



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

December 01-15, 2023

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December 01, 2023

Business Recorder

Chinese CG visits EPZA, highlights CPEC's 'promising' future

KARACHI: The Chinese Consul General in Karachi Yang Yundong highlighted the promising future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He emphasised that the CPEC's focused on high quality development, will elevate the China-Pakistan strategic partnership to greater heights, contributing to regional peace and prosperity.

The Chinese CG said this while visiting Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) Head Office along with high-level delegation.

The Chinese envoy said that industrial cooperation with EPZA has encouraged and increasing number of Chinese enterprises will come to EPZ for industrial cooperation.

Chairman EPZA, Dr Saifuddin Junejo in his introducing remarks underscored the importance of Pakistan-China relations in the contemporary world and strategic significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's economic transformation and regional prosperity.

Pakistan and China are interlinked on friendship front sharing areas of mutual interest on many economic and cultural fronts.

Due to our eternal friendship spread over many decades Pakistan and EPZA offers excellent investment opportunities to Chinese businesses.

The chairman EPZA while addressing a delegation from China said that EPZA is already providing excellent facilities to the investors which can be compared with other industrial zones in the world.

The EPZA is also planning to establish multi-product EPZ on 1500 acres land.

This location will help in facilitating easy and cost-effective import and export besides skilled labour will also be easily available in the area.

Further he said that ancient social and economic relations with China are strengthening with every passing day.

The EPZA and Pakistan will provide friendly environment to Chinese industrialist and investors.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/01/4-page/978493-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC projects gave new shade to Pakistan's economy: Murtaza

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi has said projects initiated with Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in various areas, including basic infrastructure and energy, have given a new shade to Pakistan's economy.

Interacting with China Radio International, he said now CPEC is entering a new phase, entailing projects like ML-1 railway line. He said several infrastructure and mass transit projects like Orange Line Train have already been completed under CPEC.

The Minister expressed the optimism that the new phase of CPEC will have particular focus on Special Economic Zones. He said projects worth over 26 billion dollars have been launched, while new ones are ready to take off.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-projects-gave-new-shade-to-pakistans-economy-murtaza/>

The News

Chinese company to invest in Pak renewable energy sector

ISLAMABAD: China-based M/s CNNP Rich Energy Co. Ltd. strategically invests in Pakistan's renewable energy sector through its wholly-owned subsidiary M/s. CRE International Co., Limited.

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of M/s. Super Success Investments Limited (SSIL) by M/s. CRE International Co., Limited. CRE is the wholly owned subsidiary of CNNP Rich Energy Co. Limited located in Hong Kong. Whereas M/s. Super Success Investments Limited (SSIL) is based in Mauritius.

SSIL owns 100 percent shareholding of M/s. UEP Wind Power (Private) Limited, a private company operating and maintaining a 99MW wind-powered electric generation facility in Pakistan.

CRE has acquired SSIL and thus indirectly acquired UEP Wind Power Pakistan.

CCP conducted a comprehensive review of the merger documentation.

Given that the transaction did not lead to the dominance of the acquirer in the relevant market, the CCP has granted approval for the merger.

This transaction serves as a testament to the growing interest of foreign investors in Pakistan's renewable energy sector.

While the transaction indirectly reflects a substantial foreign investment in the country's energy landscape, it also underscores the potential for collaborative advancements in the renewable energy domain.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=259965>

in the country. “Pakistan is strongly committed to (the) protection of workers and projects under the CPEC,” she said.

To a question, the spokesperson reiterated Pakistan’s demand from the Afghan interim government to take immediate and effective steps against terrorist entities operating from its soil and involved in terrorism in the country.

Baloch voiced concerns over the presence of terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan, adding that these terrorists continue to attack Pakistan and cause loss of life. “Pakistan desires to have peaceful and friendly relations with Afghanistan. We have great sympathies with our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan who have suffered a great deal because of difficult humanitarian and security situation,” she said. She further stated that Pakistan has advocated internationally that humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan must continue.

To another query about the US Justice Department’s announcement of charges against a man accused of orchestrating for the Indian government an attempted assassination of a Sikh leader in the US, she said that these revelations are the latest in a series of such reports that confirm the existence of a global network of Indian intelligence that is involved in espionage and extra-territorial killings.

She said that the network has been engaged in assassinations and abductions in South Asia for decades and Pakistan has remained a target of India’s state-sponsored terrorism, subversion, and espionage. “We have been inviting international attention to these activities of Indian intelligence services. Last year, Pakistan released a dossier with credible information on Indian involvement in the Lahore attack. We condemn these acts and believe that India’s irresponsible and reckless conduct is a clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty,” she added.

Expressing concerns over the situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, she urged India to repeal its draconian laws and stop using the bogey of terrorism to suppress dissent in the occupied territory. She said that reports suggest that a few days ago, seven Kashmiri students of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology in Ganderbal district were arrested for celebrating Australia’s victory over India in the final match of the Cricket World Cup. Their arrest has taken place under India’s infamous anti-terrorism law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. “It is shocking that cheering a cricket team during a world cup, of which India was the host, is considered an act of terrorism in India,” she said, adding that the development is a clear manifestation of India’s misuse of counter-terrorism laws and its erroneous and vicious application of terrorism charges. Referring to the situation in Gaza, she said that Pakistan is disappointed that after a brief pause, Israel has restarted bombing the Palestinian people. “The temporary pause offered a crucial respite to the suffering people of Gaza and allowed exchange of prisoners. Pakistan reiterates its call for a durable and sustained ceasefire to enable supply of extensive and robust humanitarian assistance; urgent medical aid to the injured; and shelter to those who have been displaced as a result of indiscriminate and inhumane bombing campaign by Israeli occupation forces,” she added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/02/1-page/978558-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese Jiangsu province police chief meets CM

The police chief of Jiangsu province in China Tan Yongsheng met with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, here on Friday.

During the meeting, both agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation between Punjab police and Jiangsu police. The CM expressed gratitude for the Chinese assistance in establishing an effective policing system and assured that the provincial government was committed to providing every possible facility to tourists and Chinese citizens. He emphasized that China's governance and policing system served as a role model and highlighted the importance of improving their own governance and policing system by learning from each other's experiences. Yongsheng extended an invitation to CM Naqvi to visit Jiangsu, emphasizing the shared values between Jiangsu and Lahore. He stated that a comprehensive plan for cooperation would be developed, marking the beginning of a new era of friendship between the two countries. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, police officials and members of the Chinese delegation were also present.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-jiangsu-province-police-chief-meets-cm/>

The Express Tribune

Engineers trained for key role in CPEC's Matiari-Lahore project

Training focused on skill development, insight into Chinese culture

BEIJING: Eleven Pakistani engineers, crucial to the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) ±660kV Matiari-Lahore HVDC project, recently completed a technical training programme in China. Focused on skill development, the programme also provided insights into Chinese culture. Muhammad Talha, a project supervisor, expressed enthusiasm about the experience, citing benefits from both technical knowledge and cultural exposure.

The training, consisting of 47 professional courses, covered aspects such as equipment inspection, power adjustment, and operation and maintenance of the converter station, enhancing their skills for the HVDC project.

Funded and operated by the State Grid Corporation of China, the Matiari-Lahore project, operational since September 2021, plays a critical role in Pakistan's transmission capacity. Talha highlighted the significant reduction in power loss due to Chinese technology. The engineers, besides their technical training, visited ultra-high voltage converter stations in various cities, deepening their understanding of China's cutting-edge UHV technology. Rana Shaheer Mehmood, another project supervisor, emphasised the valuable experience gained through the programme. The cooperation under CPEC is seen as strengthening the bond between China and Pakistan. Liu Hao, a lecturer in the programme, noted that over 120 Pakistani personnel have been trained since June 2020, contributing to the project's operation and maintenance.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2448642/engineers-trained-for-key-role-in-cpecs-matiari-lahore-project>

چین؟ پنجاب پولیس کی جدید آلائے کا معاہدے اتفاق

نگران وزیر اعلیٰ سے چینی صوبے جیانگ سو کے پولیس چیف کی ملاقات، تعاون کے پہلوؤں پر گفتگو

دو دنوں مذاکرات کے درمیان دوٹی کا بنیاد شروع ہو رہا ہے، چین کا پولیسنگ نظام رول ماڈل ہے، حسن لتوی

لاہور (آئی این ٹی) نگران وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب، محمد پنجاب پولیس کو جود آات کی صوب اور حسن لتوی سے گئی صوبے جیانگ سو کے پولیس
حسن لتوی نے کہا ہے کہ چین کی گورنمنٹ اور پولیسنگ اسٹائل کی رائےگ بھی رہیں گے، دونوں ممالک کے پولیس قوانین ایک ٹھک نے ملاقات کی، پنجاب
کا کامیاب رہا ہے، نگران وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا۔ درمیان دوٹی کا بنیاد شروع ہو رہا ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پولیس اور جیانگ سو (ہائی سٹو 7 اپریل 41)

وزارت پر دھوکے میں گئے۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے نگران وزیر اعلیٰ حسن لتوی کا کہنا تھا کہ سوشل میڈیا کے لئے چین کی معاونت کے تحت گزرو ہیں، یہ سب اور دیگر تکنیکی شیڈول کو برطرف کی سہولتیں فراہم کر رہے ہیں، جیسا ایک دوسرے کے تجربات سے استفادہ کرتے ہوئے گورنمنٹ اور پولیس کا کام بہتر بنانا ہے۔ چینی صوبے کے پولیس چیف نے وزیر اعلیٰ حسن لتوی کو جیانگ سو کے دورے کی دعوت دی، جیانگ سو پولیس چیف کا کہنا تھا کہ جیانگ سو اور لاہور میں بہت سی قدریں مشترک ہیں، پنجاب پولیس سے اشتراک کار کے لئے ہاتھ چان لئے کر آئیں گے، تعاون ایک ٹھک سے کہا کہ پنجاب پولیس کو جود آات کی صوب اور اسٹائل کی رائےگ بھی رہیں گے، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوٹی کا بنیاد شروع ہو رہا ہے۔ چیف کاٹری پنجاب ڈیپارٹمنٹ نگران وزیر اعلیٰ نے پولیس ڈائریکٹن اور اور چینی وفد کے دیگر حکام بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-02

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-12-02

سی پیک شراکت داری کی اعلیٰ مثال، چینی تو فیصل جنرل

مشنکار اور سرمایہ کار اپنا اپنے کاروبار کو وسعت دینے کیلئے پر عزم ہیں

چینی تو فیصل جنرل ایجاٹ کاؤنڈ کے سربراہ اور وچائیرمین نے استقبال کیا

کراچی (اتھلیڈ) چینی تو فیصل جنرل ایجاٹ سرمایہ کار اپنا اپنے کاروبار کو وسعت دینے کیلئے
ایجاٹ کاؤنڈ کے لئے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک چین پر عزم ہیں۔ مہنگاوت کے مطابق کراچی میں چینی
شراکت داری کو بند نہیں ہے لے جانے کا مشنکار و تو فیصل جنرل ایجاٹ (ہائی سٹو 6 اپریل 65)

ایجاٹ کاؤنڈ کے سربراہ نے وفد کے ساتھ کراچی میں کاروبار کو وسعت دینے کیلئے پر عزم ہیں۔
چین، جاپان اور دیگر ممالک کی شراکت داری کو
بند نہیں ہے لے جانے کا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ
مشنکار اور سرمایہ کار اپنا اپنے کاروبار کو
وسعت دینے کیلئے پر عزم ہیں۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-02

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-12-02

December 03, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani businessman explores auto opportunities in Shanghai

China has transformed itself to a global leader in advanced automotive technologies over the past few decades. Pakistan can benefit from these trends by collaborating with Chinese companies and staying updated on the latest technologies and trends in the industry, said Fahad Iqbal Butt, director of New Genuine Auto Parts at ongoing Automechanika Shanghai 2023 being held from 29 Nov. to 2 Dec. With the goal of strengthening the presence of Pakistani companies in China and establishing new partnerships, he is confident that the expo

will provide him with the platform to connect with potential suppliers, manufacturers and distributors.

He added that “I am very impressed with the growth and development of the automotive industry in China, and we see great potential for cooperation between our two countries.”² Having been doing business with China for almost two decades and visiting the expo eight times, he came over this year to develop new items related to agricultural or auto parts such as filters and bushings.

He also met with several Chinese auto companies to discuss potential collaboration, focusing on areas such as parts supply and technology transfer. As a influential global service platform for the automotive industry showcasing automotive parts, repair, testing and diagnostic equipment and service supplies, this year’s Automechanika Shanghai focuses on seven product segments covering 13 showrooms, with a comprehensive focus on innovative technologies and cutting-edge solutions for the entire automotive industry chain. It attracted 5,652 exhibitors from 41 countries and regions and visitors from 28 countries and regions.— APP

https://www.bing.com/search?q=pakistani+businessmen+explores+auto+opportunities+in+shanghai+pakistan+bserver&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqBwgEEEUYwgMyBwgAEEUYwgMyBwgBEEUYwgMyBwgCEEUYwgMyBwgDEEUYwgMyBwgEEEUYwgMyBwgFEEUYwgMyBwgGEEUYwgMyBwgHEEUYwgPSAQo2ODA2NTJqMGo0qAIIIsAIB&FORM=ANAB01&PC=SCOOBE

The Express Tribune

Kissinger: what he meant for China and the world

I read work of Kissinger a lot and he helped me in making sense of world in which we live

To admire the likes of Aristotle, Machiavelli, Churchill or Kissinger you have to be an Aristotelian, a Machiavellian, a Churchillian or a Kissingerian. All three men had their varied reasons for popularity and the greatness they achieved in their lives but one thing common about all of them was their pursuit of academics. I read the work of Kissinger a lot and he helped me in making sense of the world in which we live. He died few days back at the age of 100. The man had an obsession with power and order and as per his critics this undying obsession of the man with power and order was at the cost of humanity. He was a concepts constructor, a creator of strategies and a builder of realities. At his prime in the 60s and the 70s, he served in the administrations of President Nixon and President Ford as US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor respectively.

Three big policy choices that the US made during this period are attributed to Kissinger’s strategic concept and his strategy. The three distinct components of his strategy were: seeking and reviving transatlantic alliance with western Europe, including alliance with the three great European powers France, Germany and England; giving fresh impetus to détente and seeking opportunities of cooperation with Soviet Union, bringing China back in the balance of power by breaking the Sino-Soviet partnership; and seeking to draw the US closer to each party than they were to each other. If I correctly remember Kissinger’s last visit and his last

diplomatic engagement, though unofficial, was with President Xi Jinping during his China visit. I even recall the Chinese President lending assistance to this old diplomat to walk. A gesture that in many ways reflected the Chinese thanks and gratitude to a person who cleared Chinese path to global access and global participation and engagement — I call it China's rebirth.

What China achieved in three decades it did not achieve in the previous three centuries and in many ways the achievements of China reflected the four conceptual beliefs that Kissinger always had — belief in the importance of history; problem of conjecture; benefits of preemption; and the costs of inaction. The crucial changes that came in China could not have come without a critical juncture in their history and that critical juncture was the death of Mao Zedong. When China needed leadership, Chairman Mao provided it, it even needed a revolution and they didn't have one but two revolutions, first after 1958 in the form of 'the great leap forward' to industrialise itself as Mao planned to double the steel output in the country to catch up with the steel productions of Britain. With no feasible means of achieving this target, scrap metal had to be found and people even burnt their pots and pans and even the agricultural tools, hoes and plows to meet the targets. Famine followed and resulted in the death of an estimated twenty to forty million people. This failed Mao policy created a change of heart in another great Chinese leader — Deng Xiaoping who was a very successful general during the revolution. In 1961, in a conference he said, "no matter the cat is black or white if it catches the mice, it's a good cat." Meaning that, it did not matter whether the policies appeared communist or not, China needed policies that would encourage production so that it could feed its people. Chairman Mao anticipated another threat and considered that those mulling to create capitalist society were threatening the Chinese communist society and in response he announced the 'cultural revolution' to crush those in authority who were encouraging people to take the capitalist road. Deng Xiaoping was jailed, Red Guards were formed across the country and members of the communist regime were used to purge opponents across the country, wrecking both the economy and the human lives.

Then came the critical juncture. Chairman Mao died in 1976. The gang of four — Chairman's wife Jiang Qing and her three close associates who were great supporters of cultural revolution and the resulting repression — were determined to continue with Mao's revolutionary policies. But with Mao gone there was a tussle between those with different visions and different beliefs. The turning point was Chinese Premier Hua Guofeng's coup against the gang of four who within the month of Mao's death arrested them and set Deng Xiaoping free. The story of China's rise begins with Deng Xiaoping's rise to power and a paramount leader in China from 1978 to 1989. Two things are very important to understand in this short and compressed period of Chinese history. Firstly, China would not have experienced the economic growth in Deng Xiaoping's time had the devastation and human suffering not been caused by the great leap forward and the cultural revolution, as it was these revolutions that caused the sufficient demand for change. Secondly, it was not just the critical juncture in the form of Chairman Mao's death that came in the lives of the Chinese but also the removal from power of the gang of four that cleared the way for the implementation of alternative policies to move the Chinese nation forward.

The writings of Kissinger qualified much of the change that took place not only in China but rest of the world. About leaders Kissinger said, “The problem of democratic age is that people tend to prefer charismatic leaders over crafty statesmen.” About foreign policy he believed, “there is no such thing as foreign policy, there is only a series of moves that have produced certain results that they may not have planned to produce.” He believed that there is not only right or wrong but many shades in between and one must understand the problem of conjecture with the asymmetric payoffs. I remember most for Kissinger’s contribution in making us understand what world order is and why it is in such a great mess today. He defined it as a concept held by nations and civilisations, conceptualised by the nature of its just arrangements and distribution of power applicable to the entire world. World order, he suggested, rests on two components — set of commonly accepted rules that define the limits of permissible action; and balance of power that enforces restraint where rules break down, preventing one political unit from subjugating all others. Seen in the light of Kissingerian definition of world order, the Israeli military action in Gaza is a classic example of why this order is in a mess today and why countries like Russia and China talk about substituting it.

Lastly, my favourite Kissinger quote is: “Period in high office consumes intellectual capital, it does not create it.” RIP Henry Kissinger!

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2448721/kissinger-what-he-meant-for-china-and-the-world>

K2 Daily News

	<p>مکین کی جانب سے دیئے گئے 25 ڈیپلومٹس مختلف علاقوں میں نصب</p> <p>اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) خبر سوسائٹی نے کہا ہے کہ مکین (ہائی سٹر 7 بیبر 36)</p>
<p>بقیہ 36</p> <p>کی جانب سے پاکستان کو دیئے گئے 25 ڈیپلومٹس مختلف علاقوں میں نصب کر دیئے گئے ہیں۔ اس کا مقصد بی ایم ای کی آسانی کی دارنگہ کی ملائیوں میں اضافہ کرنا ہے۔ بی ایم ای میں سمولٹی ڈویژن کے ڈائریکٹر ڈیورن نے گورنر پروکونگس نے پاکستان کو 10 ڈاکٹر نائٹ کے 25 ڈیپلومٹس فراہم کر دیئے ہیں تاکہ انسانی کم فریکٹائیٹی (دی این ایف) کو ایف) ڈاکٹریٹ ورک قائم کیا جاسکے۔ اس منصوبے کا مقصد مگر سوسائٹی (بی ایم ای) کی آسانی کی دارنگہ کی ملائیوں میں اضافہ کرنا اور آسانی کی گرتے سے جان دہل دہن پر بستے سلسلے کو کم کرنا ہے۔ ڈیورن نے گورنر پروکونگس کو بتایا کہ یہ ڈیپلومٹس پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں نصب ہیں جس سے آسانی کی گرتے سے جان دہل کو خاطر واپس سے رہیں گے۔ کہا کہ مکین کی جانب سے یہ اقدام ایک مثبت قدم ہے جس سے پاکستان کی ادارہ استعمال کرے گا۔ یہ تعداد چاروں اور 25 بی ایم ای ملائیوں کو بحال کرنے میں پاک</p> <p>مکین ڈاٹ کام کی ایپ کو ڈاؤن لوڈ کریں۔</p>	

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-03

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-12-03

December 04, 2023

Business Recorder

China-based company acquires renewable energy firm

ISLAMABAD: China-based M/s CNNP Rich Energy Co. Ltd strategically invests in Pakistan's renewable energy sector through its wholly-owned subsidiary, M/s. CRE International Co., Limited.

