mass gatherings.

Earlier in the day, NIH reported that 12 new cases were reported across Pakistan in the last 24 hours. The case positivity ratio was 0.33pc, while 19 patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from Covid-19 in the last 24 hours while 3,583 tests were conducted. Separately, Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel has said that the Covid situation in Pakistan was “under complete control” and requested the nation to stay away from “rumours”.

In a meeting held at the NIH, he said that the Covid positivity rate in the country was around 0.3pc to 0.5pc and over 90pc of the population was vaccinated. “A system of surveillance and screening is under place at airports across Pakistan. Disinfection sprays and sanitizers have also been installed,” Patel pointed out. He further said that PCR tests of those testing positive for the virus will be conducted. “Our staff is working diligently at all the airports and the internal and external routes of the country,” Patel added.

Meanwhile, the United States has joined a growing number of countries in imposing restrictions on visitors from China after Beijing announced it would remove curbs on overseas travel as Covid cases surge at home.

Hospitals across China have been overwhelmed by an explosion of infections following Beijing’s decision to lift strict rules that had largely kept the virus at bay but tanked the economy and sparked widespread protests.

China said this week it would end mandatory quarantine on arrival, prompting many jubilant Chinese to make plans to travel abroad. In response, the United States and several other countries announced they would require negative Covid tests for all travellers from mainland China. “The recent rapid increase in Covid-19 transmission in China increases the potential for new variants emerging,” a senior US health official told AFP.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1045023/covid-sindh-govt-recommends-testing-travelers-from-china/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Chinese embassy holds award ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects**

Islamabad: Recognizing the contributions rendered by the Pakistani staff of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, the Chinese embassy held the annual awarding ceremony on Friday.

The ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, Deputy DG of the

National Development and Reform Commission of China Pan Jiang and Deputy CEO of the Council Member of APCEA Ying Minghao among other officials.

A press release issued after the ceremony said: “During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to China this year, leaders of the two countries agreed to advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.”

It said: “CPEC is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan cooperation.”

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Nong Rong said that 2022 witnessed the deepening of all-round cooperation between the two countries, i.e Pakistan and China.

He said that against the challenge of global economic downturn and historical floods in Pakistan, the CPEC projects have made sound achievement.

Sharing about the upcoming projects, Ambassador Nong said that a series of good news were coming from different sectors under the CPEC umbrella. He said that during this year China-aided Eastbay Expressway of Gwadar port, Karot Hydropower, the TEL and Nova power plants in Thar, and the Shanghai Electric Thar coal-based power plant became operational among many other projects.

Lauding the performance of the CPEC staffs, Nong Rong said that the achievements of the CPEC were not possible without joint efforts of staffs from both China and Pakistan.

He 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://pakobserver.net/chinese-embassy-holds-award-ceremony-for-outstanding-pakistani-staff-of-cpec-projects/>

### **UoP received Rs4.5m under Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Programme**

Under the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship program for the University of Peshawar (UoP) 2022, the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad has issued Rs. 4.5 million for deserving students of the university. Through China Study Centre (CSC), UoP, the amount will be distributed amongst the deserving students of the University, Gwadar Pro reported it on Thursday.

In this regard, Dr. Zahid Anwar, Director CSC and Pro Vice Chancellor UoP visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad to receive a cheque of Rs. 4.5 million from Ambassador Nong Rong. On this occasion, both officials discussed a variety of issues including China-Pak cooperation in education, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), etc.

Ambassador Nong Rong said that UoP is an important partner for China and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province to strengthen cultural exchanges and think-tank cooperation. “The embassy is willing to continue to maintain close cooperation with UoP to promote people-to-people bonds between China and Pakistan, and to enhance the friendship between the young generation of the two brotherly neighboring countries,” an official statement quoted the Ambassador as saying.

Prof. Zahid Anwar briefed the ambassador on seminars, workshops, conferences, Chinese language courses, the launching of the Journal of Pakistan-China Studies, and the approval of BS, MS, and Ph.D. courses from statutory bodies, etc.

Mr. Anwar informed that UoP has signed MOUs with high-ranking Chinese Universities for academic cooperation, a field study of Gwadar Deep Sea Port, collaboration with other Pakistani Universities and the Chinese Study Center for promoting China Studies in Pakistan, Under the guidelines of CPEC Consortium of China Pakistan Universities, BRI, CPEC, and many other regional and global issues. During the meeting, Bao Zhong, a Political Counselor, and other officials of the Embassy were also present.

<https://pakobserver.net/uop-received-rs4-5m-under-chinese-ambassador-scholarship-programme/>

### **Chinese cultural exchange program in Pakistan to resume in 2023**

The Chinese government is expected to resume the cultural exchange programs in 2023 after it relaxed COVID-19 restrictions at home, Gwadar Pro reported it on Thursday.

This was stated by Xing Lijun, Second Secretary, Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan while briefing Pakistani media about the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year and upcoming events in connection with the celebrations of the Chinese Spring Festival.

On the occasion there was a live telecast of the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year Press Conference here at the Chinese Embassy.

The Press Conference was held in Beijing. Gao Zheng, Director General of the International Exchange and Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, Zhao Cong, head of China National Traditional Orchestra, and well-known pianist Lang Lang, the cultural ambassador of the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, spoke at the press conference, introducing the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year activities.

Gao said the Happy Chinese New Year, an annual brand activity held to celebrate Spring Festival, has taken off in recent years and is increasingly becoming an important platform for China to share Chinese culture with people from all over the world.

Various online and offline activities, including music concerts, temple fairs, and parades will cover the globe. The press conference also released the mascot of 2023 Happy Chinese New Year.

As the coming Chinese New Year is the Year of the Rabbit, the mascot, designed by the Central Academy of Fine Arts, is a cute rabbit with long ears based on the shape of a lucky bag. China will be celebrating the 2023 traditional Chinese New Year from Sunday, January 22 until February 9, 2023. It is one of the most important and biggest festivals in traditional Chinese culture and one of the longest holidays, lasting up to 7 days.