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of M/s. Super Success Investments Limited (SSIL) by M/s. CRE International Co., Ltd. CRE is the wholly owned subsidiary of CNNP Rich Energy Co. Limited, located in Hong Kong. M/s. Super Success Investments Limited (SSIL) is based in Mauritius, according to a press release issued here on Sunday.

SSIL owns a 100 percent shareholding in M/s. UEP Wind Power (Private) Limited is a private company operating and maintaining a 99 MW wind-powered electric generation facility in Pakistan. CRE has acquired SSIL and thus indirectly acquired UEP Wind Power Pakistan.

CCP conducted a comprehensive review of the merger documentation. Given that the transaction did not lead to the dominance of the acquirer in the relevant market, the CCP has approved the merger.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/04/2-page/978699-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China Friendship Hospital inauguration today

Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar, a milestone project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been completed and is ready to provide the state of the art medical and health facilities to thousands of local residents of Gwadar.

Completed at the cost of \$100 million with the financing of the Chinese government, the Pak-China Friendship Hospital is all set to be inaugurated on December 04.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, Pak-China Friendship Hospital official said that spanning over 68 acres of land, the 300-bed hospital has been equipped with modern medical facilities. He added that it has been constructed under the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Business Plan.

He said that Pak-China Friendship Hospital has six blocks that include medical block, residential block, nursing block, paramedical institute block, medical college block, central laboratory block with incorporation of other allied facilities, medical equipment and machinery. Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar will provide free and high-quality treatment for local residents. It has offered employment opportunities regarding gynecology, pediatrics & neonatal medicine, and family medicine to the coastal community as well.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-friendship-hospital-inauguration-today/>

The Express Tribune

Economic revival, CPEC and Agenda 2024 – I

This is only possible through policies, models, or plans tailored according to the needs of the country

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is desperately looking for options to overcome economic and financial challenges. These are not new challenges. The economic and financial difficulties have been frustrating Pakistan for quite some time. The successive governments failed to present any viable solution to overcome these challenges. Instead, the successive governments contributed to worsening the economic and financial crisis. Wrong policy choices and obsession with donor-funded solutions have deteriorated the economy. Moreover, short-sighted decision-making by the ruling elite has further complicated the situation. They cannot comprehend that economic growth and development is not a short-term project.

The review of world economic history reveals that economies can neither deteriorate nor revive quickly. It requires patience and wisdom to steer the process in an orderly manner. Economic revival is only possible through a suitable set of policies, consistency in implementing policies, and applying indigenous wisdom to lead the way of economic revival. The policies, models, or plans must be devised or tailored according to the needs of the country.

Unfortunately, this is not happening in Pakistan. The ruling elite has turned Pakistan into an experimental lab for “Fancy Ideas” or “Fancy Models,” which do not correspond to the needs and ground realities of Pakistan. Right after independence, Pakistan started with a capitalist and liberal economic model. Then, Pakistan moved to socialism in the 1970s. The 1980s began with the slogan of the Islamic system and economy but without any practical intervention. Since the late 1980s, Pakistan has been implementing a liberal economic order and following the so-called Washington consensus. It has greatly impacted the economic and social fabric of Pakistan. Due to the wrong policies and practices, Pakistan has become home to numerous challenges. Thus, there is a need for course correction.

However, before designing any policy or action framework, Pakistan must concentrate on six “What’s.” First, what is required to revive the economy and bring back growth, employment, and development? Second, what should be done to uplift the living standard, ensure the prosperity of everyone, and tackle issues like poverty, food insecurity, unemployment among youth, etc.? Third, what resources does Pakistan have in pocket to invest? Fourth, what should be a strategy to execute the policy or plan? Fifth, what is the state or quality of human capital? Sixth, what are systems for the equal distribution of resources and opportunities? Moreover, Pakistan will have to search out which country or region can help give impetus to economic revival by acting as an anchorage country. A comprehensive discussion on the above areas will help rationalise the policy and action framework.

On the basis of answers to six ‘whats’, Pakistan should devise a long-term agenda like the “Economic Agenda 2047,” and a phase-wise strategy should be designed to achieve the said agenda. Pakistan should design each step focusing on the country’s ground realities and

development status. However, it is pertinent to mention here that each phase should only highlight the priority areas for that phase. The State should communicate to the masses clearly that the priority of one area does not mean that other areas should be neglected.

Moreover, every phase should be tagged with a proposed GDP and priority areas. For example, the State can set GDP targets and area selection for each in the following sequence. In the first phase, Low-Hanging Fruit (two years), the State should set a target of \$500 billion in GDP. The priority areas for the phase should be agriculture, mining, IT, and tourism. In the second phase, Short Term (five years), the GDP target should be at \$700 billion for GDP. The priority areas for this phase should be SMEs and industry. In the third phase, the Medium Term (15 years), the GDP target should be \$1.5 trillion, and the priority areas are industry, agriculture, IT, and SMEs. In the fourth phase, Long Term (24 years), the GDP target should be \$3 trillion, and priority areas should be services, industry, and SMEs. These targets will help to steer the economy in the right direction.

The next step for the State should be to follow a realistic policy and implementation framework to modernise or develop the country. For example, we have witnessed in the recent past many politicians raised ‘Made in Pakistan’ slogans, but at this point, this slogan is irrelevant to Pakistan. Why? Right now, Pakistan does not have the resources or capacity to develop a brand; even the most prominent export sector, textile, does not have brands of global relevance. Similarly, Pakistan does not have the required resources and capabilities to produce hardware for IT or industry.

Against this backdrop, the dream of being ‘Made in Pakistan’ is a long-term dream. Thus, it is advised that Pakistan start with small steps. One available option is inclusion in supply chains. Under CPEC cooperation, Pakistan can ask China to include some Pakistan companies in the supply chains of Chinese products. For example, car production is one sector where some Pakistani SMEs can easily be included in supply chains. Some SMEs in Pakistan can produce quality nuts and bolts. Other producers or SMEs can produce leather products for Chinese car manufacturing companies. These are only two examples; we can find other areas for supply inclusion with other countries. Thus, it is believed that Pakistan can benefit immensely from this policy.

Regrettably, Pakistan is not focusing on supply chain inclusion right now. Pakistani exporters, like textiles and others, are happy to be suppliers. This is not a sustainable practice.

After formulating the “Economic Agenda 2047”, the State should communicate the agenda to the masses with realistic timelines. There should be no dream selling. For example, there should be no slogans of economic turnaround in 100 days or a few months. The State should communicate that economic revival and development are long-term programmes. It takes time to reach the goal. Thus, people will have to show patience and wait for the results. Simultaneously, the State will have to work to keep hope alive, and truth will be the best instrument to keep hope alive. Lastly, Pakistan must reform rather than overhaul the system to achieve the desired results and goals. It is not a matter of choice; it is mandatory if Pakistan wants to realise the dream of sustainable development. To be continued...

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2448826/economic-revival-cpec-and-agenda-2024-i>

The Nation

Pak-China agri coop shines at 2023 CISCE

ISLAMABAD - The China-Pak sustainable agriculture cooperation shines at the ongoing 2023 China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), Beijing, CEN reported on Thursday.

It said, plump rice grains, sweet melons, fragrant sesames... an endless stream of visitors were full of praise for the dazzling array of agricultural products at the expo.

“From the single germplasm resource cooperation and product trade to current Agriculture Value Chain (AVC) comprehensive business, the cooperation between Syngenta Group and Pakistan in the agricultural field has great potential, undoubtedly,” a staff at Syngenta Group China told CEN.

“By supplying inputs and production services to growers, bartering with entities in core producing areas in exchange for key agricultural products, while linking China’s agricultural product market demand and opening up the global upstream and downstream chains, the AVC model has brought practical benefits to farmers in Pakistan.”

Sesame cultivation in Pakistan has tripled in the past five years. In the South Asia country, sesame is grown on roughly 600,000 acres with a per acre yield of 0.5 tons.

As most Pakistan sesame is for export, with more than 1/3 goes to China, Syngenta global AVC aims to link the quality sesame from Pakistani growers served by Syngenta with international value chain partners especially in China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/01-Dec-2023/pak-china-agri-coop-shines-at-2023-cisce>

K2 Daily News



<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-12-07>

October 05, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Safety on KKH

SIX people have been arrested in connection with an attack on a passenger bus in the Chilas area of Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district. At least nine people, including two soldiers, lost their lives, and 21 passengers received injuries when unknown attackers opened fire at the Rawalpindi-bound bus from nearby hills, causing the vehicle to collide with a goods truck.

Gilgit-Baltistan is the focus of the connectivity, infrastructure, water reservoirs and energy projects, which are so vital for progress and development of the entire country and therefore, they remain targets of hostile activities by anti-Pakistan elements. There have also been attacks on Chinese engineers and technicians working on development projects and one such tragedy led to a virtual halt in construction activities on Dasu hydropower project for months due to security concerns. The latest incident sparked protests in different parts of GB and transporters have suspended their bus services from Rawalpindi to ten districts of GB, saying the service will not resume until the security is improved. The Pakistan Association of Tour Operators also condemned the attack and said the act of violence not only resulted in the loss of innocent lives but had a profound impact on the tourism industry as well. GB Chief Minister Gulbar Khan has announced that passenger vehicles would travel through Diamer during the daytime. The convoys of five to 10 vehicles will be escorted by security personnel. This can be a stopgap arrangement but not a permanent solution to the problem as convoy movement would slow down mobility and will adversely impact trade and economic activities in the area. The increase in terrorist attacks in GB should be a source of concern for our intelligence and law enforcing agencies. It is also the responsibility of the local population to extend fullest possible cooperation to police and security agencies in preventing such crimes and holding the perpetrators accountable. Foreign hand is not ruled out in the conspiracy to destabilize the region but it cannot happen without local collaboration which needs to be identified and dealt with by the iron hand.

<https://pakobserver.net/safety-on-kkh/>

CPEC journey to move forward, not backward: Kakar

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly, the youth to avail the historic opportunity of development in their province as the detractors of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were about to lose their relevance very soon.

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant here, said the journey of CPEC would surely move forward, not the backward, so joining the development course would be a prudent decision.

“Those who think to change the course (of CPEC) by force, violence or any other means are committing historic blunder as their relevance will be over very soon. The prudent decision in

the nation's fate is to joint the course of development, instead of resisting it and miss the opportunity," he remarked.

The ceremony was attended by federal ministers Sami Saeed and Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Mardan Domki, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and the Chinese and Pakistani officials attended the event.

The prime minister said the ease in the form of reduced travel durations across the province was just due to CPEC intervention.

He told the gathering that trade worth \$36 trillion was expected to take place in and around China in the near future, therefore it was a must to join the journey through skill development and claim the share, instead of showing hostility.

He said the journey of China's modernisation was significance and steering millions of people out of poverty was unprecedented.

The prime minister said that the development of China had a positive impact across the region, particularly Pakistan and its Balochistan province.

He said the clean drinking water had been an issue faced by the Gwadar people and the desalination plant project would address it to a great extent. Besides, the construction of a 150-bed hospital would provide quality healthcare to the people, he added.

The prime minister also thanked the Chinese ambassador for announcing the solar power project and emergency services for Quetta.

Prime Minister Kakar assuring the all-out support of the federal and provincial governments on the matter of security, reiterated that the Pakistan Army, police and law enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their lives.

He expressed the hope that Gwadar would complete its course of development soon to become a trade hub with the Pak-China cooperation for the benefit of future generations.

He directed the authorities concerned to connect Northern Zone with main grid to address the electricity issue.

Earlier, the prime minister, along with the Chinese ambassador and Balochistan chief minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate the projects which followed the presentation of the souvenirs to the prime minister as well as the envoy.

PM Kakar, later talking to reporters on the occasion, said the direction of the progress of Balochistan was set forth and expressed confidence that the province would witness a new era of development.

He thanked the provincial government on completion of the development projects, which he said, would facilitate the locals of Gwadar.

The prime minister hoped that the financial crunch would be over with the steps taken by the interim government.

To a question on funds allocated for flood-hit areas, he said the world was ready to dole out billions of dollars, however, it depended on how Pakistan could secure the climate financing.

In his address, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong congratulated the people of Balochistan over the inauguration of the desalination plant providing clean drinking water.

He thanked the federal and provincial governments particularly the prime minister for their support to the projects which manifested their commitment to the CPEC.

He said both the projects of hospital and desalination plant would help uplift the living standard of the people of Gwadar.

He expressed the hoped that the both countries would continue to strengthen their cooperation to accomplish the next phase of CPEC.

Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki said the projects were another example of Pak-China friendship as they would serve the masses by providing quality healthcare facilities and around 500,000 gallons per day of drinking water. He said the shortage of clean drinking water had been a long standing problems faced by the people of Gwadar and the desalination plant would address it.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-journey-to-move-forward-not-backward-kakar/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC detractors will be irrelevant soon: PM

Kakar inaugurates Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant

GWADAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly, the youth, to avail the historic opportunity of development in the province as the detractors of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were about to lose their relevance very soon.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Pak-China Friendship Hospital and the Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant here, the prime minister stressed that the CPEC would move forward and it would be prudent for all to join the path to progress.

“The CPEC journey will surely move forward, and not backward, so joining the development course will be a prudent decision. Those who think of changing the course [of CPEC] by use of force, violence or any other means are committing historic blunder. Their relevance will be over very soon,” he said.

“The prudent decision is to join the course of development, instead of resisting it and missing the opportunity,” he told the ceremony attended by caretaker ministers Sami Saeed and Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Chief Minister Mir Mardan Domki, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and others.

The prime minister said that trade worth \$36 trillion was expected to take place in and around China in near future, therefore it was a must to join the journey through skill development and to claim the share, instead of showing hostility.

The prime minister noted that the development of China had a positive impact across the region, particularly Pakistan and its Balochistan province. Earlier, the prime minister, along

with the Chinese ambassador and Balochistan chief minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate the projects.

He said the clean drinking water had been an issue facing the Gwadar people and the desalination plant project would address it to a great extent. Besides, he added, the construction of a 150-bed hospital would provide quality healthcare to the people.

On the occasion, Kakar assured all-out support of the federal and provincial governments on the matter of security and reiterated that the army, police and other law-enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their own lives.

Later talking to reporters, Kakar expressed his confidence that Balochistan would witness a new era of development. The prime minister hoped that the financial crunch would be over with the steps taken by the interim government.

In his address to the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador Jiang congratulated the people of Balochistan over the inauguration of the desalination plant providing clean drinking water. He thanked the federal and provincial governments particularly the prime minister for their support to the projects.

Ambassador Jiang said both the projects of hospital and desalination plant would help uplift the living standard of the people of Gwadar. He hoped that the Pakistan and China would continue strengthening their cooperation to accomplish the next phase of CPEC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2448954/cpec-detractors-will-be-irrelevant-soon-pm>

The Nation

Course of CPEC can't be changed by violence, PM warns detractors

Kakar unveils Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital, Desalination Plant in Gwadar n Says Armed Forces to protect Chinese workers even at cost of their lives.

GWADAR - Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly, the youth to avail the historic opportunity of development in their province as the detractors of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were about to lose their relevance very soon.

The prime minister, addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant here, said the journey of CPEC would surely move forward, not the backward, so joining the development course would be a prudent decision.

“Those who think to change the course (of CPEC) by force, violence or any other means are committing historic blunder as their relevance will be over very soon. The prudent decision in the nation’s fate is to join the course of development, instead of resisting it and miss the opportunity,” he remarked. The ceremony was attended by federal ministers Sami Saeed and Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Mardan Domki, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and the Chinese and Pakistani officials attended the event.

The prime minister said the ease in the form of reduced travel durations across the province was just due to CPEC intervention.

He told the gathering that trade worth \$36 trillion was expected to take place in and around China in the near future, therefore it was a must to join the journey through skill development and claim the share, instead of showing hostility.

He said the journey of China's modernisation was significance and steering millions of people out of poverty was unprecedented. The prime minister said that the development of China had a positive impact across the region, particularly Pakistan and its Balochistan province.

He said the clean drinking water had been an issue faced by the Gwadar people and the desalination plant project would address it to a great extent. Besides, the construction of a 150- bed hospital would provide quality healthcare to the people, he added.

The prime minister also thanked the Chinese ambassador for announcing the solar power project and emergency services for Quetta.

Prime Minister Kakar assuring the all-out support of the federal and provincial governments on the matter of security, reiterated that the Pakistan Army, police and law enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their lives.

He expressed the hope that Gwadar would complete its course of development soon to become a trade hub with the Pak-China cooperation for the benefit of future generations.

He directed the authorities concerned to connect Northern Zone with main grid to address the electricity issue.

Earlier, the prime minister, along with the Chinese ambassador and Balochistan chief minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate the projects which followed the presentation of the souvenirs to the prime minister as well as the envoy.

PM Kakar, later talking to reporters on the occasion, said the direction of the progress of Balochistan was set forth and expressed confidence that the province would witness a new era of development.

He thanked the provincial government on completion of the development projects, which he said, would facilitate the locals of Gwadar. The prime minister hoped that the financial crunch would be over with the steps taken by the interim government. To a question on funds allocated for flood-hit areas, he said the world was ready to dole out billions of dollars, however, it depended on how Pakistan could secure the climate financing. In his address, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong congratulated the people of Balochistan over the inauguration of the desalination plant providing clean drinking water.

He thanked the federal and provincial governments particularly the prime minister for their support to the projects which manifested their commitment to the CPEC.

He said both the projects of hospital and desalination plant would help uplift the living standard of the people of Gwadar. He expressed the hoped that the both countries would continue to strengthen their cooperation to accomplish the next phase of CPEC.

Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki said the projects were another example of Pak-China friendship as they would serve the masses by providing quality healthcare facilities and around 500,000 gallons per day of drinking water. He said the shortage of clean drinking water had been a long standing problems faced by the people of Gwadar and the desalination plant would address it.

He reiterated that the government remained committed to uplift Gwadar at par with international standards.

In his address through video link, the Chief Executive of the Agency of International Economic Cooperation of China, appreciated the government department, Chinese embassy and project staff for their efforts in the completion of the project.

He said being all-weather strategic partners, Pakistan and China supported each other in development.

He told the gathering the projects would help improve the living standards of the locals.

He reiterated that China would continue working with PakistaPakistan to complete the projects like Gwadar Airport, and other CPEC projects.

He said the Gwadar Port would play a greater role in high-quality development of CPEC and China would fully support Pakistan in the development of Gwadar. PM invites Emarati investors to explore Pakistan's business market

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East North Africa region with an average annual trade of \$9 billion and urged the UAE investors to explore Pakistani market for new avenues.

In an interview with Gulf Today, he said Pakistan is planning a comprehensive investment promotion strategy in major countries including the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

PM Kakar said Pakistan's exports to the UAE include agriculture products, textiles and manpower, while the UAE exports petroleum, petrochemical products and hi-tech equipment to Pakistan.

The two countries also exchange services with each other. Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Financial- technology are new areas of collaboration with much greater potential.

Pakistan-UAE bilateral trade during 2022-23 amounted to \$9 billion, he said.

He expressed satisfaction that Pakistan's exports to UAE surged to \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2022-23, highest in the last five years.

On prospects of UAE's investment in Pakistan, he said attracting foreign investment in all sectors of Pakistan's economy was the government's top priority. "Pakistan's Investment Policy has been designed to provide a comprehensive framework for creating a conducive business environment for attraction of Foreign Direct Investment from all parts of the world including the UAE," he said.

Currently, he said, there are over 1,000 multinational companies profitably operating in Pakistan, and for many, Pakistan is the most profitable part of their franchise.

Foreign companies, individuals, multinational corporations can own 100 per cent shares in locally incorporated or unincorporated firms, he added.

Stressing enhanced investment cooperation, the prime minister said the two countries could explore the areas such as agriculture, energy, mining, information technology, logistics and defence.

PM Kakar mentioned that in order to revive economy, the government recently established the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to generate new and attractive investment opportunities from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in priority sectors such as agriculture, mining, IT manufacturing and defence. He mentioned the Pakistan Investment Road Show, organised by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in Dubai, which attracted a large number of global businessmen and investors.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Dec-2023/course-of-cpec-can-t-be-changed-by-violence-pm-warns-detractors>

The News

CPEC detractors to lose their relevance soon: Kakar

GWADAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly the youth, to avail themselves of the historic opportunity of development in the province, as the detractors of CPEC were about to lose their relevance very soon.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant here, Kakar said the journey of CPEC would surely move forward, so joining the development course would be a prudent decision. “Those who think of changing the course (of CPEC) by force, violence or any other means are committing a historic blunder, as their relevance will be over very soon. The prudent decision in the nation’s fate is to join the course of development instead of resisting it and miss the opportunity,” he remarked.

Federal ministers Sami Saeed and Shahid Ashraf Tarar, Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Mardan Domki, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong and Chinese and Pakistani officials attended the event.

The prime minister said the ease in the form of reduced travel durations across the province was just due to the CPEC intervention.

He told the gathering that trade worth \$36 trillion was expected to take place in and around China in near future; therefore, it was a must to join the journey through skill development and claim the share, instead of showing hostility.

He said the journey of China’s modernisation was significance and steering millions of people out of poverty was unprecedented. The prime minister said that the development of

China had a positive impact across the region, particularly Pakistan and its Balochistan province.

He said clean drinking water had been an issue faced by the Gwadar people and the desalination plant project would address it to a great extent. Besides, the construction of a 150-bed hospital would provide quality healthcare to the people, he added.

The prime minister also thanked the Chinese ambassador for announcing the solar power project and emergency services for Quetta. Assuring all-out support of the federal and provincial governments on the matter of security, he reiterated that the army, police and law-enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their lives.

He expressed hope that Gwadar would complete its course of development soon to become a trade hub with the Pak-China cooperation for the benefit of future generations.

He directed the authorities concerned to connect Northern Zone with main grid to address the electricity issue. Earlier, the prime minister, along with the Chinese ambassador and Balochistan chief minister unveiled the plaques to inaugurate the projects which followed the presentation of the souvenirs to the prime minister as well as the envoy.

PM Kakar, later talking to reporters on the occasion, said the direction of the progress of Balochistan was set forth and expressed confidence that the province would witness a new era of development.

He thanked the provincial government for completion of the development projects, which he said, would facilitate the locals of Gwadar. The prime minister hoped that the financial crunch would be over with the steps taken by the interim government.

To a question on funds allocated for flood-hit areas, he said the world was ready to dole out billions of dollars, however, it depended on how Pakistan could secure the climate financing.

In his address, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong congratulated the people of Balochistan over the inauguration of the desalination plant providing clean drinking water. He thanked the federal and provincial governments particularly the prime minister for their support to the projects which manifested their commitment to the CPEC.

He said both the projects of hospital and desalination plant would help uplift the living standard of the people of Gwadar.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=260993>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے ساتھ سب کی ترقی، پاکستان کا پہلا نمبر: وزیر اعظم

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) نگران وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کا کڑے نپاک چین دوستی کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ”چین پاکستان دوستی ہسپتال“ اور سمندری پانی کو قابل استعمال بنانے کے پلانٹ سمیت سی پیک منصوبوں سے گوادر میں ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا۔ گوادر میں کئی سالوں سے پینے کے پانی کا گھمبیر مسئلہ اس منصوبے سے حل ہو جائے گا۔ مستقبل میں چین میں کھربوں ڈالر کی تجارت سے مستفید ہونے کیلئے ہمیں بالخصوص نوجوانوں کو تیاری کرنا ہوگی اور یہ ان کیلئے سنہری موقع ہے کہ وہ اپنے ملک، صوبے اور خاندانوں کیلئے اس سے فائدہ اٹھائیں۔ وزیر اعظم آفس کے میڈیا ونگ کی جانب سے جاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق ان خیالات کا اظہار

انہوں نے گزشتہ روز ”چین پاکستان دوستی ہسپتال“ اور سمندری پانی کو قابل استعمال بنانے کے پلانٹ کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ بلوچستان سے دلی لگاؤ ہے۔ بی آر آئی فورم کے موقع پر چینی حکام کی اردو سے موثر شناسائی پر خوشی ہوئی۔ زبان اور روابط سے دو ممالک کے درمیان قریبی مضبوط ہوتی ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین سد ابھار دوست اور آرن فرینڈز ہیں، ان کے درمیان پہاڑوں سے بلند اور شہد سے میٹھی دوستی ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دو طرفہ مضبوط اور دوستانہ تعلقات ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے اپنے عوام کی بڑی تعداد کو غربت سے نکال کر بے مثال کارنامہ سرانجام دیا۔ صدر شی جن پنگ اپنی قوم کو جس بردباری سے نئے مرحلے کی جانب لے جا رہے ہیں وہ قابل تعریف، ان کی خدمات قابل ستائش ہیں۔ ان کا پیغام یہ ہے کہ جب چین ترقی کرتا ہے تو سب ترقی کرتے ہیں، اس میں پاکستان بالخصوص بلوچستان میں گوارا سب سے پہلے آتا ہے۔ گوارا میں پینے کے پانی کا مسئلہ کئی سالوں سے گھمبیر تھا۔ اس منصوبے سے پینے کے پانی کا مسئلہ کافی حد تک حل ہو جائے گا۔ ایئر پورٹ فعال ہونے والا ہے۔ سی پیک کے ذریعے گوارا کے لوگ ترقی کے نئے دور میں داخل ہوں گے، اس کو طاقت اور دہشتگردی سے نہیں بدلا جاسکتا، ایسا سمجھنے والے غلطی پر ہیں، قومی بہتری کیلئے درست سمت کا تعین ہونے کے بعد سفر میں ساتھ دیا جاتا ہے، مزاحمت نہیں کی جاتی۔ گوارا اور بلوچستان کے شہریوں کے لئے آبادی کی مناسبت سے مواقع اور وسائل زیادہ ہیں۔ آئندہ دس سال میں چین اور اس کے نواح میں کھریوں ڈالر کی تجارت ہوگی۔ اس تجارت میں اپنی شراکت داری، اس کا حصہ بننے کیلئے اور اس میں شمولیت کیلئے تیاری کرنا ہوگی۔ ہر شخص میں مختلف قابلیت اور صلاحیت ہوتی ہے جو ہر فرد کی شناخت اور کردار کا تعین کرتی ہے، اپنی پہچان سے ہی زندگی میں کامیابی ملتی ہے۔ یہ بلوچستان کے عوام بالخصوص نوجوانوں کیلئے سنہری موقع ہے کہ وہ اپنے ملک، صوبے اور خاندانوں کیلئے تاریخی موقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سولر پینل منصوبہ اور کوئٹہ میں ایمر جنسی سنٹر کے قیام کے اعلان پر چینی سفیر کا شکر گزار ہوں اور انہیں یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ چینی باشندوں کی سکیورٹی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کئے جائیں گے۔ اس موقع پر نگران وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان علی مردان ڈوکی نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ گوارا کے عوام کو پینے کے صاف پانی کا مسئلہ درپیش رہا ہے۔ اس پلانٹ سے شہریوں کو 5 لاکھ گیلن پانی میسر آئے گا۔ سی پیک کے تحت گوارا کی تعمیر و ترقی مثالی ہے۔ گوارا میں ہسپتال کا قیام یہاں کے عوام کیلئے تحفہ سے کم نہیں۔ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر جیانگ ژائی ڈانگ نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وفاقی اور بلوچستان حکومت کی منصوبے میں مسلسل معاونت پر شکر گزار ہیں۔ واٹر پلانٹ سے گوارا کے عوام مستفید ہوں گے۔ ہسپتال کے قیام سے عوام کو صحت کی بہترین سہولیات میسر آئیں گی۔ ہمارا مقصد سی پیک منصوبوں کی بروقت تکمیل ہے۔ گوارا پورٹ سی پیک کا کلیدی منصوبہ ہے، سی پیک سے ملازمتوں کے 2 لاکھ 36 ہزار مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ گوارا سی پورٹ پر 46 کمپنیوں کی رجسٹریشن ہو چکی ہے، ان منصوبوں سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون کو مزید فروغ ملے گا۔ انہوں نے بلوچستان میں سولر پینل منصوبہ اور کوئٹہ میں ایمر جنسی سنٹر کے قیام کا اعلان بھی کیا۔ چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر اے آئی ای سی او نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی حکومت گوارا کی ترقی کیلئے بھرپور کردار ادا کر رہی ہے۔ گوارا پورٹ خطے کا جدید ترین ایئر پورٹ ہو گا جس میں جدید سہولیات میسر ہوں گی۔ گوارا میں دو کیشنل ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ نوجوانوں کی تربیت میں کلیدی کردار ادا کرے گا۔ انوار الحق کا کڑ نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سد ابھار سٹریٹجک شراکت داری روز بروز مستحکم ہو رہی ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ آخری قسط کے حوالے سے بھی سٹاف لیول بات چیت شروع ہو چکی ہے، دنیا ہمارے سیلاب متاثرین کی مدد کیلئے تیار ہے۔ یہ دوستی اور شراکت داری روز بروز مستحکم ہو رہی ہے۔ بلوچستان بالخصوص گوارا کے عوام ترقی کے اس سفر سے مستفید ہو رہے ہیں اور ترقی کا یہ سفر آگے بڑھے گا، بلوچستان بالخصوص گوارا کیلئے ایسے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے جو نسل نو کے بہتر مستقبل کی ضمانت دیں گے۔ مستقبل میں ترقی کے سفر میں شمولیت کیلئے بلوچستان اور گوارا کے عوام کو تیاری کرنی چاہئے، ہمیں ان مواقع کے تناظر میں اپنے نوجوانوں کو ہنر مند بنانا ہو گا۔ ملک کی معاشی صورتحال میں بتدریج بہتری آئی ہے اور امید ہے کہ آئندہ انتخابات کے بعد بننے والی حکومت اس میں مزید بہتری لائے گی۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ دنیا ہمارے سیلاب متاثرین کی مدد کیلئے تیار ہے، کلائمٹ فنانس موجود ہے، ہمیں اس سے مستفید ہونے کیلئے اپنی ذمہ داری ادا کرتے ہوئے منصوبے تیار کر کے اپنا کام کرنا ہو گا۔ انوار الحق کا کڑ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کی بدولت گوارا اور بلوچستان ترقی کی دوڑ میں سب سے آگے نکل آئے ہیں۔ نگران وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کا کڑ اور چینی سفیر نے گوارا میں سمندری پانی کو قابل استعمال بنانے کے پلانٹ کا افتتاح کر دیا۔ افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انوار الحق کا کڑ نے کہا کہ مجھے آج بہت زیادہ خوشی ہو رہی ہے، بلوچستان کے ساتھ نسبت کو جوڑنے میں دلی مسرت ہوتی ہے، اکتوبر میں بی آر آئی کی کانفرنس

میں شرکت کیلئے قدرت نے جب زمین کا نقشہ کھینچا تو فیصلہ کیا کہ پاکستان چین ساتھ ساتھ رہیں گے، وہ ازلی فیصلہ ابدی اہمیت اختیار کر گیا ہے، چائنہ کی ماڈرنائزیشن کا سفر انسانی تاریخ میں اہم سفر ہے، جب چائنہ ترقی کرتا ہے تو پھر سب ترقی کرتے ہیں، ترقی کرنے والوں میں پاکستان سب سے پہلے آتا ہے، گزشتہ کئی سالوں سے چینیوں کی کاپانی ایک گھمبیر مسئلہ تھا، ہم چینی دوستوں کے مشکور ہیں، چینی دوستوں نے یہاں 150 بیڈز پر مشتمل ہسپتال کا افتتاح بھی کر دیا۔ سی پیک کی برکت سے ہی تمام آسانیاں پیدا ہوئیں، گواد اور بلوچستان کی ترقی میں ہو سکتا ہے رفتار تیز نہ ہو، گواد اور بلوچستان کی ترقی آگے کی جانب جا رہی ہے اس نے پیچھے نہیں آنا، جو لوگ سمجھتے ہیں اس ترقی کو روک دیں تو وہ تاریخی غلطی کر رہے ہیں، گواد ایئر پورٹ بھی فعال ہونے والا ہے، اللہ تعالیٰ نے ہر انسان کو کوئی نہ کوئی منفرد ہنر عطا کیا ہوتا ہے، زندگی میں کامیابی یہ ہے آپ اپنی روح کی تلاش کریں، زندگی میں صرف وزیر اعظم بننا کامیابی نہیں، اچھا ٹھیکر بننا بھی کامیابی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بلوچستان کے عوام کو یہ تاریخی موقع میسر ہے، تمام بلوچستان کے عوام آئیں اور اس موقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں۔ گواد ایک چھوٹا سا قصبہ تھا، یہ بڑے انڈسٹریل حب کی طرف سفر مکمل کرے گا، ہماری آئندہ نسلیں گواہ ہوں گی۔

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Forging Connections through BRI

Taj Nabi Khan

No country can exist in isolation from the rest of the world. The population growth has multiplied demands, urging the countries to ensure feasible road infrastructure for imports and exports to meet their day-to-day needs. Nature has endowed each region with different resources: from minerals to seashores, mountainous terrain to fertile lands, deserts to forests, and more. While sharing the same planet in the global village, no nation wanted to be left behind in the race for economic prosperity and infrastructural development. Therefore, it became necessary to conceive a project that could connect people through formal routes beyond their geographical boundaries, ensuring the long-lasting sustainability of the human race. Instead of exploitation and plunder to invade the smaller communities, developing and underdeveloped countries, it was thought to have long-term agreements with them for letting them benefit from their existing potential of rich natural resources while also playing the role of the bridge. Thus the Chinese core philosophy ‘to create a win-win situation for everyone’, especially for the member countries has emerged a strong binding force to forge this connection through Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) extended worldwide from Asia to Africa and Europe by the Chinese government – the mega project creates road linkages. The connections made through BRI had its roots in the historic ‘Silk Road’ – the ancient trade route used for centuries. Primarily, the BRI, also known as “a project of the century” has proposed to build a land-based “Silk Road Economic Belt,” extending from China to Central and South Asia, the Middle East and Europe and a sea-based “21st Century Maritime Silk Road,” connecting China to Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe via major sea lanes. This forms the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), officially known as “One Belt, One Road”. It is actually a vast array of roads, railways, power plants, ports, smart cities, telecommunications and information technology and e-commerce platforms around the world. It promotes people-to-people ties, financial integration and closer trade relationships

with a range of other countries. Essentially, the project of One Belt and One Road (OBOR) was launched in 2013 as a viable strategy to bring the underdeveloped countries as par with the developed parts of the globe. The project was lauded worldwide for working on enhancing mutual ties based on infrastructural development, trade, business avenue creation, education, automobile, construction materials, railways, roads, highways, airports, ports, power grids, energy and so many other economic opportunities. The BRI project has attracted a major portion of the globe, with the number of its signatory member countries increasing to more than 150, along with 30 international organizations. These countries cover more than half of the world's GDP and 75 percent of the total population. Spearheaded by the Xi Jinping Administration, this project aims to bolster the concept of a shared future for mankind, emphasizing harmony and diversity through a three-pronged agenda of regional connectivity, economic prosperity and infrastructural development. The project has proven instrumental in boosting global GDP by creating shared prosperity for a bright future among all member countries. The overwhelming response from the partner countries has made the BRI as one of the largest investment and infrastructure projects in recent human history. It is due to the fact that the project is focusing on public good and socio-economic development of the developing countries. According to the document, "Vision and Actions for High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Brighter Prospects for the Next Decade" formulated by the Office of the Leading Group for Promoting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the gains made by the project during the last decade (2013-2023) has been found tremendous while a roadmap was also made for the coming decade. The new projects under the BRI are now focusing on building new industries as growth engine, novel business models, and emerging technologies. The BRI brings about large-scale and high quality development to the regions – abridging the economic divide between the developed, developing and under-developed countries. The new impetus of BRI is not only re-invigorating the existing economic strength of the partner countries but it is also becoming a crucial platform for the overall global development. The project is ushering a new era in world history by re-vitalizing global trade and economy while ensuring the United Nations 2030 agenda of sustainable development. The success of BRI is grounded in worldwide attention and public recognition of the project as it focuses on the wellbeing of the people. The BRI is actually reshaping economic development on a larger global scale – creating new avenues for connectivity and infrastructural development across regional and national geographical boundaries. Such a broad spectrum of developmental opportunities opens up new doors for local, regional and international development. The establishment of new routes and trade connections among the partner countries would help facilitate the process of development through export-oriented manufacturing, which brings about positive and visible impact in the region. The BRI creates the possibility to enhance industrial production and their transportation through supporting expertise and infrastructure – allowing the partner countries to play their dynamic role in the development of the overall global economy. This establishment of the Initiatives also enables the environment to build special economic zones (SEZs) for hosting new factories to make products for export markets. The initiative that installs new trade routes and more efficient transportation networks reorients global commerce. It has also the potential to increase economic growth of the underdeveloped regions of all the partner countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/forging-connections-through-bri/>

BRI & Next Ten Years and Prospects of Heart Connectivity

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has completed its first ten years during which it has become a “grand path” of common development, connecting unlimited “hearts and minds” around the globe due to which more than 152 countries have joined it so far. The BRI has also become “symbol” of economic globalization disseminating spirits of modernization, openness, qualitative industrial development and immense growth of the human capital among the BRI member countries. Undoubtedly, it has become the biggest “push-forward” super machine of trans-regional connectivity which will be further strengthened through persuasions of “digitalization”, “diversification”, “industrialization”, “green energy transformation” and last but not the least, “sustainable supply chains” in the next decade.