After the telecast, Xing Lijun briefed the Pakistani media about the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year and upcoming events in connection with celebrations of the Chinese Spring Festival.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-cultural-exchange-program-in-pakistan-to-resume-in-2023/>

## The Nation

### **Chinese Consulate in Lahore honours 17 outstanding personalities**

LAHORE - The Chinese Consulate in Lahore honoured 17 outstanding personalities and 4 institutions with friendship awards in the context of Pakistan-China friendship, taking into account the merits and participation and representation of stakeholders. Chinese Consul General Zhao Shireen gave awards to the leading personalities including Nawa-i-Waqt Group Managing Director Rameeza Majid Nizami, former Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri and others. Director General operations Lt-Col (Retd) Sayed Ahmed Nadeem Qadri participated and received the award on behalf of Rameeza Majid Nizami. The Chinese Consulate has previously honored several personalities with Pakistan-China Friendship Awards last year as well. Consul General Zhao Shireen thanked the participants and said he is so delighted to hold this small event to distribute the Friendship Awards of the Consulate General of China in Lahore to the selected and distinguished group of individuals and institutions of Pakistan. With the year of 2022 almost drawing to a close, it is high time to celebrate and thank you all for the wonderful efforts and great endeavors made in promoting the Chinese narrative in Pakistan, strengthening our bilateral relations and enhancing practical cooperation in various sectors, he said. 'Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid a successful maiden visit to China, and the CPEC projects are gaining new momentum into its high-quality development. Although our two countries are facing and dealing with various kinds of difficulties, challenges and problems on both domestic and international fronts, the state of our bilateral relations is strong and will remain so and even grow stronger in the coming days. Against this backdrop, the Consulate General of China in Lahore has also made its tireless efforts in promoting mutual trust, business cooperation, cultural and educational exchanges between China and the Punjab. My team have been working very hard and their performance is exemplary. You are friends of the Chinese people. And you are the invaluable assets of the long-standing and ever-growing China-Pakistan friendship,' he said. He said the year 2023 marks a defining moment for us to further cement the partnership between our two countries and peoples, and our collaboration should also be more dynamic, resilient, sustainable and achieve a new height through our mutual concerted efforts.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-30/page-12/detail-2>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### **پی آئی اے کا پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کراچی میں نمایاں کی کا اعلان**

لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان ایئر لائنز (پی آئی اے) نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کراچی میں نمایاں کی کا اعلان کر دیا۔ پی آئی اے نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سفر کرنیوالے مسافروں کے لیے کراچی میں نمایاں کی کا اعلان کیا ہے جو فوری طور نافذ العمل ہو گا۔ پی آئی اے حکام کے مطابق بیجنگ سے اسلام آباد کا دنیا کراچی بشمول تمام ٹیکسز اب 4681 یو آن جبکہ بیجنگ سے اسلام آباد اور بیجنگ دو طرفہ کراچی بشمول تمام ٹیکسز 1250 یو آن ہو گا۔

پی آئی اے کراچی کی

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-12-30/page-12/detail-18>

**December 31, 2022**

**Daily Times**

**China stresses need to brand CPEC in a ‘more visible way’**

*Farooq Awan@FarooqAzamAwan*

Chinese Ambassador in Islamabad Nong Rong on Friday said the CPEC projects have made sound progress during the year 2022, and stressed the need to pool all resources and strength together and brand the CPEC in a more visible way.

“During year, the CPEC has always been the highlight of our bilateral relations. On 2nd November, President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan on his official visit to China. Our two sides are committed to make full use of the JCC of the CPEC, advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Before the visit, the 11th JCC meeting was successfully held, setting the path for the future cooperation, Water Resource Management and Climate Change have been added to the social-economic JWG,” the ambassador said at the award ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects for 2022.

“A series of good news are coming from different sectors under the CPEC umbrella. The China-aided Eastbay Expressway of Gwadar port has begun operation since June, enhancing connectivity of the port, which is now transporting two hundred thousand ton of fertilizer. Karot Hydropower started commercial operation in June as well, which provides cheap and clean electricity, and can reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually. The TEL and Nova power plants in Thar also started operation with the local coal. The Shanghai Electric Thar coal-based power plant has been connected to the national grid. Six model farms under Pakistan-China Red Chilli Contract Farming Project are achieving a harvest in Punjab and Sindh Province, with an estimated yield of 700 tons of dried chilly. This is just a portrayal of the great potential of agricultural cooperation between our two countries. In fact, Pakistan’s trade surplus of agricultural products for the year of 2021 enjoyed an increase of 13 times. This year is expected to exceed a record high of US\$ 1 billion. So far, CPEC has created 192,000 jobs, 6000MW of power supply, 510 km of highway and 886 km of transmission line, which laid a solid foundation for Pakistan’s socio-economic development,” the ambassador said. “The achievements of the CPEC are not possible without joint efforts of staffs from both China and Pakistan. All the 34 outstanding Pakistani staffs are not only the constructors and participants of the CPEC, but also the ‘witnesses and promoters of a brilliant history,” he added.

“Recently, China adjusted its COVID prevention and control policies, which include the removal of measures to control the number of international flights and restoration of people-to-people exchanges for business and study. These will further promote the exchange of people, and facilitate the investments between China and Pakistan. More Pakistani staff can take training programs in China. More students can go to China for further study, and come back to join the CPEC projects, passing on the friendship between our two countries,” the



ambassador said. “The CPEC will always provide 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,” he concluded.