It has become “super highway” of “human connectivity” and the biggest stimulator of “humanism” in the world. It is indeed vivid reflection of “multiculturalism” promoting spirits of just international cooperation, dialogue, diplomacy and development in all the member countries of the BRI. Thus the BRI has become mega project of “unlimited potential” which will be further explored and channelized in the next decade. Pakistan is among the first countries that joined the BRI and the CPEC has become “icon” of energy power generation, infrastructure development, agriculture cooperation, special economic free zones, rails, ports and communication development and, notably, the biggest source of human capital nurturing and capacity building system in the country.

During the last 10 years, the CPEC has added more than 2,500 kilometres of motorways to the existing network of rural transportation and added 10,000 megawatts of generation capacity to the national grid. It also added 4,000 electricity transmission lines to the existing network. Most recently, the policy-makers have published a document entitled “Vision and Actions for High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Brighter Prospects for the Next Decade”. It specified the key new areas and new directions for the BRI in the next 10 years.

Obviously, it focuses on “green” and “digital development”, as well as the stability and sustainability of supply chains which will further strengthen its regional as well as global status in the next decade. Innovation, the digital economy and green development will be further explored to inject vitality and momentum into the BRI. Over the past decade, the BRI has prioritized policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people ties as strategic priorities. Looking ahead, key sectors in the next decade are anticipated to include green development, new forms and models of digital cooperation, technology innovation, and international cooperation in health.

Promotion of the organic integration of trade and the latest technologies, including internet, Internet of Things, big data, artificial intelligence (AI) and block-chain will also play a key role in the next decade. Critical analysis reveals that China’s extensive experience in digital infrastructure construction, digital development and a huge number of digitalized industries will open a window of opportunity for all the BRI member countries in the next decade. Cooperation on AI governance and rules, and research and development of AI technology would be a win-win proposition. As a result, enhancing the resilience of industrial and supply

chains and expanding the scope of free trade agreements will be a focus of BRI cooperation in the future. Consequently, deepening international cooperation under the BRI will provide significant impetus to the operations of the global industrial and supply chains.

According to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), in the past 10 years, the total import and export volume of China and BRI partner countries has reached \$19.1 trillion, while two-way investment has exceeded \$380 billion, demonstrating the inherent capacity of the BRI to stimulate the global trading system. A total of 79,900 China-Europe Railway Express trains have reached over 200 cities in 25 European countries, establishing itself as a 'golden channel' for stabilizing the global supply chain. Undoubtedly, the BRI will continue to bring increasing benefits to partner countries, wealth and strength to the Global South and alter the geopolitical balance between East and West in the next decade. In summary, China has been tirelessly working jointly to resolve the global development deficit and offer inclusive development that delivers benefits to all through BRI. In this regard, the most recently held Xi-Biden meeting is the prime example of the Chinese wisdom comprising international cooperation, economic globalization, modernization and openness dismantling clutches of the western protectionism. So far, China has signed more than 200 documents with 152 countries and 32 international organizations on cooperation under the BRI, covering 83% of the countries with which China has established diplomatic relations.

It is crystal clear that the West is jealous of BRI and accused China of engaging in the so-called Debt Trap Diplomacy (DTD) to discredit the initiative. Ironically, there are no scientific studies that there is evidence of a so-called debt trap. It seems that Europe's "Global Gateway" and the US' Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment are only highlighting the US-led western world's "small yard, high fence" approach of walling itself off from global cooperation. China is a powerful manufacturer power which is "blessed" with almost all the company categories of industries in the world. It has consistent policies and is willing to cooperate. Thus, China has the ability to continue to promote the BRI and safeguard the interests of participating countries, contrary to what the West, particularly the US, claims to be a debt trap. Interestingly, the first high-speed railway in Indonesia, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway has been commenced in October. The operation of railways such as the China-Laos Railway, Hungary-Serbia Railway, Mongolia-Russia Railway and Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway has made railway construction an important aspect of jointly building the BRI and international capacity cooperation which will be further strengthened in the decade.

The opening and operation of the Lekki Port in Nigeria, the largest deep-water port in West Africa, built by a Chinese company has become great blessing for the largest economy in Africa. At present, 52 African countries and the African Union Commission have signed BRI cooperation documents with China, making Africa one of the most important continents participating in the initiative. The GCC is another one of the biggest beneficiaries of the BRI. It is predicted that heart and mind connectivity of the BRI will be further harmonized in the next decade despite the western narrative of DTD through the Chinese higher values of humanity and humanism.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-next-ten-years-and-prospects-of-heart-connectivity/>

Clear message for CPEC detractors

CARETAKER Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Monday urged the people of Balochistan, particularly the youth, to avail themselves of the historic opportunity of development in the province, as the detractors of CPEC were about to lose their relevance very soon.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Seawater Desalination Plant in Gwadar, he said the journey of CPEC would surely move forward, so joining the development course would be a prudent decision.

“Those who think of changing the course (of CPEC) by force, violence or any other means are committing a historic blunder, as their relevance will be over very soon. The prudent decision in the nation’s fate is to join the course of development instead of resisting it and miss the opportunity,” he remarked.

The Prime Minister has surely conveyed a strong and convincing message both to people of Balochistan and detractors of the CPEC initiative, which has changed the course of history and laid firm foundations for accelerated growth and development in the otherwise backward province.

As Mr. Kakar belongs to Balochistan and is fully abreast of the political and geo-strategic environment, it is hoped his advice would be taken seriously by all those who want a socio-economic transformation to take place on a fast track basis in the province. His statement is also reassuring in the sense that after a gap of several years, focus is shifting back to the CPEC and Pakistan and China signed a number of agreements to take the initiative forward during the Prime Minister’s recent visit to China.

Balochistan is going to be the main beneficiary of the CPEC as a number of projects are under implementation aimed at making Gwadar a hub of economic, trade and investment opportunities, which would help bring about a significant change in the lives of the people.

Similarly, most of the CPEC related connectivity projects wind down in Balochistan, connecting the province with the rest of the country and facilitating mobility. As pointed out by the PM, the ease in the form of reduced travel durations across the province was just due to the CPEC intervention.

The Prime Minister was also aware of the security issue in the province and, therefore, held out an assurance to Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong that the army, police and law-enforcement agencies would safeguard the Chinese workers even at the cost of their lives.

This resolve augurs well for expediting the pace of developmental activities in the province. Completion of developmental schemes timely and their positive impact on the lives of the people would help foil designs of the local and foreign conspirators engaged in anti-state activities.

<https://pakobserver.net/clear-message-for-cpec-detractors/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین دوستی، خطے میں امن و استحکام کی ضامن

پاکستان اور چین کے دوستانہ تعلقات خطے میں امن و استحکام کی ایک داستان رقم کر رہے ہیں۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبہ اسی داستان کا ایک نہایت اہم حصہ ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں ہونے والی تازہ پیشرفتوں میں ایک یہ ہے کہ گوادر میں چین پاکستان دوستی ہسپتال اور سمندری پانی کو قابل استعمال بنانے کے پلانٹ کا افتتاح کیا گیا ہے۔ افتتاح کے موقع پر نگران وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کاڑنے نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں سے گوادر میں ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا۔ گوادر میں کئی سال سے پینے کے پانی کا گھمبیر مسئلہ اس منصوبے سے حل ہو جائے گا۔ مستقبل میں چین میں کھریوں ڈالر کی تجارت سے مستفید ہونے کے لیے ہمیں بالخصوص نوجوانوں کو تیاری کرنا ہوگی اور یہ ان کے لیے سنہری موقع ہے کہ وہ اپنے ملک، صوبے اور خاندانوں کے لیے اس سے فائدہ اٹھائیں۔ نگران وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ بلوچستان سے دلی لگا ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو (بی آر آئی) فورم کے موقع پر چینی حکام کی اردو سے موثر شناسائی پر خوشی ہوئی۔ زبان اور روابط سے دو ممالک کے درمیان قربتیں مضبوط ہوتی ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین سدا بہار دوست اور آزرن برادرز ہیں، ان کے درمیان پہاڑوں سے بلند اور شہد سے میٹھی دوستی ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دو طرفہ مضبوط اور دوستانہ تعلقات ہیں۔

چین نے مختلف مواقع پر پاکستان کا ساتھ دے کر یہ ثابت کیا کہ وہ ایک مخلص دوست ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں، دنیا میں وہ ایک ایسے ملک کے طور پر دیکھا جاتا ہے جس نے محنت اور لگن سے آگے بڑھتے ہوئے اپنے عوام کی تقدیر بدل کر رکھ دی۔ انوار الحق کاڑ کا کہنا بالکل درست ہے کہ چین نے اپنے عوام کی بڑی تعداد کو غربت سے نکال کر بے مثال کارنامہ سرانجام دیا۔ صدر شی جن پنگ اپنی قوم کو جس بردباری سے نئے مرحلے کی جانب لے جا رہے ہیں وہ قابل تعریف ہے اور ان کی خدمات قابل ستائش ہیں۔ ان کا پیغام یہ ہے کہ جب چین ترقی کرتا ہے تو سب ترقی کرتے ہیں، اس میں پاکستان بالخصوص بلوچستان میں گوادر سب سے پہلے آتا ہے۔ سی پیک کے ذریعے گوادر کے لوگ ترقی کے نئے دور میں داخل ہوں گے، اس کو طاقت اور دہشت گردی سے نہیں بدلا جاسکتا، ایسا سمجھنے والے غلطی پر ہیں، قومی بہتری کے لیے درست سمت کا تعین ہونے کے بعد سفر میں ساتھ دیا جاتا ہے، مزاحمت نہیں کی جاتی۔

نگران وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر مزید کہا کہ گوادر اور بلوچستان کے شہریوں کے لیے آبادی کی مناسبت سے مواقع اور وسائل زیادہ ہیں۔ آئندہ دس سال میں چین اور اس کے نواح میں کھریوں ڈالر کی تجارت ہوگی۔ اس تجارت میں اپنی شراکت داری، اس کا حصہ بننے کے لیے اور اس میں شمولیت کے لیے تیاری کرنا ہوگی۔ ہر شخص میں مختلف قابلیت اور صلاحیت ہوتی ہے جو ہر فرد کی شناخت اور کردار کا تعین کرتی ہے، اپنی پہچان سے ہی زندگی میں کامیابی ملتی ہے۔ یہ بلوچستان کے عوام بالخصوص نوجوانوں کے لیے سنہری موقع ہے کہ وہ اپنے ملک، صوبے اور خاندانوں کے لیے اس تاریخی موقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں۔ انوار الحق کاڑ کا کہنا تھا کہ سولر پینل منصوبہ اور کونڈے میں ایمر جنسی سنٹر کے قیام کے اعلان پر چینی سفیر کا شکر گزار ہوں اور انھیں یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ چینی باشندوں کی سیوریٹی ضروریات پوری کرنے کے لیے ہر ممکن اقدامات کیے جائیں گے۔ گوادر میں ہسپتال کا قیام یہاں کے عوام کے لیے تحفہ سے کم نہیں۔

اس موقع پر پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر جیاگ ڈائی ڈانگ نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وفاقی اور بلوچستان حکومت کی منصوبے میں مسلسل معاونت پر شکر گزار ہیں۔ واٹر پلانٹ سے گوادر کے عوام مستفید ہوں گے۔ ہسپتال کے قیام سے عوام کو صحت کی بہترین سہولیات میسر آئیں گی۔ ہمارا مقصد سی پیک منصوبوں کی بروقت تکمیل ہے۔ گوادر پورٹ سی پیک کا کلیدی منصوبہ ہے، سی پیک سے ملازمتوں کے لاکھ 36 ہزار مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ گوادر سی پورٹ پر 46 کمپنیوں کی رجسٹریشن ہو چکی ہے، ان منصوبوں سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون کو مزید فروغ ملے گا۔ انھوں نے بلوچستان میں سولر پینل منصوبہ اور کونڈے میں ایمر جنسی سنٹر کے قیام کا اعلان بھی کیا۔

یہ ایک نہایت خوش آئند بات ہے کہ پانی کے مذکورہ منصوبے سے گوادر کے شہریوں کو 5 لاکھ گیلن پانی میسر آئے گا۔ اس کے علاوہ شہر میں 150 بستروں پر مشتمل ہسپتال کے قیام سے صحت کے مسائل حل کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ یہ دو ایسے منصوبے ہیں جن کی گوادر کے عوام کو اشد ضرورت تھی۔ ان کی تکمیل سے گوادر کے عوام نہ

صرف خوش ہوں گے بلکہ ان کے دیرینہ مسائل بھی حل ہوں گے۔ چینی حکومت کے تعاون سے مکمل کو پہنچنے والے ان منصوبوں سے گوادر کی ترقی کا سفر ہموار ہو گا۔ گوادر پورٹ خطے کا جدید ترین ایئرپورٹ ہو گا جس میں جدید سہولیات میسر ہوں گی اور گوادر میں ووکیشنل ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ نوجوانوں کی تربیت میں کلیدی کردار ادا کرے گا۔

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سد ابھارتز ویراتی شراکت داری روز بروز مستحکم ہو رہی ہے اور اس سے بالعموم پورے پاکستان اور بالخصوص بلوچستان اور گوادر کے عوام کو ترقی و استحکام کے نئے مواقع میسر آرہے ہیں۔ ہماری حکومت کو اس بات کو یقینی بنانا چاہیے کہ ترقی اور استحکام کے اس سفر کے راستے میں کوئی رکاوٹ کھڑی نہ ہو اور جو بھی امن دشمن عناصر اس سلسلے میں کوئی تخریب کاری کرنا چاہتے ہیں ان کا قلع قمع کر کے مثال قائم کی جائے تاکہ آئندہ کسی کو ایسا کرنے کی جرات نہ ہو۔ بھارت سمیت کئی ممالک سی بیک منصوبوں کے خلاف مسلسل سازشوں میں مصروف ہیں، لہذا ہمیں اس حوالے سے بہت محتاط رہنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہ ایک حقیقت ہے کہ سی بیک صرف پاکستان اور چین ہی نہیں بلکہ پورے خطے کے لیے امن اور استحکام کا ضامن ثابت ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-12-06/page-5/detail-6>

October 07, 2023

The Express Tribune

Chinese firm to buy 30% stake in PRL

Investor will inject \$1.5b into refinery to double its production capacity

ISLAMABAD: State-run oil marketing company Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has agreed to sell its over 30% shareholding in Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL) to a Chinese firm in a bid to attract an investment of \$1.5 billion to double the refining capacity.

PRL, in which PSO is a major shareholder with a 63.6% stake, has inked an agreement with the United Energy Group (UEG) of China to embark on a transformative journey with plant expansion and upgrade.

The Chinese firm will invest \$1.5 billion in increasing PRL's production capacity by 100%. Against this capital injection, PSO is likely to offer a 30-35% shareholding to the Chinese company.

At present, PRL has a refining capacity of 50,000 barrels per day (bpd), which will be enhanced to 100,000 bpd following the Chinese investment.

Sources told The Express Tribune that the matter of offering the refinery's stake was tabled before the PRL board of directors. They said that the board gave its nod to the sale of PRL stake to the Chinese firm.

PSO is currently trapped in an unending circular debt as its receivables have swelled to over Rs700 billion. It entered into liquefied natural gas (LNG) purchase business in 2015 and also increased its shareholding in PRL.

In addition, it is part of a joint venture of Pakistani companies for developing a refinery project in partnership with Saudi Arabia.

Primary objectives of the refinery upgrade project are to meet domestic consumer demand, switch from basic hydro-skimming to a deep-conversion process and produce

environmentally compliant Euro 5 high-speed diesel (HSD) and motor spirit (petrol). In the process, the refinery will do away with the production of loss-incurring furnace oil.

This strategic shift aligns with PRL's commitment to producing cleaner and environmentally friendly fuels to cater for the growing market demand.

Currently, it produces 250,000 tons of motor spirit per year. However, with the expansion, the output is likely to increase to 1.5 million tons. Likewise, the production of HSD is expected to rise from around 600,000 tons per year to approximately 2 million tons.

PRL and UEG have formalised their collaboration through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on October 18, 2023 in China.

Under the MoU, they have expressed the desire to establish a strategic cooperation relationship on the basis of mutual interest in the energy industry in Pakistan. They will enter into good faith negotiations to identify potential cooperation and collaboration opportunities including equity investment in PRL as a strategic investor (with adequate board representation) for the upgrade and growth of the refinery.

This collaboration between the two entities is anticipated to have a profoundly positive impact on the energy industry's growth and development, ultimately contributing to a sustainable and environmentally responsible energy landscape in Pakistan.

In a recent development, PRL has signed licensing agreements with industry leaders Honeywell UOP and Axens for producing gasoline and diesel of Euro 5 specifications.

It came following the inking of an agreement with the regulator, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra), to avail itself of incentives being offered in the new refinery policy.

In a recent notice issued to the Pakistan Stock Exchange, PRL said that for the plant upgrade project, it had chosen advanced technologies from Honeywell UOP for bottom-of-the-barrel conversion and naphtha processing.

This includes the Residue Fluidised Catalytic Cracking Process, LPG Merox process and a naphtha complex. Additionally, Axens has been selected to provide technology for producing gasoline and diesel of Euro 5 specifications.

PRL has also clinched a crude purchase agreement with Russia on a commercial basis with plans to bring first cargo this month.

PRL had been nominated as a procuring entity as per commitments made in the Pakistan-Russia Inter-governmental Commission meeting in January 2023.

It will purchase crude oil from Russia according to commercial terms, as agreed from time to time, without violating the international commitments of Pakistan and the international framework governing such transactions.

The refinery has already imported 100,000 tons of Russian Urals crude and processed it successfully. It also made a profit on that transaction.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449179/chinese-firm-to-buy-30-stake-in-prl>

The Nation

CPEC's transformative impact on Pakistan's infrastructure and economy

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a game-changer for Pakistan, reshaping its infrastructure, economy, and overall development landscape.

This article explores the remarkable transformations taking place under CPEC, focusing on key infrastructure projects and their socioeconomic implications.

It's noteworthy that the People's Daily, the largest newspaper in China, has played a crucial role in disseminating information about the collaborative efforts and achievements of CPEC.

One of the pivotal achievements of CPEC is the development of a robust transportation network, exemplified by projects like the Havelian-Thakot highway and the Sukkur-Multan section of the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway.

These initiatives have not only drastically reduced travel times but have also significantly improved transportation safety and efficiency.

The newfound connectivity has facilitated the swift transportation of goods, particularly benefiting the agricultural sector, as seen in the reduced transit time for transporting mangoes from Multan to Sukkur.

Gwadar Port, a flagship project of CPEC, has played a crucial role in expanding business opportunities and invigorating local economic development.

The introduction of the Afghan cargo transit service, liquefied petroleum gas-related services, and successful commercial operations has injected fresh impetus into the region.

Additionally, ongoing projects like the New Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar hospital underscore CPEC's commitment to improving the well-being of the local population.

CPEC's impact extends beyond transportation to address Pakistan's energy challenges. The $\pm 660\text{kV}$ Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (DC) transmission line, a monumental project, has significantly enhanced Pakistan's national grid stability and transmission capacity.

Furthermore, the Karot Hydropower Project marks a milestone as the first CPEC hydropower investment project, promising cleaner and cheaper electricity for the region. The diversification of energy sources, including wind and solar projects, demonstrates CPEC's commitment to sustainable development.

A notable aspect of CPEC's implementation is the active involvement of local communities. Chinese companies involved in the planning, construction, and operation of CPEC projects have prioritized the recruitment and training of local talent.

Technical lectures and training courses for Pakistani employees have not only increased work efficiency but have also strengthened the bond between Chinese and Pakistani colleagues. This approach ensures that the benefits of CPEC extend beyond infrastructure development to the empowerment of local communities. CPEC's impact on the social fabric of Pakistan is evident in projects like the Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore. The automated rapid transit

line has not only changed the lives of millions of citizens but has also contributed to skill development among local talents. As CPEC enters a new phase of high-quality development, these skilled individuals are poised to play a crucial role in the construction of industrial parks, furthering Pakistan's industrialization process.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, widely covered by media outlets like the People's Daily, China's biggest publication, stands as a testament to the transformative power of international collaborations in fostering sustainable development.

Through strategic investments in transportation, energy, and social infrastructure, CPEC has not only elevated Pakistan's economic prospects but has also improved the quality of life for its citizens. As the partnership between China and Pakistan, highlighted in publications like the People's Daily, continues to strengthen, the future holds promising prospects for further advancements and prosperity under the CPEC framework.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/07-Dec-2023/cpec-s-transformative-impact-on-pakistan-s-infrastructure-and-economy>

December 08, 2023

The Nation

BRI deepened coop for strengthening civilizations: Speakers

ISLAMABAD - The forum "Benefiting All Mankind: Dialogues with the Silk Road" was held in Beijing, where it was highlighted that over the past 10 years, the Belt and Road Initiative has brought China and its partner countries closer together, and deepened exchanges and mutual understanding among different civilizations. The event was co-sponsored by the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies under China International Communications Group (CICG), the Pakistan-China Institute, the European Union Asia Centre, and the Cultural Communication Center of CICG, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. Gao Anming, Vice-President and Editor-In-Chief of CICG, and Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Defence Committee, and Pakistan-China Institute, attended the meeting and delivered speeches. Twelve Chinese and foreign think tank experts including Pakistani expert on international studies Abdur Rahman, delivered keynote speeches on the theme of "Inheriting the Silk Road Culture, Jointly Promoting People's Well-being". Gao pointed out, "Rooted in history and looking to the future, BRI has harnessed the synergy of civilizations to foster the development of a community with a shared future for mankind," said Gao. Mushahid Sayed stated that BRI is the most significant initiative of the 21st century, lifting 400 million people out of poverty globally, primarily through flagship projects like the CPEC. "As a new platform for international cooperation, BRI will achieve a more open development prospect based on the principle of planning together, building together, and benefiting together." "Currently, the narratives of the East and the West are significantly different. In a multi-polar world, we need a diverse response. China and Pakistan are good friends who are working together to promote the BRI towards a better future," Mushahid added. <https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Dec-2023/bri-deepened-coop-for-strengthening-civilizations-speakers>

December 09, 2023

The Express Tribune

BRI and its flagship project CPEC

CPEC faces opposition from certain regional quarters

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) envisions building of infrastructure, reshaping of production chains and trading links. So far, 150 countries and 30 international organisations have joined BRI, signaling the project's global outreach. With BRI's growth, one thing is apparent that economic cooperation is the new trend and future alliances will be governed by economic interests. BRI's economic scope on the one hand offers opportunities for the world players, in particular the developing countries, to engage economically and on the other, economic connectivity is perceived as a challenge by status-quo powers. This perception is primarily linked to China's strategic gains. During the period 2013-2022, China's total imports and exports with countries involved in BRI reached \$19.1 trillion while two-way trade investment between China and other countries involved in BRI totaled \$380 billion. China's economic engagements with other countries and regions will heighten the East Asian power's global stature.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project of BRI. In the words of President Xi Jinping: "CPEC is located where the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road meet." CPEC has ushered an era of socio-economic development for Pakistan. The energy projects and industrial growth will boost Pakistan's economy. The building of roads will facilitate transportation which, in turn, will open up business avenues. Enhanced connectivity will also link the backward areas with urban centres. On the regional front, the development of Gwadar seaport will make Pakistan a trading hub, as all trade to and from Central Asia is going to adopt the shortest route via Gwadar.

CPEC faces opposition from certain regional quarters. India has raised objections to the corridor for passing through Gilgit-Baltistan. India has been trying to downplay CPEC. The India-funded construction of the road network linking Zaranj border crossing between Afghanistan and Iran is aimed at creating a link between Chabahar seaport and Central Asia. India's opposition to CPEC is also because of China's role in region. The China-India relations reached a low point over the border dispute. India by participating in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) launched during G-20 Summit 2023 has adopted a varied path towards trade connectivity. IMEC is a westward oriented route. India's inclusion in the corridor is reflective of its alliance towards the Western hemisphere. The corridor will provide India with opportunity to secure trading ties with Middle East and Europe.

Seeing South Asia and the prospects of regional connectivity, the ground facts offer both scope and challenges. The building of seaports and economic connectivity are positive developments towards regionalism. Contrarily, the conflictual regional approaches, when it comes to countering extremism and militancy, weaken the scope of economic integration.

India's objection to CPEC and its sabotage tactics are a threat to regional peace and progress. Pakistan is part of CPEC, and the corridor is essential for the country's economic progress. However, to capitalise on the economic dividends of connectivity, Pakistan will have to counter the adversarial tendencies, both at home and abroad. Domestically, political stability is a must for economic growth. Regionally, Pakistan needs to enhance ties with Bangladesh. Gwadar and Chittagong seaports can be the lead in regional connectivity. Relations with Central Asian states are important for CPEC's projection into Central Asia. Afghanistan is a foreign policy challenge and for that Pakistan needs to employ a regional channel. SCO having membership of all important regional stakeholders can be a platform towards a regional approach to Afghan stability. On account of Pakistan's 'Vision East Asia' policy, with CPEC the focus is on economic integration. The corridor between Kashgar and Gwadar will open up prospects of trading ties between the two regions. Thus, Pakistan needs to enhance economic ties with ASEAN.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449372/bri-and-its-flagship-project-cpec>

The Nation

China, Pakistan jointly promote high-quality development of CPEC

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through Pakistan from the lofty Hargoolun Range in the north all the way south to the Arabian Sea along the southern boundary of the country, is bursting with vitality.

Under the CPEC, flat and straight roads, lively ports, green and clean energy projects as well as industrial parks in the pipeline have brought great changes to Pakistan.

Islar, a Pakistani trucker, always drives along the Karakoram Highway (KKH) Phase-II (Havelian-Thakot Section), a project built in Pakistan under the framework of the CPEC.

The road conveys people's expectation of a good life, said Islar, who believes that it leads to both safety and prosperity.

In the past the road between Havelian and Thakot was a narrow, steep and accident-prone path winding among the towering mountains in northwestern Pakistan. It took truckers nearly six hours to get to Thakot from Havelian.

The difficulty has been effectively solved by the 118-kilometer-long Havelian-Thakot highway. With 105 mainline bridges, 11 pedestrian bridges, 464 culverts and six tunnels built along its route, the wide and smooth highway has cut the one-way driving time to less than two hours, significantly increasing transportation safety and efficiency.

As the Sukkur-Multan section of the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway in Pakistan, also an infrastructure project along the CPEC, officially opened to traffic, the north-south traffic artery in central Pakistan was opened, and the transportation conditions of Multan, which is known for its mangoes, have been greatly improved.

The Sukkur-Multan motorway has shortened the time needed for mangoes to be transported from Multan to Sukkur from 11 hours to about 4 hours, substantially reducing the loss of agricultural products during transportation.

It has also helped Multan attract investments from companies. Since preparations for a highly anticipated fruit juice concentrate plant in the region have been started recently, local mango growers will no longer need to worry about the sale and transportation of their fruits.

The Gwadar Port, a flagship project of the CPEC, has witnessed new achievements. Since last year, the port has expanded its business scope, launching the Afghan cargo transit service systematically for the first time, providing liquefied petroleum gas-related services for the first time and realising commercial operation for the first time, infusing fresh impetus and vitality into local economic development.

Meanwhile, more CPEC projects concerning people's well-being, including the New Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar hospital, are being advanced in an orderly manner.

The interconnection of transportation infrastructure has stimulated the internal vitality of Pakistan's economy, society, and various fields concerning people's well-being, noted Pakistan's Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

Pakistan and China will strengthen cooperation to drive larger-scale investment in Pakistan and accelerate the development of Pakistan's economy, he added.

Besides transportation infrastructure construction, China-Pakistan energy cooperation has also progressed rapidly under the CPEC in recent years, easing Pakistan's development bottleneck triggered by power shortage and introducing new ideas, technologies and investments for Pakistan's exploration of clean energy.

In the vast Gobi desert in south-western Pakistan, a row of power transmission towers are extending into the distance. They are part of the ± 660 kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage (HV) direct current (DC) transmission line, a CPEC project in Pakistan.

Adopting the world's most advanced DC transmission technology, the project, which was officially put into commercial operation in September 2021, is a power transmission project with the highest voltage level, the largest transmission capacity and the longest transmission distance in Pakistan.

It is believed that the project helps improve the stability and transmission capacity of Pakistan's national grid and further boost the country's power supply.

In November 2021, the Karot Hydropower Project in Pakistan, the first CPEC hydropower investment project, successfully closed the gates of the diversion tunnels and started reservoir impoundment, paving the way for the wet testing of the generator units.

"Over years of construction of the hydropower project, the surrounding mountains have become greener and waters clearer. The project has not only made our life more convenient, but effectively advanced ecological conservation," said Haider, a relocated resident at the reservoir region of the hydropower project.

"Everyone is looking forward to the operation of the project as early as possible, and hopes that it can bring cleaner and cheaper electricity," he said.

With the advances in the project, the lower reaches of the Jhelum River basin, where the hydropower station is located, will witness improvement in irrigation efficiency and shipping conditions as well as reduction in the frequency of floods and droughts.

Up to now, the total installed capacity of wind power projects completed under the framework of the CPEC has reached 300,000 kWh, and that of CPEC solar projects has amounted to 400,000 kWh.

Meanwhile, the construction of the Karot Hydropower Project and the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project is proceeding steadily; and the Kohala Hydropower Project has already completed the signing of four major franchise agreements and will begin construction soon.

During the planning, construction, and operation of CPEC projects, Chinese companies have actively recruited local people and promoted localised management of them. Relevant companies have not only provided technical lectures and training courses for Pakistani employees, but also made efforts to strengthen communication between Chinese employees and their Pakistani colleagues so as to help them understand each other better. Thanks to the efforts, a significant increase has been achieved in their work efficiency.

On Oct 25, 2021, Nisar, a subway driver, steered the last train of the day steadily into the platform, bringing the first year of the operation of the Orange Line Metro Train project in Lahore city, Pakistan, to a perfect end.

“The Orange Line has changed the life of Lahore citizens, especially mine. I’m really honoured to be a cog in the machine, for which I must take on due responsibilities,” Nisar said.

Over the past year or so, the automated rapid transit line has transported more than 20 million passengers and registered a cumulative mileage of more than 12 million kilometres.

In addition, a group of local transportation management talents and technicians have continuously improved their capabilities, becoming the backbone force for the operation of the project.

As the CPEC construction enters a new stage of high-quality development, local talents that have acquired new skills are expected to better promote the construction of industrial parks and help build an industrial and manufacturing centre for Pakistan, according to a Pakistani official.

At present, Pakistan is making preparations for the construction of industrial parks in the country, including the Rashakai Special Economic Zone by leveraging the infrastructure development and talent cultivation results under the CPEC framework.

These industrial parks will certainly attract more foreign investment, create a large number of jobs for local people, and speed up Pakistan’s industrialization process, he pointed out.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Dec-2023/china-pakistan-jointly-promote-high-quality-development-of-cpec>

December 10, 2023

Business Recorder

Govt seeks to cure Sino-Pak trade imbalance

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Minister for Commerce and Industries and Production, Gohar Ijaz is reaching China on Sunday (today) to find new buyers, explore prospects of relocation of Chinese textile industry to Pakistan as Beijing has earned \$100 billion from Pakistan through its exports whereas it imported Pakistani goods of only \$10 billion during this period.

A high-profile business delegation is also accompanying him. The visit is a follow-up to the visit of the caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar in October this year. He will start meetings from Monday (tomorrow).

The perception is that Pakistan did not negotiate Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China due to which the former did not succeed in boosting its exports. Under-invoicing and discrepancy in trade data are also key issues between the two countries.

“China’s imports to Pakistan are \$20 billion per annum whereas Pakistan’s exports are just \$ 2 billion per annum,” he said. The statistics show that China earned \$ 100 billion from Pakistan through its exports during the last five years whereas Pakistan earned only \$ 10 billion during this period.

The sectors covered in the delegation’s visit include agricultural, electric vehicles, marble, cement, fertiliser, fruit, vegetable, home appliances, glass, chemicals and textiles.

This multi-segmental delegation representing the business sector of Pakistan will hold meetings with their counterparts in China for trade and investment and formation of joint ventures.

On the sidelines of the official visit, B2B meetings have been arranged for the members of the delegation, apart from the main meetings.

In Beijing, the meetings are scheduled to be held with the officials of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, various product Associations, and China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export.

The Minister will also meet with the CEO of the COFCO Group (which is a state-owned food processing holding company and China’s largest food processor, manufacturer and trader and Asia’s leading agribusinesses group).

A delegation from the Weifang Steel Group would also call on the Minister. The company specialises in agri-tech, food processing, fertilizers and edible oil.

The delegation would also visit Zhongguancun which is a major technology hub near Beijing and is also known as China’s Silicon Valley.

“If ten percent of Chinese industry is shifted to Pakistan, our exports can grow by \$50 billion per annum. This is my target,” he said, while talking to Business Recorder.

Gohar said that he is also taking people from agriculture sector and if he succeeds in a breakthrough with Chinese COFCO, agriculture exports will jump to \$25 billion from existing level of \$ 5 billion.

He is also taking people from other manufacturing goods sectors to interact with their Chinese counterparts with an aim to increase exports.

“I can find ways to generate \$ 100 billion exports only with China,” he said, adding that after China’s visit he would take a delegation to Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United States of America,” the Minister continued.

The Minister would also meet the management of Chengdu Century Intending Investment Management (CENTINCO) which is a comprehensive industrial investment management corporation. CENTINCO has shown an interest in development of an Export Processing Zone in Gwadar.

The Minister will also attend a Business Networking Dinner which is likely to be attended by more than a hundred Chinese enterprises. This would be followed by his online participation in a Ministerial Conference of WTO on special invitation of the UAE Commerce Minister.

In a first, the delegation will also visit Suzhou City, which is situated close to Shanghai in Jiangsu province, and is a leading commercial and industrial hub of East China.

This 3-day visit is a first by any Commerce Minister of Pakistan and any delegation from Pakistan. He will be received by the Officials of the City Government.

This is a part of Ministry of Commerce’s strategy to engage at provincial level with major Chinese manufacturing hubs.

Suzhou has a GDP of more than \$ 300 billion. The imports of the city are \$ 153 billion while exports are \$ 230 billion. It has several enterprises which are looking to relocate to other countries.

Apart from the meetings, the delegation would visit the Changshu Garments Town at Suzhou. Gohar Ejaz would also take part in the unveiling of the Changshu ‘One Belt and One Road’ Centre.

Speaking to media before leaving, Minister Ejaz highlighted the importance of private sector collaboration as the next step in strengthening the Pak-China relationship.

“SMEs are the key to Pakistan’s prosperity and progress” said the caretaker Minister.

He emphasised the need to develop and operate Special Economic Zones and reiterated the importance of Gwadar Port.

He said that he would also brief the Chinese investors about the crucial role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in streamlining their investments.

“Pakistan will be the most successful economic power of the Islamic world,” he said.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/10/1-page/979273-news.html>

700.7MW hydel power project

Chinese co urges PPIB to grant extension in financial close

ISLAMABAD: Chinese company, Azad Pattan Power, Pvt Limited (APPL) which is establishing 700.7 MW hydel power project, has urged Private Power & Infrastructure PPIB (PPIB) to grant extension in financial close till December 31, 2024 as the project is of strategic nature.

In a letter to Managing Director, PPIB, Shah Jahan Mirza, APPL's Chief Executive Officer, Wang Xiaoming referred to two previous letters, written on May 30, 2023 and June 9, 2023 regarding exemption/waiver of fee for extension in Financial Close (FC) date under the Letter of Support (LoS), in accordance with the criteria per amended Rule 3A of the PPIB (Fee and Charges) Rules 2018, as approved by the PPIB Board.

The Company has further drawn attention of PPIB to the following facts: (i) under the China Pakistan Economic Framework (CPEC) Framework Agreement, all CPEC energy projects (including hydropower), as part of the "strategic cooperation" between China and Pakistan, have been classified as "strategic projects" by the respective Governments; (ii) Pakistan's National Water Policy, under the "Strategic Priorities and Planning Principles", has classified water, energy (hydropower) and food security as "strategic projects" as they are of 'critical importance' to the water and energy security of Pakistan; (iii) hydropower projects are classified as "strategic projects" under Pakistan's strategic plans to replace imported fuel-based power generation, amongst others, with indigenous hydropower; (iv) under the Indus Water Treaty 1960, first use of water resources through construction of hydropower projects and/or agriculture use are essential to preserve Pakistan's strategic water rights and are thus classified as "strategic projects"; and (v) the reserved forest land acquired for the project pursuant to Section 27(3) of the Punjab Forest (Amendment) Act, 2016, can only be used or acquired by an organization for purposes of a "national project of strategic importance".

Chinese company argued that the project fully qualifies as a strategic project, meets all the criteria provided under the Rules and accordingly is entitled for a fee waiver for extension in FC date under the LoS. After giving references of different documents, the power company requested PPIB to issue the long-awaited extension letter to extend the FC date under the LoS up to December 31 2024, as approved by the PPIB Board in their meeting on December 13, 2022.

The 700.7MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Project, located on River Jhelum at dual boundary between AJ&K and Punjab is being developed under provisions of Government of Pakistan (GoP) Policy for Power Generation Projects 2002 by APPL comprising of China Gezhouba Group as the sponsors. The project is included in the NEPRA-approved Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2021-30 and is part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor program.

Chinese insurance company M/s Sinosure provided insurance cover to the project, after high level interactions at the government level, as initially it refused to extend insurance cover due to Pakistan's gigantic power circular debt and non-payments issue of Chinese projects.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/10/1-page/979276-news.html>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan to export heat-treated beef to China

Poised to ship first consignment of frozen beef this month

KARACHI: Pakistan has won the eligibility to export cooked, heat-treated frozen beef to China, which is the world's largest consumer of meat, as the country is set to ship the first consignment this month. In a notification to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), The Organic Meat Company Limited (TOMCL) reported on Monday that "...has successfully become the first and only company from Pakistan to secure approvals from GACC (General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China) to export cooked/ heat-treated frozen beef to China." "Let's make Pakistan proud," Company Secretary Imran Khan said in the notification. Talking to The Express Tribune, company CEO Faisal Hussain said that the scope of cooked/ heat-treated frozen beef export from Pakistan to China was significantly high. The demand for beef from China stood significantly higher than what Pakistan was exporting in "raw form", he said. China alone consumes 23% of the world's total beef production, while Pakistan provides (exports) only 0.5% of the world's consumption.