Addressing on the occasion, Pan Jiang, Deputy DG, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, said amid global changes and instability in recent years, Pakistan and China have supported each other and forged ahead, demonstrating an iron-clad friendship. “China views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective and Pakistan has always been a high priority in China’s neighborhood diplomacy. China is ready to work with Pakistan to elevate the level of all-round strategic cooperation, speed up efforts to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, and inject new impetus into our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. The two sides will make full use of the Joint Cooperation Committee of CPEC, advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. This gives us a clear guidance for future cooperation,” he added.

During the ceremony, the representatives of Pakistani staff from three projects (Mir Arslan Ali, from Matiari to Lahore  $\pm 660$ kV HVDC Transmission Line Project, Shakeela Kosar, from Metro train Orange Line Project Lahore; Hamza Khalid from Sahiwal power plant) delivered their speeches.

Representatives of CPEC companies, members of think tanks and media personnel also attended the event.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1045401/china-stresses-need-to-brand-cpec-in-a-more-visible-way/>

### **China shows unflinching commitment to strengthen Pakistan’s economy during 2022: report**

China showed unflinching commitment to strengthen Pakistan’s economy during 2022, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Amid economic instability, Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan dropped 52.1% during the first four months of the ongoing fiscal year (FY23), clocking in at just \$348.3 million, revealed State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data.

Details showed that, during the same period, the highest FDI inflows came from China during the July-November period, amounting to \$102.5 million.

Despite the economic and political crises, the all-weather friend of Pakistan, China, remained the largest investor during the last fiscal year, as it made notable investment in its ongoing power, telecom, and financial projects.

China made the single largest investment of net \$532 million in Pakistan in FY22, followed by the United States which injected net \$250 million during the year.

More recently, CPEC has given Pakistan a rare chance to boost FDI and private investment and restructure its economy. In 2022, China and Pakistan announced three new corridors

including Green, Digital and Health corridors which will usher in a new era of development in Pakistan.

Agriculture, food security, and green development will be the focus of the Green Corridor. Moreover, given the skill of our young people, we can state without a doubt that Pakistan has enormous potential in the digital corridor.

China has been a technical powerhouse in recent years, and its investment in the creation of suitable training facilities in the nation will help Pakistan maximise the potential of the youth. Similar opportunities exist for collaboration in the health and medical fields.

The establishment of new hospitals, medical universities, research centres, pharmacies, and caregiving organisations will be the focus of this corridor.

Some significant investments have been discussed in this article. A Chinese company, The East Sea Group has planned to build an oil refinery with an annual processing capacity of 8 million tons in Gwadar, with a huge investment of \$4.5 billion.

Similarly, in December 2022, Opay, a Chinese corporation with operations in several nations, including Nigeria, pledged to invest \$100 million in Pakistan's digital payments industry by boosting the number of points of sale (POS) from 10,000 to 100,000. Opay has already invested \$4 million in Pakistan.

Earlier in 2022, Chinese brand in the home appliances category, Midea has expanded its assembly line with two new products. Speaking at the launching ceremony of Midea in Pakistan, Consul General of China in Karachi Li Bijian voiced hope that the new assembly line would lead to import substitution for Pakistan, besides reducing its import bill and trade deficit.

In February 2022 Pakistan and China inked the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation was established in 2016 and an MoU was signed between both parties in 2018. With the passage of time and as CPEC entered its second phase, the need for a comprehensive Framework Agreement became imperative.

A major milestone regarding Chinese mining investment in Pakistan was achieved in November 2022. At an international conference on the lithium battery business held in Sichuan, China, a strategic agreement was struck between the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences and Tianqi Lithium Co. to better examine and research lithium reserves in Pakistan.

According to the strategic agreement, both sides would work together to study and utilise Pakistan's lithium deposits.

As Pakistan is going for clean, green, and affordable energy, China has come again. A Beijing-based multinational wind turbine manufacturer, Goldwind corporation, launched Pakistan's first solution factory in Pakistan. Additionally, China is helping Pakistan set up a

waste-to-energy facility in Lahore. It is projected that the proposed facility will have an installed capacity of 40MW.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1045463/china-shows-unflinching-commitment-to-strengthen-pakistans-economy-during-2022-report/>

### **Pakistan observer**

#### **China appoints Qin Gang as new foreign minister; replaces Wang Yi**

Beijing: China has appointed Qin Gang as the new foreign minister, according to a decision made by the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee on Friday.

According to *Global Times*, Qin Gang, the incumbent Chinese Ambassador to the US, is replacing Wang Yi, who is a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and State Councilor.

#### **Qin Gang' career**

Born in Tianjin in March 1966, Qin Gang started work as a staff member in the Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions from 1988 to 1992, and from 1992 to 1995, he worked in the Department of West European Affairs of the Chinese foreign ministry.

From 1995-1999, 2002 to 2005, and from 2010 to 2011, Qin worked at the Chinese embassy in the UK. He also has years of experience working as a foreign ministry spokesperson.

Qin served as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director-General of the Protocol Department from 2017 to 2018 and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2018 to 2021.

Qin had arrived in the US as the Chinese Ambassador in July 2021.

#### **FM Bilawal extends felicitations to Qin Gang**

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari took to Twitter and extended his heartiest felicitations to Qin Gang on his appointment as the Foreign Minister of China.

"I look forward to working with [Qin Gang] towards taking the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership to even greater heights," FM Bilawal expressed commitment.

Responding to Bilawal's tweet, the newly-appointed Chinese Foreign Minister thanked him and expressed the same commitment.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-appoints-qin-gang-as-new-foreign-minister-replaces-wang-yi/>

#### **330 MW power generation project from Thar's local coal inaugurated**

A project to generate 330 megawatts of electricity from local coal in Sindh's Tharparkar district has been inaugurated on Friday.

Pakistan People's Party, MNA Mahesh Kumar Malani inaugurated the project to generate 330 MW of electricity in Tharparkar as CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah could not reach the area due to a problem in his helicopter.

MNA Mahes Kumar Malani said that the production of electricity from local coal will reduce the dependence on imported fuel. With the inauguration of the project, the production of electricity from Thar coal has increased to about 3,000 megawatts.