"We are very close to them (Chinese) in proximity and we are the cheapest nation in providing things to the world," he said. "Pakistan's beef is far above than a lot of countries in terms of quality and secondly it is cheaper too." Pakistan is a viable export partner of China when seen in the context of proximity and logistics. "The completion of China's Belt and Road Initiative will provide the best corridor for export of beef and other things soon." The company is set to send its first shipment of beef this month. "It will get there. People will check it, comment on it...if they want to change something (specification)...we will be dispatching regular consignments with full force in two to three months."

There are 15 private slaughter houses in Pakistan including those of TOMCL. They are engaged in exporting meat to different countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain. The Annual Report 2023 says the company is expanding its export market in the UAE. TOMCL's exports in the fiscal year to June 30, 2023 stood at 6,163 tons, comprising fresh chilled meat, frozen meat, frozen offal and pet chews.

They represented a slight decrease of 2% from the previous year. The export volume of fresh chilled meat dropped by 6%, while that of frozen meat increased by 66%, resulting in a marginal growth of 0.36% in total meat exports.

The company during the year ended June 30, 2023 was able to increase export revenues by 36.35% on a net basis, whereas export volumes increased by 0.57% and the devaluation benefit came in at 38.56% against the US dollar. The company posted a net profit of Rs722 million in FY23 compared to Rs411 million in FY22.

Average prices declined by 2.78%. Cost of sales increased from Rs646/kg to Rs894.56/kg in FY23 due to higher procurement costs and higher depreciation charges given the capitalisation of fixed assets.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440282/pakistan-to-export-heat-treated-beef-to-china>

Pakistan, China discuss smart city construction

Delegation visits Beijing to explore possibilities of cooperation

BEIJING: A Pakistani delegation, led by Faisal Saleem, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator and Muhammad Imran Masood, member of the Board of Investment (BOI) visited Anlu International Technology Company in Beijing. The delegation held in-depth discussion with the company's chairman on smart city construction in Pakistan.

“Our company is one of the earliest Chinese enterprises to go global in the field of smart city. Following the Belt and Road Initiative, we have provided services to more than 30 countries and regions,” said Liu Qunjun, Chairman of Beijing Anlu. The company has also participated in the construction of Peshawar BRT Project and Lahore Safe City Project, which gave the company a better understanding of Pakistan's current situation and demand in this sector. “I believe that China and Pakistan have great potential to cooperate in the construction of smart cities and smart transportation,” Liu added, expressing his wish to further increase cooperation. “We appreciate Beijing Anlu's contribution to Pakistan's ‘informatisation’ construction, and welcome more and more Chinese companies to participate in building the safe city, intelligent transportation and smart campuses in Pakistan,” Saleem said during the meeting. “We also want to invite Beijing Anlu to build connections with Pakistani universities to promote industry-university-research cooperation,” he added.

The two sides also exchanged views on the existing problems and countermeasures in Pakistan's modern governance and the construction of smart cities.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440270/pakistan-china-discuss-smart-city-construction>

The Nation

Chinese envoy, planning minister discuss CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD-Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong Monday called on Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed projects being executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During the meeting, the two sides discussed the ongoing CPEC projects especially related to energy, infrastructure, industrial zones; agriculture and information technology, a news release said. Secretary Ministry of Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra also attended the meeting. The minister apprised the visiting envoy, who assumed the office charge last month, that the caretaker government was fully committed to completing the CPEC projects on a fast-track basis. Sami Saeed said the Planning Ministry reviewed progress on ongoing projects regularly and Special Economic Zones' work was in full swing. He said the government was taking all possible measures to further improve the security of the staff working on the projects, being executed under CPEC. The Chinese envoy appreciated the efforts of the Planning Ministry for its active role in carrying forward CPEC projects. Jiang Zaidong said the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was an extremely important forum where Pakistan's participation carried great significance. He invited the caretaker minister to attend the BRI Forum-2023, scheduled for 17-18th of the current month in Beijing, the capital city of China.

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

The News

No let-up in rise of circular debt: Amount owed to Chinese IPPs crosses Rs400bn mark

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: The circular debt owed by Independent Power Producers (IPPs) of Chinese companies has crossed the Rs400 billion mark, making it hard for the Chinese to continue other power sector projects vigorously.

The circular debt for the overall power sector had escalated and crossed the Rs2.6 trillion mark by the end of October 2023. “There is no possibility to restrict piling up of circular debt which is going up by Rs75 billion on a monthly basis,” top official sources confirmed while talking to The News here on Friday.

The pace of accumulation of circular debt for Chinese IPPs is moving in the same direction as the monster of debt is rising daily. Now the Chinese are worried about how to resolve this outstanding debt with increasing burden monthly. A few months ago, the circular debt of Chinese IPPs was hovering around Rs250 to Rs300 billion but after payment of some instalments by the previous government the burden was reduced however, it has ballooned again.

“There is a potential threat that if the circular debt was not resolved amicably then the Chinese would slow down progress on other power projects,” said one official. Another official said that the Power Ministry took up the issue with the Chinese side and requested to prolong the maturity of the debt-to-equity ratio on Chinese IPP projects.

There is no easy solution, especially in the case of Chinese power plants being run on imported coal and RLNG as their capacity repayment choked the power sector by increasing the woes of voiceless customers. The Chinese are so far not ready to repay capacity repayments in local currency making it hard for dollar-scarce country to repay them in the wake of a depreciated rupee against the dollar. Repayments are linked with dollar rate parity against the rupee. Compared with imported RLNG, imported coal became expensive by over 450 percent posing no easy solution to reduce the capacity repayment charges. “The government may request the Chinese side to opt for domestic coal instead of imported variety to reduce the cost of power generation,” said the official.

The circular debt was Rs2.3 trillion till the end of June 2023 but it climbed up by Rs250 billion and by October 30, 2023 stood at Rs 2.6 trillion. The government shared revised estimates with the IMF under which the circular debt would escalate by Rs385 billion by the end of December.

The amount payable to power producers stands at Rs1.75 trillion and the losses of the power distribution companies in the first four months of the current fiscal year stood at Rs76 billion. Overall, the power sector is in a complete mess and there appears to be no relief in sight despite raising tariffs through baseline tariffs, fuel price adjustments, surcharges and quarterly tariff adjustments. This scribe contacted power ministry high-ups but got no response. <https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=262074>

December 11, 2023

The Express Tribune

Economic revival, CPEC and Agenda 2047 – II

There should be ban on inter-ministerial transfers, postings of bureaucrats that will help polish their skills

ISLAMABAD: The ruling elite will have to realise that without overhauling its governance system and business environment, it can neither revive the economy nor achieve the goals of Agenda 2047. Thus, whether they like it or not, things will have to undergo drastic changes.

After analysing the ground realities and setting targets, we have identified a few areas for immediate reforms and overhaul. These have been divided into two categories – governance and business. Let's start with governance and institutional reforms. First, Pakistan needs to overhaul its bureaucracy and bureaucratic institutions. The system is old, lacking characteristics of modern governance.

In today's age of specialisation and innovation, there is a need to change the system. The process should start from the induction policy and procedures. Merit system needs to be refined rather than redefined.

There should be no general induction system like the one prevailing today. Ministries should be asked to prepare a ministry-specific induction policy according to their work and needs.

For instance, bureaucrats for the Ministry of Finance should be recruited from the fields of economy, finance, development and political economy. A political economist should head the ministry. Similarly, the Ministry of Health should look for candidates from the medical and related fields. The same policy should be followed by every ministry.

Moreover, a complete ban should be in place on inter-ministerial transfers and postings. Bureaucrats should remain posted within a ministry, a system that will help them to polish their skills. Second, there should be a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and promotion system. Performance review should also take into account deferred decisions and give them negative points. Promotion of officers must be tagged with the delivery of results and a specific number of successfully executed projects.

Third, regrettably, another problem has emerged over the past few years. Bureaucrats have started to align themselves with political parties by becoming unofficial members of their preferred parties.

It has given birth to new groups among bureaucrats according to their loyalties. It can be termed a dangerous trend that must be stopped. Bureaucrats must be reminded that they are servants of the state and people, not of political parties.

Fourth, bureaucrats must be protected from the unlawful demands and actions of rulers. There should be mechanisms in place to ensure the completion of their tenure and safeguard the future of upright bureaucrats. Fifth, there is a need for overhaul of the bureaucracy training system.

Age-old system

Pakistan has an outdated planning and execution system characterised by many inherent flaws, including exclusivity, short-sightedness, unsustainability and the lack of scientific decision-making.

This system is highly exclusive in nature where a few influential people or groups develop policies. Voices of common citizens, even small business groups, fall on deaf ears.

These groups occasionally consult selected think tanks or NGOs in the name of common people. People's representatives, like local governments, are hardly consulted. Policy continuity is another problem as policy preferences change with the transition of government. It discourages investors from investing in Pakistan.

On top of that, the policy-making process does not follow the scientific decision-making philosophy. Policymakers look for shortcuts or hire donor-supported consultants to devise a policy. Decision-making process must be inclusive where we can learn from China. The Chinese policy-making system is highly inclusive. For example, its five-year plan usually takes two to three years before being finalised.

The process kicks off with local governments and representatives at the village level. It culminates at the People's Congress routed through relevant governments and departments. Before adoption, China puts the plan on internet and seeks the input of common citizens. For implementation, China also embraces an inclusive approach as government offices, local governments and Communist Party officials work together to achieve goals of the plan. Besides, a scientific approach is applied where leaders use data and build different models. The best model is selected for execution.

Slack accountability

In addition, Pakistan has a very weak monitoring, evaluation and accountability system. It is common knowledge that planners and executors do not follow timelines, which costs the country and society. The country suffers financially while the society has to wait for benefits of government schemes.

Primary reasons for the lousy performance are the lack of robust monitoring and accountability, political point scoring, inefficient bureaucracy, exclusion of major stakeholders and interference from non-relevant actors.

Moreover, the ruling party tries to prove that all is good by painting a rosy picture and convincing people that all projects are on track. On the other hand, the opposition portrays a scary picture, denouncing the ruling party for delays, corruption and cronyism.

The government can look at three proposed interventions to overcome these problems. First, it can constitute a high-profile and influential committee to tackle political games.

The committee should comprise heads of five leading political parties, the opposition leader, services chief and judiciary chief. The prime minister should be the head. The body must be responsible for failure or success of any interventions.

On the economic front, there is a need for undertaking more serious and robust reforms. The present system is complicated, inefficient and, to some extent, anti-business. Pakistan will have to work on two fronts: reforming the business environment and behavioural changes in society.

On the business environment front, problems are deep-rooted and structural. They start with registration of a company or business. One has to deal with multiple institutions and departments to register a company.

The process of getting services and services connection is even more complicated. While operating a business, the businessmen have to satisfy multiple stakeholders. Over the last few years, Pakistan has introduced some reforms, helping to improve its ease of doing business ranking.

However, despite a better ranking, the business environment on the ground has not improved much. The government's rhetoric of facilitation could not be translated into action.

For example, according to the Ease of Doing Business ranking, it takes 113 days to get an electricity connection, 125 days for a construction permit and 105 days for property registration. However, in reality, it takes many more days; rather, it sometimes takes many months to avail of these services.

The tax system is even more complex and run by a complicated nexus of departments and agencies.

The writer is a political economist and a visiting research fellow at Hebei University, China

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449566/economic-revival-cpec-and-agenda-2047-ii>

The world Henry Kissinger leaves behind

Most scholarship about Kissinger is devoted to role he played in Vietnam

Henry Kissinger died at his home in Connecticut on November 29 at the age of one hundred years. He was remembered in several obituaries that appeared in the newspapers around the world. He was actively involved in most parts of the world, including Pakistan, a subject I will pick up later in this writeup. First, I will review how the world sees him at the time of his death. One of the more thoughtful obituaries is by David E Sanger who writes on foreign affairs for *The New York Times*.

Although I was a student at Harvard while Kissinger was a professor at that university and attended some of his lectures, I never had a one-on-one meeting with him. My wife and I came to know his second wife Nancy who he married in 1974. She was a friend of the American couple who were our "host family" when my wife and I went to Harvard in 1967 and stayed on off-and-on until the spring of 1974.

Kissinger lived an extraordinary life. Long retired from public life, he retained his interest in foreign policy. His particular interest was in the large communist states, first Russia and then China. He was the author of what came to be known as the realist approach to foreign affairs. That meant taking what was in place as given and bringing about change at the margin to protect and advance America's position in the world.

David E Sanger wrote a long obituary of Kissinger titled 'A Strong-Willed Architect of the Cold War'. This was one of the many that appeared in the newspapers around the world. Sanger gave particular attention to the departed leader's dealing with China. "For decades he remained the country's most important voice on managing China's rise," wrote Sanger about Kissinger. "He was the only American to deal with every Chinese leader from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping. In China, even as relations with Washington turned adversarial, he was treated like visiting royalty." At home in the United States, he advised 12 presidents — just shy of a quarter who have held the office — from John F Kennedy to Joseph R Biden Jr.

There were several scholars who were critical of some of what Kissinger did in his office. One of the more searing indictments came from Princeton scholar Gary J Bass who wrote a book published in 2013 under the title of *The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and a Forgotten Genocide*. The genocide that was the subject of the book was the killing of Pakistani citizens who lived in what was then the country's eastern wing. The East Pakistanis — Bengalis — rebelled against the western part of the country and were encouraged by India, then governed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, to create an independent state to be called Bangladesh. Kissinger did not like Gandhi and he and Nixon, his president, decided to side with Pakistan in the conflict. Both needed Pakistan's help to open to China. It was through Pakistan that Kissinger went to Beijing and met Mao Zedong. The meeting was arranged by Pakistan's ambassador to China. Professor Bass has, in his book, bought the Indian propaganda that the Pakistani army in East Pakistan "set about slaughtering as many as 300,000 Bengalis in East Pakistan, most of them Hindus, while 10 million supporters of the Bangali independence movement crossed into India as refugees."

Most scholarship about Kissinger was devoted to the role he played in Vietnam. Although he was of the opinion that the war in Vietnam was not for America to win, he widened the conflict to make it easier to pull out of the country. The journalist Willam Shawcross in his 1979 book, *Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon, and the Destruction of Cambodia*, argued that the United States could have pulled out of the country without the extensive bombing of Cambodia. But in his own books, Kissinger argued that the bombing convinced the North Vietnamese to sign a peace deal with the United States after negotiations in Paris. It was this deal that won Kissinger the Nobel Peace Prize. The other recipient was Le Duc Tho, Kissinger's North Vietnamese counterpart, who refused to accept the prize.

According to Sanger, "Perhaps the most important diplomatic contribution Mr. Kissinger made was his sidelining of Moscow in the Middle East for four decades, until Mr. Putin ordered his air force to enter the civil war in Syria."

Kissinger wrote three volumes of memoirs that ran into 3,800 pages. The *White House Years* focused on President Nixon's first term, 1969-73. It was after winning the presidency in 1968 that Nixon pulled out Kissinger from Harvard and brought him to the White House as his National Security Adviser. From that position he went on to become the United States Secretary of State while keeping the Adviser role. *Years of Upheaval* dealt with the next two years of the Nixon presidency while the third, *Years of Renewal*, covered the presidency of Ford. In addition to the memoirs, he continued to write on other subjects. The book *On China* could have been written only by a person who had first-hand experience of dealing

with Beijing but also brought his knowledge of history to understand the way China works. History, he maintained, is very important for the Chinese policymakers. Those who at various points in time have led China are always aware of the humiliations their country suffered when foreign interventions extracted more from the country than the Chinese should have given.

What was once called the developing world has been renamed the Global South by the Indian leadership that has the ambition to lead the area but does not look favourably at the means Kissinger used to establish his country's dominant position over the group of nations. "It was a world in which human rights, democracy, and justice were of little relevance; they were subordinate to the overarching goal of bolstering Washington and its allies in a balance of power with other great coalition, led by the Moscow," wrote Eduardo Porter in an assessment published by *The Washington Post*. The competition now is with China which does not hide its ambition to lead the Global South. This is where India's competition with China enters the picture. However, Washington does not have anybody like Kissinger in a policymaking position with the ability and ambition to lead the United States.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449568/the-world-henry-kissinger-leaves-behind>

December 12, 2023

Dawn News

China agrees to review Free Trade Agreement, boost yuan-based trade

Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese government has agreed to consider a request to amend the existing Free Trade Agreement (FTA), supply trade finance in yuans and provide loans to assist industry relocation to Pakistan.

The requests were made during Pakistan's Interim Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz's visit to China, where he is leading a 20-member group. Pakistan and China have come to a mutual understanding to revise the FTA.

This revision aims to extend comparable preferences to Pakistani products, aligning them with the existing agreement between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, Mr Ejaz told Dawn on Monday.

He said Pakistan will submit a priority list after consultation with the relevant stakeholders. "We will evolve the list in consultation with all stakeholders", he said, adding that his Chinese counterpart has agreed to the requests.

Pakistan has formally approached the Chinese government urging them to allocate a substantial sum of \$5 billion equivalent to RMB for financing investments aimed at facilitating the relocation of Chinese companies. The proposed funding would be structured under a "Pay as You Earn" framework allowing for repayment through the utilisation of export proceeds.

The relocation will be only made to the Special Economic Zones (SECZ) or Export Processing Zones (EPZ) in Pakistan. Chinese investors will actively pursue investment funds from their government and generate revenue in US dollars through the export of goods. These proceeds will then be utilised to offset the loan amount.

If the proposed scheme is given the green light, the minister has assured that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves will remain unaffected, thus alleviating any potential burden.

Yet another development, it was also agreed that an amount of \$5bn equivalent to 30bn RMB will be available for trade finance immediately. The Chinese currency will be used for export and import to minimise reliance on US dollars.

Both sides also agreed to align import valuation data to remove discrepancies in trade figures.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1797179#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20The%20Chinese%20government%20has,assist%20industry%20relocation%20to%20Pakistan>

The Express Tribune

Minister for speeding up work on CPEC

Says interim govt will implement CPEC schemes to make it a success

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday gave directives to accelerate the pace of work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in Gwadar.

Chairing a meeting to review the progress on CPEC projects in Gwadar, he asked ministries and divisions to speed up work on the projects, according to a press statement.

Representatives of ministries and divisions gave a detailed briefing on the implementation of projects in Gwadar.

The minister noted that all major projects including the Gwadar power plant, distribution of 2,000 boat engines to fishermen, Khuzdar-Panjgur transmission line (via Nag-Basima) which connects Markran with national grid, New Gwadar International Airport, China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute, Gwadar Eastbay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

He asserted that the interim government was committed to implementing the CPEC projects to make it a success.

In the recent budget, the allocation for Balochistan had been doubled which indicated that the federal government was committed to uplifting the province.

Several projects had been completed in Balochistan that were related to education, healthcare and social sectors to facilitate the people, said the minister while reiterating that the government would continue its efforts to further support the province. Officials of the interior ministry gave a detailed briefing on the security measures taken for Chinese officials working in Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440472/minister-for-speeding-up-work-on-cpec>

The Nation

4th BRI Chinese Training Course for Pakistani police inaugurated

ISLAMABAD - The fourth “Belt and Road” Chinese Training Course for police officers in Pakistan was inaugurated with the aim of improving the language and cross-cultural communication skills of Pakistani police personnel.

The initiative also seeks to strengthen police cooperation between China and Pakistan and enhance the friendship and mutual trust between the two countries.