Kumar said it was the vision of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, which has been completed by the PPP government.

The PPP lawmaker said that an energy revolution is coming in Pakistan with the use of coal from Thar, 100,000 megawatts of electricity can be generated from Thar's coal deposits for 200 years.

<https://pakobserver.net/330-mw-power-generation-project-from-thars-local-coal-inaugurated/>

### **The Nation**

## **China awards outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC**

*SHAFQAT ALI*

ISLAMABAD - The Chinese Embassy on Friday held an award ceremony in recognition of outstanding Pakistani staff of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects 2022. Addressing the participants of the event, Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan should learn from China for economic and technological development. To ensure economic development, the country should have a peaceful environment adding "we must first ensure political stability, continuity of policies, and social solidarity because economic development does not take place in an atmosphere of conflict and polarisation. He said everyone thought that CPEC is an impossible mission. But people on the ground made it possible, which is remarkable. Highlighting the friendship bond between Pakistan and China, the minister said that changes in world affairs have also brought changes in relationships. World orders bring countries together and the world order changes. The countries' friendships also drift apart.

He said that Pakistan and China friendship has defied all rules of international affairs and diplomacy. There are no two countries that have phrases like iron brothers, he added. All these phrases describe the depth and strength of Pakistan-China friendship and brotherhood.

The minister said that Pakistan and China were historically very close in political relations, security cooperation, and other fields except for economic cooperation. However, in 2013 when ex-Prime minister Nawaz Sharif visited China after resuming office, the economic MoUs of \$46 billion were signed between China and Pakistan to start work on the CPEC project.

The minister said that as a result of CPEC Pakistan overcome an electricity shortfall and communication infrastructure was improved. He said the purpose of CPEC was not to advance China's business interests. The purpose of CPEC was to help Pakistan which was a close strategic partner, to improve its economy and bring Pakistan's economy from an agricultural structure into an industrial structure.

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong while addressing the award winners said that in 2022, against the challenge of global economic downturn and historical floods in Pakistan,

the CPEC projects have made good progress. “During this year, the CPEC has always been the highlight of our bilateral relations.

On 2nd November, President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his official visit to China. Our two sides are committed to making full use of the JCC of the CPEC, advancing CPEC with greater efficiency, and making CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation,” he added. The Ambassador added that a series of good news are coming from different sectors under the CPEC umbrella.

The China-aided Eastbay Expressway of Gwadar Port has begun operation since June, enhancing connectivity of the port, which is now transporting two hundred thousand tons of fertilizer, he said. The envoy said that Karot Hydropower started commercial operation in June as well, which provides cheap and clean electricity, and can reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually.

The Ambassador said that the TEL and Nova power plants in Thar also started operations with the local coal. The Shanghai Electric Thar coal-based power plant has been connected to the national grid. Six model farms under Pakistan-China Red Chilli Contract Farming Project are achieving a harvest in Punjab and Sindh, with an estimated yield of 700 tons of dried chilly. This is just a portrayal of the great potential of agricultural cooperation between our two countries. Pakistan’s trade surplus of agricultural products for the year 2021 enjoyed an increase of 13 times. This year is expected to exceed a record high of \$1 billion. So far, CPEC has created 192,000 jobs, 6000MW of power supply, 510km of highway, and 886km of transmission line, which laid a solid foundation for Pakistan’s socio-economic development. The achievements of the CPEC are not possible without the joint efforts of staff from both China and Pakistan. He also informed that recently,

China adjusted its COVID prevention and control policies, which include the removal of measures to control the number of international flights and restoration of people-to-people exchanges for business and study. These will further promote the exchange of people, and facilitate investments between China and Pakistan. More Pakistani staff can take training programmes in China. More students can go to China for further study, and come back to join the CPEC projects, the ambassador added. 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, he maintained.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-12-31/page-3/detail-4>

### **The News**

#### **Work on CPEC remained stalled under PTI govt: Ahsan**

*Muhammad Saleh Zaafir*

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Prof Ahsan Iqbal revealed on Friday here that work on CPEC during four years of PTI government remained stalled.

He said that Imran Khan government did not build a single project in Free Economic Zones (FEZ) in these years.

“Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif immediately on coming to power in April this year made it a point that work on CPEC would resume at fastest pace. We have taken it as a noble duty on ourselves to complete China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and make it a game-changer for not only Pakistan but the entire region.

The minister, who is undertaking an important visit to China next month, was addressing award-giving ceremony for “Outstanding Pakistani Staff of CPEC Projects” held at Chinese Embassy complex.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong also addressed the ceremony.

The minister reminded that world had been witnessing changes in bilateral ties with varying trends in the world. The ties between Pakistan and China have defied all such conventional norms and definitions of diplomacy be it Cold War Era, Post-Cold War, 9/11 or any other period.

Felicitating award recipients, the minister termed them real heroes of CPEC making the dream of a prosperous, peaceful and progressing Pakistan possible. “You are our real heroes as through you the people of Pakistan are enjoying the fruit of development and dividends of economic cooperation”, he said while paying tribute to their services.

He called Chinese working on different projects as super heroes. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said there was no example like Pakistan-China friendship in the history of the bilateral relations and a number of terms like ‘iron brothers’ ‘all weather friendship’ and ‘higher than Himalaya and deeper than the ocean’, sweeter than honey” were coined to describe and explain Pakistan-China friendship.

While describing the Chinese economic contribution, Prof Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan had become the first country with highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by China in a short period of three years since the launch of the CPEC in 2015. Out of several projects with investment of a total \$46 billion, projects worth \$29 billion were actualised in the first three years, he said. The credit for translating the Pakistan-China political, social and historical relations into economic cooperation goes to the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, he said.

The CPEC, Ahsan Iqbal said, proved a source of tremendous support to Pakistan in diverse sectors such as industry, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, port and highways development and social economic projects. In short it guaranteed a wholesome development for the country generating hundreds and thousands of jobs and opportunities for the youth. In fact, it was a revolution in connectivity, said Ahsan Iqbal, adding, number of free economic zones were identified under the CPEC and it was estimated billions of dollars’ revenue would be generated through those FEZs.

Ambassador Nong Rong congratulated the recipient of the awards and said the year 2022 witnessed the deepening of all-round cooperation between the two countries. The CPEC



projects, he said, have made sound achievement against the challenge of global economic downturn and historical floods in Pakistan.

Referring to November 2 meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said, “Our two sides are committed to making full use of the JCC of the CPEC, advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.”

“A series of good news is coming from different sectors under the CPEC umbrella,” said Ambassador Nong Rong adding the China-aided Eastbay Expressway of Gwadar port had begun operation since June, enhancing connectivity of the port, which is now transporting two hundred thousand ton of fertilizer. The achievements of the CPEC are not possible without joint efforts of staffs from both China and Pakistan, said the ambassador.

“Among the 34 outstanding Pakistani staffs, some of you are engineers, who keep the boilers and other equipment in good condition, some of you are from administrative sector, who implement the Covid SOPs in a prudent manner, some of you are from financing sector, who help the project to attract investment. Each of you has a good story. You are not only the constructors and participants of the CPEC, but also the ‘witnesses and promoters of a brilliant history, he said.

Ambassador-Nong Rong, Deputy CEO, Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company, Council Member of APCEA Ying Minghao, Deputy DG, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of Chinazzz Pan Jiang, award recipients including Shakeela Kausar, Mir Arsalan and Muhammad Hamza Khalid also addressed on the occasion and shared their experiences.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=162094>

## Express News

### 2022: چین پاکستان میں سب سے بڑا سرمایہ کار ملک رہا

دو سال چین پاکستان میں سب سے بڑا غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار رہا جب کہ چین نے مالی سال 2022 میں پاکستان میں 532 ملین ڈالر کی واحد بڑی سرمایہ کاری کی۔ اسلام آباد گوادر پروکے مطابق اسٹیٹ بینک کے اعداد و شمار سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ معاشی عدم استحکام کے درمیان پاکستان میں براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری میں جاری مالی سال کے پہلے چار مہینوں کے دوران 52.1 فیصد کمی ہوئی، جو کہ صرف 348.3 ملین ڈالر رہی۔ اسی عرصہ جولائی تا نومبر کے دوران سب سے زیادہ ایف ڈی آئی چین سے آئی، جو کہ 102.5 ملین ڈالر تھی۔

معاشی اور سیاسی بحرانوں کے باوجود پاکستان کا ہمہ وقت دوست چین گزشتہ مالی سال کے دوران سب سے بڑا سرمایہ کار رہا، کیونکہ اس نے اپنے جاری پاور، ٹیلی کام اور مالیاتی منصوبوں میں قابل ذکر سرمایہ کاری کی۔ امریکانے سال کے دوران 250 ملین ڈالر کی خالص سرمایہ کاری کی۔

میں، چین اور پاکستان نے گرین، ڈیجیٹل اور ہیلتھ کوریڈور سمیت تین نئی راہداریوں کا اعلان کیا جو پاکستان میں ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز کریں گے۔ گرین کوریڈور 2022 میں زراعت، خوراک کی حفاظت اور سبز ترقی پر توجہ دی جائے گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2421758/6/>

**K2 Daily**

[https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP\\_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2022-12-31](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2022-12-31)

***Chinese Newspapers*****December 16, 2022****People's Daily****CPEC special economic zones to generate huge job opportunities in Pakistan: official***(Xinhua)*

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 15 (Xinhua) -- Four special economic zones (SEZs) being set up under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are likely to generate about 575,000 direct and over 1 million indirect jobs in Pakistan, a senior official said on Thursday.

The economic zones being established in the country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan provinces would bring about immense opportunities for Pakistani people in job and business sectors, Chairman of Special Economic Zones Authority S.M. Naveed said.

"We have conducted a study to assess job opportunities in four out of nine SEZs, including KP's Rashakai, Sindh's Dhabeji, Punjab's Allama Iqbal and Balochistan's Bostan, to find out potential jobs and industries in the SEZs," the official said, adding that the SEZs offer employment in different fields for which the local youth would be trained before the initiation of the industrial phase.

The trained and skilled labor and engineers would not only get good jobs in the economic zones but also enable Chinese and local companies to recruit skilled professionals from local areas, he added.

The potential industries being set up in the CPEC special economic zones include food processing, cooking oil, ceramics, gems and jewelry, marble, minerals, agriculture machinery, iron and steel, motorbike assembling, electrical appliances and automobiles.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1216/c90000-10184952.html>

**December 17, 2022**

**Xinhuanet News**

**Feature: Gwadar's university students see bright future through Pakistan-China cooperation**

*by Misbah Saba Malik*

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 16 (Xinhua) -- Bahram Zahid, a vibrant 21-year-old from Gwadar district of Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, is inquisitive about the opportunities the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers for the people of his province so that they can enjoy its perks and make their lives better.

He has been witnessing the development of Gwadar under CPEC for years and is currently visiting Islamabad to meet Chinese officials and visit Chinese companies operating in Pakistan to know more about the future of Gwadar and the cooperation between Pakistan and China in various projects.

"I met many Chinese and I got the impression that they are very serious about CPEC and I am sure that it will be implemented to its full potential one day, so the main thing for us is that we should participate in it as much as we can to share the development," he told Xinhua.

As a student at the University of Gwadar, Zahid is being accompanied by 11 other students studying in different disciplines at the campus, and most of them are visiting the capital city for the first time.

In a conversation with Xinhua, the students said that they had many questions about CPEC and the visit is an eye-opening experience for them as they learned many things about Chinese investments and the good work the Chinese companies are doing in Pakistan.