The two-week training program, hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and undertaken by the China Pakistan Educational Cultural Institute (CPECI), is being attended by over 22 senior police officers from Islamabad.

It covers a wide range of courses, including basic Chinese language, police traffic term learning, Chinese kungfu, and more.

Li Qingchun, the police counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, highlighted that China and Pakistan are traditionally friendly neighbours, and police cooperation between the two countries is of great significance for maintaining regional security and stability.

Shakir Hussain Dawar, the Capital Police Officer (CPO) of Islamabad Police, expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government for their continued support and cooperation in maintaining law and order in Pakistan.

He added that “as a common language among countries along the Belt and Road, mastering Chinese is of great significance for improving the work efficiency of police officers.”

According to Gwadar Pro, more than 60 people, including Ma Bin, President of the CPECI, and Pakistani police trainees at all levels, attended the inauguration ceremony.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Dec-2023/4th-bri-chinese-training-course-for-pakistani-police-inaugurated>

Balochistan, Henan to strengthen sister province friendship

ISLAMABAD - Balochistan and Henan have decided to strengthen sister province friendship to promote cooperation in agriculture, tourism and industrial fields.

A delegation of tribal leaders from Balochistan province recently visited Luoyang city in central China’s Henan Province. The delegation aims to promote sister province friendship between Henan and Balochistan and strengthen practical cooperation in agriculture, tourism, and industrial fields. Bai Shengbin, Deputy Secretary General of Luoyang municipal government, met with the delegation. He mentioned that Luoyang is a renowned tourist city and one of the oldest cities in China. “It is also a treasure trove for investment, with flourishing industries and advanced science and innovation,” Bai said as he briefed the visitors about the trade and investment opportunities in Luoyang. Henan and Balochistan have established a sister province relationship in July 2023, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. This partnership will help inject more vitality into the promotion of common prosperity and progress in both provinces. Currently, Henan province is deeply

involved in the construction of Gwadar Free Zone in Pakistan. Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Luoyang aims to establish friendly relations with cities in Balochistan that are compatible in terms of their status, complement each other in industry, and learn from each other in culture, Bai said.

Mir Maqsood, the leader of the delegation, expressed that during his visit of several days, he was deeply impressed by the rich historical and cultural heritage of Luoyang.

He had an immersive experience of Luoyang's unique cultural tourism projects, such as "Hanfu Tour in Luoyang".

The delegation also visited key parks and enterprises, such as Luoyang National University Science Park, Luoyang Northern Ek Chor Motorcycle Company, and YTO Group.

During their visit, they observed the rapid changes and witnessed the high-quality development of Luoyang.

Balochistan is a large agricultural province in Pakistan, known for its abundant land, minerals, agricultural products, and other resources.

Luoyang is renowned for its advanced technology in the agricultural machinery and equipment sector.

Mir stated that Balochistan is eager to enhance practical cooperation with Henan and Luoyang in various fields.

He expressed confidence that Balochistan and Luoyang will promote all-round cooperation in trade and investment, agro-industry, logistics, and people-to-people exchanges.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Dec-2023/balochistan-henan-to-strengthen-sister-province-friendship>

Express News

چین کا آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر نظر ثانی پر اتفاق

چین نے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر نظر ثانی پر اتفاق کرتے ہوئے نئی ترجیحی فہرست مانگ لی۔ - اسلام آباد

نگران وزیر تجارت گوہر اعجاز کا کاروباری وفد کے ہمراہ دورہ چین جاری ہے، انھوں نے سرکاری آئل فوڈ اینڈ ایگری کمیٹی کو فلو گروپ کے صدر لوان رچیگ اور نائب وزیر تجارت لی فی سے ملاقات کی۔ اس دوران چین نے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر نظر ثانی پر اتفاق کرتے ہوئے نئی ترجیحی فہرست مانگ لی۔ اس کے تحت پاکستان کو مزید رعایت ملنے کا امکان ہے۔

دونوں ممالک نے تجارتی ڈیٹا میں فرق ختم کرنے اور چینی صنعتیں پاکستان منتقل کرنے کیلئے ورکنگ گروپ قائم کرنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا۔

وزیر تجارت کا کہنا ہے پاکستان اپنی تجارت بڑھانا چاہتا ہے، چین اپنی منڈیاں کھولے، سی پیک کا فائدہ دونوں ملکوں کے تاجروں کو پہنچانا چاہئے۔ انھوں نے چینی صنعتکاروں کو اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری تیز کرنے کی دعوت دی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2577053/6/>

Jang News

پاکستان اور چین کا تجارتی معاہدے پر نظر ثانی کیلئے اتفاق

اسلام آباد (تنویر ہاشمی) پاکستان اور چین نے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے (ایف ٹی او) پر نظر ثانی کرنے پر اتفاق کر لیا ہے، چین اور پاکستان کے مابین دو طرفہ تجارت میں بڑی پیش رفت سامنے آئی ہے اور چین نے پاکستان سے مصنوعات اور اشیاء کی نئی ترجیح فہرست طلب کر لی ہے، چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کی پیشکش، دونوں ممالک میں تجارتی ڈیٹا میں فرق ختم کرنے پر اتفاق، ذرائع کے مطابق ترجیح فہرست کے مطابق پاکستان کو رعایت دی جاسکے گی، چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کی پیش کش کی گئی ہے، دونوں ممالک میں تجارتی ڈیٹا میں فرق ختم کرنے پر بھی اتفاق کیا گیا جبکہ چینی صنعتوں کو پاکستان منتقل کرنے پر ورکنگ گروپ قائم کرنے پر بھی اتفاق ہوا ہے، پاکستان کی وزارت تجارت نے چین کو آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر نظر ثانی کی درخواست کی تھی، مگر ان وفاقی وزیر تجارت ڈاکٹر گوہر اعجاز 20 رکنی کاروباری وفد کے ہمراہ ان دنوں چین کے دورے پر ہیں، وہاں اہم ملاقاتیں کی ہیں، وزیر تجارت نے چین کے سرمایہ کاروں کو 130 ارب ڈالر میں فنانشنگ کی پیش کش کی اور ان کے لیے آسان ادائیگی کی آمدن سکیم کی تجویز بھی پیش کی گئی، اس سے پاکستان پر ادائیگیوں کا دباؤ نہیں آئے گا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1298692>

December 13, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Gohar presents Pakistan's investment friendly policies at interaction with Chinese business, investment leaders

Federal Commerce Minister, Dr Gohar Ejaz presented Pakistan's investment-friendly policies at an interaction with prominent Chinese business and investment leaders here and invited them to invest in sectors such as textiles, food, agriculture, livestock, technology, infrastructure and energy.

In an initiative to boost economic and investment ties between business communities of Pakistan and China, the commerce minister engaged in constructive interaction with prominent Chinese business and investment leaders at the Business networking dinner at a local hotel in Beijing.

Dr Gohar Ejaz along with the top 20 business executives from Pakistan interacted with Chinese business leaders representing over 150 Chinese enterprises and presented Pakistan's investment-friendly policies, highlighting the country's strategic location, special economic zones, skilled workforce, and potential for business growth.

He emphasized Pakistan's dedication to providing a favourable business environment and facilitation.

During the interaction, key topics of discussion included investments in sectors such as textiles, food, agriculture, livestock, technology, infrastructure, and energy.

The discussions focused on fostering stronger economic collaboration, exploring investment opportunities, and deepening trade relations between the business communities of the two nations.

The Chinese business and investment leaders expressed keen interest in exploring partnerships and ventures in Pakistan.

They appreciated Pakistan's openness and expressed confidence in the opportunities available for mutually beneficial collaboration.

In his welcome speech, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi thanked the Chinese entrepreneurs for their huge presence at the networking dinner.

He assured full support and facilitation to the Chinese business community interested in doing business and investment in Pakistan. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/gohar-presents-pakistans-investment-friendly-policies-at-interaction-with-chinese-business-investment-leaders/#:~:text=Federal%20Commerce%20Minister%2C%20Dr%20Gohar,%2C%20technology%2C%20infrastructure%20and%20energy.>

The Express Tribune

China prefers elected govt for ML-1 project

Caretaker government eyes project launch amidst tenure

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese authorities have displayed a preference to collaborate with the elected government rather than the current caretaker administration on the multi-billion-dollar Mainline-1 (ML-1) project, sources within the planning ministry revealed on Tuesday. Despite the caretaker government's inclination towards initiating the project during its tenure, there appears to be a diplomatic protocol at play. The Chinese authorities, in adherence to diplomatic norms, have expressed a desire to engage with the forthcoming elected government for the project, the sources said. It is pertinent to note that this comes as recently Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's directives prompted the ministry of railways to submit the revised PC-1 of the ML-1 project to the planning ministry. The estimated overall project cost stands at \$6.67 billion, to be executed in two phases. The revised PC-1 outlines the construction of an initial phase covering a 930-kilometre track to be completed within five years, costing \$3159.7 million. In the first phase, a track of 930 kilometres will be built. The cost of the track built in the first phase is \$3159.7 million. Package One consists of a 397-kilometre track, encompassing Nowshera, Rohri, Khanpur, and PR Walton, while Package Two extends for 533 kilometres. Package Two includes tracks from Karachi to Nawabshah (296 kilometres) and from Khanpur to Multan (237 kilometres), with a total expenditure of \$3,159 million. The second phase of ML-1 incurs a cost of \$3,518.8 million, covering a track length of 796 kilometres. Package Three links Multan to Lahore (334 kilometres) with an expenditure of \$799 million. Package Four includes tracks from Lahore to Rawalpindi (288 kilometres) and Rawalpindi to Peshawar (174 kilometres), along with the Havelian Dry Port. The total cost is \$2,719 million, with an expected completion within four years. PC-1, or Planning Commission Form 1, serves as a comprehensive project document detailing project needs, description, justification, location, duration, cost estimates, and anticipated benefits.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449873/china-prefers-elected-govt-for-ml-1-project>

Pakistan, China vow to further enhance trade

Agree to work on outcomes of joint study conducted by two sides

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have expressed the resolve to further work on enhancing bilateral trade and investment by reviewing their free trade agreement and implementing the outcomes of a joint study conducted by the commerce ministries of both sides.

Those discussions were held in a meeting between Pakistan's Commerce Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz and Chinese Vice Minister Li Fei in Beijing, aimed at cementing economic ties and exploring opportunities of more trade and investment.

Both the ministers discussed the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which had entered its second stage.

Ejaz highlighted Pakistan government's policies to facilitate foreign direct investment and specifically mentioned the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a 'single window' interface for potential investors.

Later, the minister held a series of meetings with business executives of leading Chinese state-owned enterprises and private companies.

As part of efforts to boost China-Pakistan trade and commercial ties and building on the momentum from Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar's visit in October, Ejaz went on a trip to China along with a 20-member business delegation representing textile, food, agriculture, chemicals, fertiliser and technology sectors.

The minister presented Pakistan's investment-friendly policies in an interaction with prominent Chinese business and investment leaders and invited them to invest in sectors like textile, food, agriculture, livestock, technology, infrastructure and energy.

He highlighted Pakistan's strategic location, Special Economic Zones, skilled workforce and potential for business growth as well as pointed to Pakistan's dedication to providing a favourable business environment and facilitation.

The two sides focused on fostering stronger economic collaboration, exploring investment opportunities and deepening trade relations.

The Chinese business and investment leaders, who represented over 150 enterprises, expressed keen interest in exploring partnerships and joint ventures in Pakistan.

They appreciated Pakistan's openness and expressed confidence in the opportunities available for mutually beneficial collaboration.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2449862/pakistan-china-vow-to-further-enhance-trade>

The Nation

Pakistan seeks stronger ties with China: Ambassador Hashmi

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's desire for stronger ties with China reflects the mutual benefits and shared interests that exist between the two nations.

This strategic partnership encompasses various areas such as economic cooperation, infrastructure development, renewable energy, and cultural exchanges, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi.

In an exclusive interview with CEN, Hashmi elaborated on the flourishing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), emphasising the need for enhanced industrial cooperation, trade, and investment between the two nations.

The ambassador identified the key areas of focus, including agriculture, information technology, livelihood, and green development, aligning with the priorities outlined during Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng's recent visit to Pakistan from July 30 to August 1, 2023.

"We need to quickly improve our productive capacity because the Phase-1 of CPEC was primarily to develop infrastructure and energy. In terms of the next phase of CPEC, it is the establishment of five corridors, the corridor of growth, innovation, green development, livelihoods, and inclusiveness. These are all areas which are in alignment with our priorities," he stated. Talking with CEN Khalil Hashmi said that the recent trade protocols signed between China and Pakistan opened up around \$30 billion market for Pakistan, covering items such as heated beef, dried chilli, Pakistani dairy products, and animal skins. The ambassador commended China's efforts for creating & enabling conditions for trade, including regulatory adjustments and the provision of dedicated officers in the Chinese embassy to assist Pakistani exporters. "We spent a lot of effort organizing a very successful agriculture exhibition in Pakistan, in which many Chinese and Pakistani companies and individuals participated. B2B exchanges are another tool to promote bilateral trade," Hashmi mentioned.

Addressing Pakistan's commitment to green and sustainable development, the ambassador outlined the nation's efforts in the renewable energy sector. He highlighted projects such as hydroelectric power generation and collaborations with China to expand solar energy capacity. The envoy stressed the importance of international support and financing to achieve these ambitious goals. As for RMB settlement in China-Pakistan trade and how to strengthen cooperation in banking and financial industries between the two countries, he said the currency swap that Pakistan has with China is very positive for trade settlement. "We are looking to enhancing trade cooperation in RMB in the future. Other than that, in terms of enhancing financial banking relationships, the key is to have more cooperation.

Our banks are present in China and Chinese banks are present in Pakistan. We are working on digital banking payments and also other online means to promote financial cooperation between our two countries, allowing companies and individuals to do their transactions online securely and productively," he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Dec-2023/pakistan-seeks-stronger-ties-with-china-ambassador-hashmi>

GB delegation explores agri tech cooperation in Gansu province

BEIJING - A delegation of government officials and agricultural experts from Gilgit-Baltistan Province visited Lanzhou, China. They conducted visits to local enterprises and held exchange meetings to explore cooperation potentials. During their visit to Jinkefeng Company, a subsidiary of the Gansu Academy of Mechanical Science, the Pakistani delegation toured the production base and gained comprehensive knowledge about the company's flagship products and their wide applications in agricultural production. The company also demonstrated the complete operational model of silage harvesting equipment that they plan to showcase and promote in Pakistan, which sparked great interest among the delegation members. Subsequently, detailed discussions were held on future cooperation models and specific plans, resulting in a series of agreements. According to Gwadar Pro, the delegation expressed their anticipation for substantial cooperation with Jinkefeng Company in agricultural equipment, aiming to drive the modernization of agriculture in Pakistan. "The similarities in geography and weather between Gansu and Gilgit-Baltistan will make the cooperation particularly potential. The adoption of modern farming practices can effectively improve agricultural production," said a delegate member of the GB agriculture department. "In the future, we will continue to increase our investment in cooperation with Pakistan, enhancing product quality and technological capabilities. Additionally, we will strive to promote the widespread adoption and implementation of silage equipment in Pakistan," said head of Jinkefeng Company. After the exchange, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to transfer agriculture technology and machinery to Gilgit-Baltistan. The collaboration seeks to jointly explore new opportunities for the development of silage processing and the livestock industry."

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Dec-2023/gb-delegation-explores-agri-tech-cooperation-in-gansu-province>

December 14, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Gohar unveils new collaborative potential with Chinese company in different sectors

Minister for Commerce Dr Gohar Ejaz, who is currently on an official visit to China, on Wednesday visited the Hengli Group headquarters, a trailblazing entity in oil refining, petrochemicals, polyesters, and textiles to explore collaboration and boost bilateral ties.

The visit showcased the impressive journey of Hengli Group, from its roots as a Suzhou weaving factory in 1994 to its current status as the operator of the world's largest terephthalic acid plant-an inspiring transformation, said a news release issued here by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Pakistani delegation, led by Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz, remained engaged in a highly productive exchange with Hengli Group representatives, delving into potential collaboration opportunities.

The discussions revolved around leveraging the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to foster private-sector partnerships.

The visit underscores the substantial potential for Pakistan to harness Chinese expertise and cutting-edge technology through CPEC initiatives.

The minister expressed the commitment to facilitating and nurturing such collaborations, emphasizing the role of these partnerships in driving economic growth and generating employment opportunities for the people of Pakistan.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/gohar-unveils-new-collaborative-potential-with-chinese-company-in-different-sectors/#:~:text=Minister%20for%20Commerce%20Dr%20Gohar,collaboration%20and%20boost%20bilateral%20ties.>

Every person a note in symphony of BRI

As a reflection of the times, numerous documentary series about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have emerged this year, celebrating the BRI's 10th anniversary.

Among them, a large-scale documentary series titled *The Call of the Silk Road*, consisting of 15 episodes, including 14 country-specific episodes and a 60-minute summary episode titled “Sharing the Future,” has been launched.

Using a perspective filled with humanistic care, the series captures the stories of 14 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America – Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Greece, Cambodia, Tanzania, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Brazil, the UAE, Egypt, Pakistan, Senegal, Hungary and Iran – as well as the lives and destinies of people of these countries changed by the BRI.

The program, presented in multiple languages such as Chinese, Arabic, Russian, and Spanish, is being broadcast worldwide, reaching a potential overseas audience of over 400 million viewers.

The Call of the Silk Road tells the stories of the BRI with a narrative focused on development. It aggregates vivid examples on a country-by-country basis, adhering to a “people-centered” philosophy, focusing on ordinary individuals, and embodying the idea of a “community with a shared future for mankind.”

Over the past decade, the BRI has blossomed into a globally acclaimed public good and a collaborative platform for international cooperation. This success is inseparable from collaboration between countries and cooperation among people. The narrative of the series focuses on the core theme of “the modernization of the Silk Road,” often unfolding within the framework of “challenge-solution.”

The documentary does not shy away from addressing developmental issues such as the digital divide and ecological conservation. It even responds to stigmatizing labels like “debt trap.”

It adopts a constructive approach to storytelling, showcasing initiatives like the construction of Indonesia's digital Silk Road and Egypt's new capital's CBD. It incorporates Chinese solutions and wisdom in a flexible manner. The documentary embeds the spirit of inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, allowing the audience to experience the true essence

of the Silk Road spirit. The series unfolds on a country-by-country basis for the first 14 episodes. The BRI involves numerous countries and regions with diverse economic development, social cultures, religious beliefs, and local customs. By implementing a strategy of localized and differentiated storytelling, the series roots itself in each country to discover stories, respectfully show their cultural beliefs, address their concerns, and focus on shared values among diverse cultures. The aim is to find common ground in the narrative of the BRI, allowing for precise communication and reaching the audience accurately, thereby eliciting empathy. How has China's proposal of the BRI changed the lives of hundreds of millions of ordinary people worldwide? Over the past decade, what roles have the people along the Belt and Road played?

This series focuses on ordinary individuals, who form the main content of the film. There are stories of a female truck driver raising a child on her own, a unicorn entrepreneur learning from Chinese experiences, a port worker cultivating world champions and generations of farmers growing grapes. These stories of ordinary people are drawn from local contexts and seamlessly integrated into the era's tide of jointly building the Belt and Road, resonating with each other.

The documentary uses the word "call" to convey the idea that the joint construction of the BRI is a harmonious collaboration, representing a shared destiny.