The students said due to a lack of information in Gwadar, they had missed many good opportunities, but now they got a clear picture of the opportunities they can have.

"I have heard about Chinese government scholarships. Now I have a clear idea about the application process," Shahnaz Shafi Muhammad, a 22-year-old student of business administration, told Xinhua.

The students also watched a documentary about the development of Shenzhen. They showed a resolve that they will work hard for the development of Gwadar.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Islamabad-based think-tank Pakistan-China Institute, told Xinhua that the students are the real stakeholders of the development because they are the future of Gwadar and the future of Pakistan-China friendship.

"The students have a lot of hope and confidence in the future of themselves and Gwadar, and that is very inspiring for me," Sayed said.

He said that his institute coordinated the visit and also shortlisted the students for the visit, adding that in the next phase more students will visit the capital.

Mujahid Hussain, head of the Department of Commerce at the University of Gwadar, who is accompanying the students on the visit, said CPEC is "bringing a lot of positive changes in Gwadar."

"The prospects of a bright future for Gwadar are clear as the sky. The value of CPEC has increased and many development programs have been initiated," he noted.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20221217/de2343b1d08e4f0fa52dda1874a1e5b6/c.html>

**December 23, 2022**

**People's Daily**

**Experts say Pakistan-China collaboration on education, cultural exchange on upward trajectory**

*(Xinhua)*

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 22 (Xinhua) -- The collaboration of Pakistan and China on education and cultural cooperation and exchanges witnessed an upward trajectory with each passing day, Pakistani and Chinese experts said Thursday at a webinar.

China has played a key role in creating regional awareness to underscore the significance of cultural and educational exchanges through its ventures like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), resulting in substantial educational, political, economic, and trade cooperation among various countries and regions, said the scholars at the webinar on educational and cultural exchanges under the BRI.

The webinar, jointly organized by the Pakistani think tank the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) and the Pakistan Research Center of the Inner Mongolia Honder College of Art and Sciences in China, aimed to discuss the long-standing, strong relationship between Pakistan and China in terms of their cooperation in culture and education.

Speaking on the occasion, Liaquat Ali Shah, head of the Policy Division of the Center of Excellence for CPEC at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, said that people-to-people exchanges remained one of the main pillars of China's foreign policy to strengthen the social foundation for healthy international relations.

"For that reason, the cultural and people-to-people exchanges have been made an important part of the CPEC," Shah said, adding that the second phase of the CPEC is more people-centric, which would help make the CPEC development plan more sustainable and inclusive.

"The fields such as science and technology, information technology, agriculture, and socio-economic development are being focused on, where the interactions between the people of China and Pakistan are critical," the official added.

Farhat Asif, president of the IPDS, said that both countries enjoy a strong all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and friendship with exemplary bilateral cooperation and exchanges.

"The CPEC is the epitome of such cooperation, thriving in the length and breadth of Pakistan, as well as bringing people of Pakistan and China closer and yielding socio-economic benefits," she said.

Emphasizing the strong collaboration in education and cultural exchanges between both countries, Asif said that thousands of Pakistani students are currently studying in various universities in China.

To forge close cultural and educational ties between Pakistan and China, such collaboration should continue, she added.

During the webinar, Tang Jun, director of the Pakistan Research Center at the Inner Mongolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, highlighted the strong partnership between China and Pakistan.

"Academic engagement is growing with each passing day. Both sides are collaborating to enhance the research and development culture and the human resource, ready to make it an effective part of the CPEC's overall progress," he said.

(Web editor: Cai Hairuo, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2022/1223/c90000-10187549.html>

**December 27, 2022**

**China Daily**

### **The cultural relevance of BRI**

With a recorded history and culture dating back 5,000 years, China is recognized as one of the four great ancient civilizations, along with ancient Greece, Egypt, and Babylon. The history of China's food, tea traditions, poetry and art, medicine, calligraphy, opera, clothing, and festivals are only a few of the many aspects that contribute to the country's richest cultural diversity. It's only natural for a country with as much history as China to have tremendously diverse ethnic groups and customs that differ across regions. Everywhere you go, you will experience a unique combination of traditions, customs, and heritage.

The Zhuang people's ancient wooden stilt houses, as well as the Yao women and their extraordinarily long hair, are among the sights to behold. The famous Miao village can be visited to experience the traditional paper-making process and extraordinary mountain music. You can also meet and chat with some dedicated Tibetan monks and explore several Lhasa mountain monasteries. Across the country, there are countless temples that adhere to Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism, as well as innumerable mosques, churches, and even

a few historical synagogues. A trip to China is always an enlightening experience in terms of gaining knowledge about other cultures. The world's most impressive civilization, which has continued to this very day, has been a world power several times, so it's had millennia to perfectly refine its culture.

In my travels, I have found the Chinese to be among the most hospitable and warmhearted people I have met. People of all ages, whether you are in a bar or on the subway, are eager to strike up a conversation and learn more about you, and they are especially interested in hearing about your home country and your reasons for visiting China.

The cultural clout of China extends far beyond its borders in Asia, having a global impact in fields as diverse as the visual and performing arts, scientific inquiry, gastronomy, industry, and international trade. Over the past 50 years, Chinese culture has undergone a quick and profound shift, and it is still changing to fit the modern world.

In the past, the ancient Silk Road served as a conduit for the dissemination of ideologies, beliefs, languages, customs, and traditions from one civilization to another, paving the way for the cultural exchange and cross-cultural hybridization of Chinese and other civilizations. This custom's long and fruitful history resulted in a common harmonious heritage through the exchange of commodities. Furthermore, it also led to achieving a significant milestone with the revival of the Old Silk Route, which rhetorically gives importance to the shared historical cultural heritage of the past and the new emerging China, the new Belt and Road Initiative.

China's goal in reviving the ancient Silk Road was not only to re-establish the ancient trade route but also to embrace the Silk Road's cultural significance as a soft basis for managing global and regional collaboration. The spirit of the Silk Road, defined as "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit," is the guiding principle of the BRI project, which aims to "promote practical cooperation in all fields and build a community of shared interests, destinies, and responsibilities characterized by mutual political trust, economic integration, and cultural inclusion." Although the BRI's delivery of physical infrastructure is important, the Silk Road's cultural relevance lies in the fact that connectivity will also be dependent on intangible factors like established customs, accepted principles, and formalized systems of knowledge transmission and dissemination. In other words, a renewed interest in culture is essential to the long-term success of the BRI.

By launching the BRI, China has been putting an unprecedented amount of pressure on itself in its quest to reach out to other countries. No matter the nature of BRI's external relations (economic, political, and technological); its success will always involve cross-cultural engagement with people from a variety of cultures and civilizations. The Chinese government has indicated its willingness to establish a corresponding point so that more Sino-foreign collaboration can be developed amongst partners who articulate and pursue mutual interests.

China has been capitalizing on its legacy of mutual cooperation, respect, and trust across Asia by constructing projects that will not only boost global competitiveness as well as revolutionize infrastructure growth, disseminate culture, promote people-to-people connections and refocus the countries' parties on this initiative. Over the years, the image of the People's Republic of China has come to be strongly and favorably seen in every Asian



nation. In fact, two-thirds or more of the people in predominantly Muslim Asian countries, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh express a favorable impression of China. In addition, South Korea's view of China has also become more positive.

China has expanded its sphere of influence significantly by implementing the BRI's regional and global goals, which include fostering cross-cultural understanding through increased opportunities for learning and travel, fostering greater participation in regional and international organizations and institutions, strengthening ties with neighboring states, and coordinating regional development strategies. China's aim to promote cultural assimilation is expected to lead to jobs, education, better technical and expert skills, and educational exchange programs, which will strengthen the country's cultural ties to Asia and its ability to support the hopes of other Asian nations. This will also lead to cultural interest and, ultimately, a more peaceful society.

The core premise is that promoting different cultures is an asset that may help bring people together and win hearts and minds. China could increase its cultural impact, self-confidence, and cultural deficit, as well as its chances of gaining cultural acceptance, by improving its ability to understand and interact with other cultures. China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative will facilitate communication between different cultures and perhaps foster mutual understanding, advance humanity, and maintain global stability.

*Engr. Qaiser Nawab currently serving at the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South – COMSATS, is an international expert on Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Middle East, Central Asia and Africa. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.*

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/27/WS63aaa7efa31057c47eba6713.html>

### **Belt & Road fits well with nations' growth strategies**

Synergy seen as a boon to economic recovery, global governance reform

The efforts of China and partner economies to enhance the connections between the Belt and Road Initiative and national development programs will add fresh growth momentum to bilateral and multilateral cooperation, market watchers and senior business executives said.

It will also boost the world's economic recovery, they added.

Synergizing the BRI and other national development strategies — such as Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and Egypt's Vision 2030 — will scale up trade and investment in fields such as the digital economy, traditional and new infrastructure, clean energy, agriculture and modern services between China and those partners, experts said, as well as create a new path for global governance reform in the years ahead.

China and countries such as Pakistan, Serbia and Thailand are also leveraging their comparative strengths and further widening market access to each other, said Xu Hongcai, deputy director of the Economic Policy Commission with the China Association of Policy Science in Beijing.

For instance, China has been eager to assist Saudi Arabia in charting a new path of economic diversification and integration with the BRI following the Saudi government's unveiling of Vision 2030 in 2016. The country's strategic framework aims to cut dependence on oil and transform the kingdom into a leading industrial powerhouse and global trading and logistics hub.

China has signed cooperative documents with 20 Arab countries and the Arab League on jointly building the BRI, with more than 200 large projects in energy and infrastructure having been implemented, according to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Apart from developing energy projects related to oil in Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Middle East, China Energy Engineering Group Co Ltd, the Beijing-based State-owned enterprise known as Energy China, started to build a 2.6-gigawatt photovoltaic project in Saudi Arabia in mid-November.

The project, located in Al Shuaibah in Jeddah, Makkah province, will be equipped with advanced PV modules. It is expected to be the largest individual PV project in the Middle East and North Africa, providing anticipated 3,000 jobs for locals, said Xiong Gaoxia, vice-president of China Energy Co Ltd, an Energy China subsidiary.

The project is designed to help cut carbon dioxide emissions by about 3.12 million metric tons per year. It is also designed to speed up the country's energy structure transformation as well as green and low-carbon development, he added.

About 80 percent of the business of China Construction Fifth Bureau Installation Engineering Co Ltd used to be building office and residential blocks as well as hotels and shopping malls, while industrial manufacturing and infrastructure projects were rarely involved, according to the company's chairman, Yang Yong.

But after discovering the surging demand generated by many countries' industrial upgrades and urbanization booms, the Changsha, Hunan province-based SOE has adjusted the direction of its business, Yang said. Infrastructure and manufacturing projects now account for 80 percent of its domestic business and 100 percent of its business abroad.

In recent years, the company has taken part in construction, such as the tunnel for Algeria's North-South Highway and the expansion of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It also built manufacturing facilities for Chinese smartphone makers Oppo and Vivo in India.

Based on its annual workload in overseas markets, Yang said the company is able to provide up to 1,200 jobs a year for local communities. It also helps local workers improve their skills by offering training courses.

After developing a number of big-ticket projects in countries such as Algeria, India, Bangladesh and South Sudan, CCFBIEC will focus on South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe to support the growth of the BRI and many countries' development strategies, Yang said.

China's SOEs, especially those that are centrally administered, have lengthy experience in setting up and managing transportation, energy, telecommunications and power projects,

based on their financing ability, technological advantages and management expertise. The government has long encouraged them to take advantage of more market opportunities related to BRI development, said Li Jin, chief researcher at the China Enterprise Research Institute in Beijing.

Their involvement in BRI-related projects has not only led China's nonfinancial outbound direct investment in participating economies, but also driven China's exports to those markets, especially of telecommunications equipment, construction machinery, green building materials, high-end steel products and vehicles, said Wei Xiaoquan, a researcher specializing in regional economic development at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

China's nonfinancial ODI into economies participating in the BRI reached \$19.16 billion from January to November, with an increase of 6.5 percent year-on-year, accounting for 18.7 percent of China's total nonfinancial ODI during this period, said the Ministry of Commerce.

The country's SOEs saw their foreign trade volume surge 14.1 percent on a year-on-year basis to 6.15 trillion yuan (\$881 billion) in the first eleven months, accounting for 16 percent of the country's total, according to the General Administration of Customs.

"The BRI is significant not only because it advances economic cooperation between China and the world, but also because it facilitates upgrades to the transformation of the global governance system, narrows the North-South gap and helps developing countries accelerate growth," Wei added.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/27/WS63aa54c0a31057c47eba65fc.html>

### Xinhuanet News

#### **Interview: Educational cooperation between Pakistan, China promotes high-quality CPEC development, says expert**

*by Raheela Nazir*

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 27 (Xinhua) -- The educational cooperation and exchanges between Pakistan and China are playing an important role in promoting the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a Pakistani scholar said.

"BRI is a framework for multi-national economic development. It is providing a window of opportunity that will bring socio-economic stability for countries around the globe including Pakistan," Safdar Ali Shah, director general of CPEC cell at the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, told Xinhua. With CPEC entering an advanced stage, Shah said the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in higher education have been reaching a new level over the past few years, adding that further collaboration in higher education is crucial to the building of CPEC and the development of the country.

"Pakistan needs to produce young talents that meet the requirements of Chinese companies who want to invest in the country and are in desperate need of skilled people acquainted with the local conditions and languages ... so there is a need to ramp up educational cooperation

for providing strong intellectual and talent support to Chinese companies," the scholar said. According to Shah, 18 universities from China and Pakistan established the CPEC Consortium of Universities back in 2017 to promote academic exchanges for the high-quality development of CPEC, now the number of member universities has increased to over 110, indicating a substantial rise in academic and educational exchanges over the years.

The academic collaboration under the CPEC Consortium of Universities included the establishment of China study centers at various universities across Pakistan, joint research projects, language training and talent cultivation, cultural activities and joint conferences, workshops and exhibitions, he added.

"The number of Pakistani students learning Chinese language and the number of Chinese students learning Pakistan's national language Urdu have also increased considerably over the years, bringing the people of the two countries closer and closer," he noted. Under the educational cooperation programs between the two neighbors, Shah said thousands of Pakistani students are studying in China, learning Chinese culture, language and majors, adding that most of these students are studying on Chinese scholarships.

Besides providing opportunities to Pakistani students, Chinese universities are going the extra mile to improve the education quality for the students to meet the needs of the two countries' major projects like CPEC and other vital fields, he said.

"Measures such as transforming the talent training concept to cultivate applied and compound talents, improving the teaching level by assembling a team of teachers with high professional standards, and designing tailored textbooks, are being taken for Pakistani students in Chinese universities to enhance the standard of education and training," he said.

The scholar believed that as Pakistan and China are closely bonded as a result of CPEC, the two countries should further explore and promote more exchanges and cooperation in higher education to achieve quality education sharing and achieve win-win and mutually-benefited friendly relations. Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://english.news.cn/20221227/89c1bc55efa64e33930fec4f4b7b7452/c.html>

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**Xinhuanet News**

**Pakistani, Chinese staff join hands to make CPEC success story: minister**

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 30 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Friday that Pakistani and Chinese staff of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project have joined hands to work hard with dedication as a team to make the project a success story.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

Speaking at an awarding ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects in the year 2022, Iqbal said that after its inception in 2013, CPEC has changed the international community's impression of Pakistan from a hotbed of terrorism to a land worthy of massive investment in construction, bringing in multi-billion U.S. dollars in investment in the country.

"CPEC opened the door for billions of U.S. dollars to flow into Pakistan as foreign and domestic investment," he said.

The minister said that because of CPEC, Pakistan could end 16 to 18 hours of load shedding by adding more than 5,000 megawatts of energy projects within only several years.

"Under cooperation with China, we developed energy projects in all generation areas, including coal, hydropower, wind, solar and renewable energy projects, which diversified Pakistan's energy portfolio," he added.

Iqbal said that CPEC also brought a connectivity revolution in Pakistan, and a network of motorways and highways was constructed across Pakistan to provide connectivity within Pakistan and to enhance connectivity between Pakistan and China.

"The Chinese are engaging with Pakistani to bring our economy from the agricultural into an industrial structure, to reform our economy to be modern and advanced one," Iqbal said, adding that the purpose of CPEC is not to advance China's business interests but to help Pakistan improve its economy to become a modern industrial country.

Calling the staff "the heroes of CPEC," the minister said that the Chinese staff who left home but dedicated themselves here and the Pakistani staff who work day by day all deserve the great compliment and appreciation.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said that it was a year that witnessed the deepening of all-around cooperation between the two countries, and despite the challenges of the global economic downturn and severe flood in Pakistan, the CPEC projects have made sound achievements.

He said that CPEC's Pakistani staff are not only the constructors and participants but also the witnesses and promoters of a brilliant history.

"China and Pakistan's cooperation will always provide a broad stage for people to display their talents and realize personal values," he said, hoping that both countries' staff will cherish the opportunity, contribute to the construction of CPEC with practical actions and continue to consolidate the ironclad friendship between China and Pakistan.

<https://english.news.cn/20221231/4185d94f7731475784c4a4bd060606cc/c.html>