The concluding episode portrays the common aspirations of people in the countries, conveying a belief in a shared future.

In addition to the main series, this series also produced five short videos under the theme "Together." These videos, featuring stories of a Chinese-Indonesian coffee entrepreneur, a Senegalese wrestler, an Egyptian photographer, a Greek world champion father-daughter duo, and a Cambodian lion-fighting girl, were broadcast on multiple international media outlets, including CNN.

The diverse formats of micro, short, and long videos, and even the active exploration of the "shooting and broadcasting" model, align with the current trends in media dissemination in the era of integrated media. In the final analysis, the BRI, from inception to implementation, has evolved into a collaborative journey toward shared development and mutual prosperity. Consequently, the core narrative of the BRI is inherently a development narrative. Spanning the vast expanses of Asia, Europe, and Africa, the visual construction of the Belt and Road narrative can be achieved by crafting authentic and diverse country-specific documentaries. These documentaries, rich in local flavor and shared values, embrace both differences and commonalities, respecting diversity while showcasing distinctive features, ultimately seeking a shared understanding.

The development and progress fostered by the BRI are fundamentally rooted in people. The dreams, hopes, struggles, and achievements of individuals along the Silk Road are brought to life in the documentary series. Each individual story, a note in the grand symphony, resonates with the overarching theme of shared future, creating a harmonious melody that echoes across the Silk Road.

<https://pakobserver.net/every-person-a-note-in-symphony-of-bri/>

The Express Tribune

ML-I project cost likely to be cut

Pakistan, China may reduce cost by \$3.2b to make it commercially viable project

ISLAMABAD: Beijing and Islamabad are in discussions for a cut in the cost of the strategic Mainline-I project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by \$3.2 billion to \$6.7 billion through a reduction in scope and design aimed at making it a commercially viable scheme.

The discussions took place in Beijing last month during meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on transport, highly placed sources told The Express Tribune. JWGs are the second tier of decision-making forums in the three-tier CPEC institutional arrangement.

Sources said that compared to the approved cost of \$9.9 billion for the largest and strategically important CPEC project, there was a proposal to slash the cost to \$6.7 billion.

However, the final cost would be subject to the revised design on which Chinese experts are currently working. "We hope to receive the revised project design by the end of this month," said an official working in the Ministry of Railways.

The financing plan for the ML-I project will be discussed by both sides after an agreement on the revised design. The in-principle understanding is that China will provide 85% of the project cost in the shape of loan while Pakistan will arrange the remaining amount.

Two years ago, China termed financing for the ML-I project riskier due to Pakistan's unsustainable external debt situation. The debt situation has further deteriorated.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also placed an upper ceiling on the sovereign guarantees that Pakistan can issue to its state-owned enterprises. The country has already exhausted the limit of Rs4 trillion and there is no space left for giving any major guarantees.

The railways secretary did not respond to a request for comments.

Sources said that the cost was proposed to be rationalised by reducing the scope and changing the design of the scheme.

The under-consideration revised plan includes reducing the rail speed to 120 kilometre per hour from an earlier approved 160 km, according to the sources.

This would help save significant cost and as a result the first phase of Karachi-Lahore track could be constructed with \$2.7 billion, they added.

However, it was not clear whether any agreement was reached during the JWG meeting. The cost of second phase is estimated at \$2.6 billion and that of third phase could be around \$1.4 billion.

The rail track portions that had been recently revamped would not get any new major investment. Many bridges, flyovers and underpasses could be dropped from the final project design to save cost, according to the sources.

The Chinese embassy did not comment on this article.

The project is facing a delay of at least five years due to disagreement over its scope, cost and financing plan. According to PC-I of the project approved in November 2022, a 1,733km-long route will be rehabilitated, 482 underpasses, 53 flyovers, 130 biker bridges and 130 stations will be constructed along the route. This will now undergo a major restructuring.

During the 11th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting held in October last year, both countries agreed to build upon the leadership's consensus and advance the implementation of ML-I. In the meeting, China did not accept Pakistan's position to start bidding for construction of the nearly \$10 billion project for the rehabilitation of Pakistan Railways due to differences over cost, according to official documents.

The "Chinese side expressed the view that the bidding process should be after fixing cost estimation and basic principles of financing plan," according to the documents.

Pakistani side proposed that the bidding process should commence immediately and be completed by the end of the year.

This should follow the signing of a commercial contract and financial close of the project, according to Pakistani authorities.

In 2017, Pakistan and China signed a five-year framework agreement for construction of the ML-I project. The framework has now been further extended for another five years.

Pakistan had hoped to sign the Milestone Agreement in November 2022 and groundbreaking of the project in March 2023 but no progress could be made.

Regarding the terms of financing, the two sides have held multiple meetings wherein Pakistani side has accepted the financing proposal from the Chinese side.

In October last year, Pakistan approved a 45% increase in the cost of ML-I to nearly \$10 billion. Initially, Ecnec approved the project in August 2020 at a cost of \$6.8 billion, including a \$6 billion Chinese loan. But the project could not reach the groundbreaking stage.

On expectations of being the only strategically important project under the framework agreement, Pakistan in April 2021 proposed to get the Chinese loan at 1% interest. But Beijing did not accept the request.

Due to negligence of the PTI government, the ML-I remained in cold storage and as a result its cost increased multiple times in rupee terms.

During the JCC meeting, the Pakistani side expressed the view that the project would be undertaken on the government-to-government model.

Pakistan requested China to sign the framework agreement on the analogy of Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project for the Karachi rail section.

The Chinese side expressed the willingness to actively and steadily promote relevant work with the Pakistani side under the CPEC framework in accordance with the principle of "implementing the project with the conditions being fully met".
<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2441018/ml-i-project-cost-likely-to-be-cut>

The Nation

1320MW Thar coal-fired power project achieves financial close

ISLAMABAD-The country's largest 1320MW Thar coal-fired power project, a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) portfolio project, has achieved Financial Close, following China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation — Sinosure has agreed for the much awaited insurance coverage . Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) has announced the financial closing of country's largest Thar coal-fired power project worth \$2 billion by M/s Shanghai Electric Corporation, China. The project was completed in February 2023, however, the financial close of the project was not achieved as Sinosure was reluctant to provide insurance coverage to the project and was seeking approval from the Chinese government in this regard. Finally the project has received nod from the Sinosure for the coverage and it has achieved its financial closure. China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation Sinosure is a state-funded and policy-oriented insurance company established and supported by the state to promote China's foreign economic and trade development and cooperation. The signing ceremony was held here Wednesday which was attended by Shah Jahan Mirza, Managing Director, PPIB, Meng Donghai, Chief Executive of the Project Company i.e. Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company and Zhou Bo, Chief Executive Officer of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Karachi Branch. Other high-level officials of PPIB and project company/sponsors were also present on the occasion. Having the generation capacity of 1320 MW, Shanghai project has been implemented under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It is commendable that in order to meet stringent timelines agreed by the Government of Pakistan and Government of China, the project company commenced construction work in a crunch situation of COVID-19 by leveraging its equity and bridge financing and completed project on 5th February 2023. Shanghai Electric Group Corporation are the sponsors of the project, while Sino Sindh Resources Limited (SSRL) is the coal supplier from Thar Block-1 whereas Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), China Development Bank, Bank of Communications Co. Ltd., China Minsheng Bank Corporation, Postal Savings Bank of China Co., Ltd., and Agriculture Bank of China are the lenders of project while Sinosure is the insurer of the project. The plant is based on state of the art Super Critical Technology and is equipped with latest equipment to fulfill environmental obligations and fully compliant with the World Bank/IFC and Pakistan EPA standards. This project is the second cheapest power project from the fuel cost point of view (i.e. Rs. 4.98/kWh). By its operation, the GoP saves precious foreign exchange of around US 500 million dollars annually. Further, this project significantly contributed in reducing the overall basket price of electricity which may be translated to around Rs. 200 billion annually while expected to generate 9 billion units of electricity per year. With the induction of Shanghai, the total installed capacity of five commissioned Thar coal based power projects has reached to 3300 MW which is an evidence of PPIB's commitment towards promoting indigenous fuel based power generation. While expressing his views, Shah Jahan Mirza lauded the important role of CPEC for development of Pakistan's power sector and reiterated his resolve for timely completion of other ongoing hydro, wind and solar projects under the CPEC arrangement. <https://www.nation.com.pk/14-Dec-2023/1320mw-thar-coal-fired-power-project-achieves-financial-close>

December 15, 2023

Dawn News

\$2bn Thar power plant achieves financial close

ISLAMABAD: The Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) — a one-window facility of the federal government — on Wednesday announced the \$2 billion financial closing of the country's largest Thar coal-fired power project, currently operational at Thar, by Shanghai Electric Corporation, China.

In a statement, the PPIB said the financial close agreement was signed by PPIB Managing Director Shah Jahan Mirza, Chief Executive of the project company Meng Donghai, Chief Executive Officer of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Karachi Branch Zhou Bo.

Having a generation capacity of 1,320MW, the project has been implemented under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The PPIB chief commended that to meet stringent timelines agreed by the governments of Pakistan and China, the project company commenced construction work in a crunch situation of Covid-19 by leveraging its equity and bridge financing and completed the project on Feb 5, 2023.

Shanghai Electric Group Corporation is the main project sponsor of the project, while Sino-Sindh Resources Ltd (SSRL) is the coal supplier from Thar Block-1 whereas ICBC, China Development Bank, Bank of Communications Co. Ltd., China Minsheng Bank Corporation, Postal Savings Bank of China Co Ltd. and Agriculture Bank of China are the lenders to the project. Chinese Sinosure is the insurer of the project.

The plant is based on state-of-the-art supercritical technology and is equipped with the latest equipment to fulfil environmental obligations and fully compliant with the environmental standards of the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, the PPIB said, adding that the project is the second cheapest power project from the fuel cost point of view (i.e. Rs4.98/kWh).

Through its operations, the country saves precious foreign exchange of around \$500 million annually. The project significantly contributed to reducing the overall basket price of electricity which may be translated to around Rs200bn annually while expected to generate nine billion units of electricity per year, according to the statement.

With the induction of this project, the total installed capacity of five commissioned Thar coal-based power projects has reached 3,300MW, a sign of increasing indigenous fuel-based power generation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1797677/2bn-thar-power-plant-achieves-financial-close#:~:text=ISLAMABAD%3A%20The%20Private%20Power%20and,by%20Shanghai%20Electric%20Corporation%2C%20China.>

The Express Tribune

CPEC-funded hospital in Kahuta fostering hope, rescuing lives

On BRI's tenth anniversary, docu-series shares human stories transformed by the project's healing hands

LAHORE: It all began with the shivers and chills that would haunt Noman Munir's nights, threatening to strip away the livelihood and earnings on which his family depended. The diagnosis was grim – malaria – an emergency requiring the resources and expertise of an emergency ward. Noman and his wife operated "Peco and Laces," a small but beloved business that had been a source of stability and joy in their lives. However, fate had now dealt them a harsh blow. Accessing healthcare had long been a struggle for the residents of Kahuta, with many having to undertake troublesome journeys to nearby cities for treatment. However, the establishment of the China-Pakistan Karot Project, the first hydropower investment initiative under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has brought relief by revolutionising not only the energy sector but also public health facilities such as the THQ Hospital. A docu-series, *Rising with Pride*, co-produced by directors in China and Pakistan is bringing stories such as Noman's and other people-centered tales that show how the Belt and Road Initiative has connected people and, more importantly, how it connected them to the pursuit of betterment in life. The documentary will also be broadcast by state television, Pakistan Television. It narrates how previously seeking timely medical treatment was an arduous task for locals, as they had to endure long, risky journeys to nearby cities, often resulting in devastating consequences. Fighting disease, for many, not only impacted one's personal well-being but also meant financial woes and fortunes evaporating just to get decent medical facilities. For Noman, this project proved to be a game-changer in his fight against malaria. Promptly diagnosed and treated at THQ Hospital, he embarked on a journey to recovery, rediscovering hope and purpose with the unwavering support of his wife. The hospital, equipped with 18 to 20 beds in the emergency ward, has become a lifeline for not only the residents of Kahuta but also those from far-flung areas like Kashmir and Matore, the doctor at the hospital shared. "The hospital covers a radius of 50 kilometres." As her husband fought a debilitating disease in the hospital, she took the reins of their business, effortlessly maintaining its success while shielding her spouse from worry. The documentary also captures the intimate journey of the couple as they strengthened their bond in the face of adversity. The wife, otherwise unfamiliar with worldly affairs, found herself thrust into uncharted territory as the responsibility of managing the business fell solely on her capable shoulders. "Now are businesses are growing. To become healthy one needs to work hard, earn money and cover our expenses. During illness, one feels very weak. If my wife is with me, I can face any illness," Noman shares at the end. Through the China-Pakistan partnership, hopes and dreams have been reignited, paving the way for a better and healthier future for all. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – which has completed ten years this year – has brought new opportunities for growth, invigorating local economies and fostering a spirit of progress that resonates through every corner of Kahuta tehsil.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2441256/cpec-funded-hospital-in-kahuta-fostering-hope-rescuing-lives#lnshj4zyj9wa5r7fw0n>

The News

China to help promote electric vehicles in Punjab

LAHORE: Provincial Transport Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad met with the officials of Chinese Electric Dynamic Company while Federal Minister for Trade and Commerce Gohar Ejaz accompanied him.

In the meeting, the promotion of electric vehicles in Punjab and the comprehensive network of bike chargers in Punjab were discussed. The provincial minister said that he was sure that with the help of China, Punjab would become an ideal province for electric vehicles, while electric charger points would be made at 50 different places in City. Ibrahim Murad said that China's cooperation, environmental pollution in Punjab would be controlled. In another meeting, he discussed with China Metallurgical Company about Chiniot Iron Ore Project, while the Chinese company expressed interest in investing \$1.3 billion in Punjab. Ibrahim Murad said that a revolution and development would be brought in the mining sector of Punjab. However, the Chinese company's project will provide employment opportunities while with the help of China, the mining sector will boost further.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=263802>

Chinese Newspapers

December 02, 2023

Global Times

Experts strive to address 'understanding deficit' by exploring Chinese modernization at the Understanding China Conference

By Bi Mengying and Ma Ruiqian

To understand China, the key lies in understanding Chinese modernization, as emphasized by Chinese President Xi Jinping in a congratulatory letter to the Understanding China Conference on Saturday. The opening ceremony of the forum was held in Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong Province. Today, confronted with a weak global recovery and escalating geopolitical conflicts, humanity has once again come to a crossroads in history. "It is all the more important that countries work together to meet various global challenges, promote common development, and improve the well-being of humanity," Xi said.

"To understand China, the key lies in understanding Chinese modernization. China is advancing the noble cause of building a great country and national rejuvenation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind," Xi said, noting that "China's future is closely linked with the future of the entire humanity."

He said China is pursuing high-quality development through high-standard opening up and China will continue to foster a market-oriented, world-class business environment

underpinned by a sound legal framework, and steadily expand institutional opening up with regard to rules, regulations, management and standards.

China is committed to broadening the convergence of interests with other countries, and will continue to provide the world with new growth momentum and opportunities through its own development, Xi said.

"China looks forward to working hand in hand with the rest of the world to realize global modernization that features peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation, and prosperity for all," Xi said.

Understanding Chinese modernization

Experts participating in the conference discussed the reasons behind the success of Chinese modernization and expected that Chinese modernization can offer inspiration to global modernization. Essam Sharaf, former Prime Minister of Egypt, pointed out that Chinese modernization as well as the China-proposed global initiatives emphasize connectivity, trust, peace, development and prosperity. "When these initiatives are embraced by those who advocate for peace and development, they create a path toward a world where everyone shares a common prosperous future and enjoys a new world order characterized by dialogue-based international relations, rule-based global governance, and true multilateralism," he said.

"Over the past decades, China has lifted nearly 800 million people out of poverty and has become the world's second-largest economy. China has become the leader in innovation, in science and technology, in green development. China has become the leader of globalization," Mushahid Hussain Syed, head of Pakistan's Friends of the Silk Road Club and chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute told the Global Times.

It was the resilience of the Chinese leadership and the Chinese people, their ability to make course corrections during the journey of reform and opening-up, the continuity of policy, and finally a peaceful foreign policy that have led to China's remarkable achievements in the reform and opening-up, he noted.

Addressing 'understanding deficit'

The conference, with the participation of 70 international guests from more than 30 countries and regions, was co-hosted by the China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy, the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and the Guangdong provincial government.

The three-day event kicked off under the theme of "China's New Endeavors amid Unprecedented Global Changes -- Expanding the Convergence of Interests and Building A Community of Shared Future." This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Understanding China Conference, which has developed into a major platform for the world to gain insight into China's development strategies.

Zheng Bijian, founding chairman of the China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy, noted in his speech that "It has been 10 years since the founding of the Understanding China Conference. In the past 10 years, we have witnessed the rapid development of China and experienced the changes in the world."

Many experts have reached the consensus that there is an "understanding deficit" between different countries and different civilizations, which is not conducive to mutual trust. If through the decade-long efforts, the world can gain a better understanding of China and the Communist Party of China and if China can better understand the world and the unprecedented global changes, then the conference has achieved its goals, Zheng stressed.

"Through face-to-face communication, more wisdom can be shared. Through heart-to-heart communication, a broader consensus can be gathered. More friends are welcome to actively participate in understanding China and convey the true China to the world, and let the world understand China better," said Sun Weidong, vice minister of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, during his speech at the opening ceremony.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1302893.shtml>

People Daily

Pakistani student feels charm of AI diagnosis, TCM integration

NANCHANG, Dec. 2 (Xinhua) -- It is the seventh year that 27-year-old Fahad Kabeer studying traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in Jiangxi University of Chinese Medicine, the only university in east China's Jiangxi Province that provides TCM education for international students.

He was very excited to experience how modern technology helps traditional medicine become more "intelligent" during an exhibition in 2023 Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Traditional Medicine which opened on Thursday in Jiangxi, and that has greatly changed his former impression on TCM.

Putting his face into the device and showing his tongue, an "artificial intelligence (AI) doctor" shaped like a capsule can proceed data analysis through his face and tongue images.

"This is just like to 'observe' in the traditional Chinese medicine," Kabeer said. "My pulse statistics can also be automatically collected through the pulse detector, with the support of massive big data uploaded, the 'AI doctor' can help for better diagnosis and treatment."

After the prescription is issued, it only takes 20 seconds for the smart devices to dispense medicines, and the auto-decoction machine would help the patients in decocting the herbal medicines in an efficient and scientific manner, ensuring a better curative effect.

As the saying goes, good medicine depends on good materials. But how can such an "unmanned" system ensure the quality of medicinal materials? Zeng Ji from the Digital TCM Industry Innovation Exhibition Center at TCM Sci-Tech Innovation City in Ganjiang New Area, explained that the source of authentic medicinal materials can be traced through the digital management platform.

"The medicinal materials prescribed by doctors can be seen in real time through the screen, and the monitored statistics of the soil, water source, and atmospheric environment where the herbs growing can be clearly indicated, so that the quality and security of medicinal materials can be strictly controlled," Zeng said.

"With the help of modern technology, traditional medicine will become more 'intelligent.' While experiencing an efficient and convenient medical treatment, the tracing system will guarantee the security of medicinal materials," said Kabeer.

Over the years, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has provided an important platform, which continuously promotes TCM to the world.

Rahman Shah, deputy secretary of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination in Pakistan, noted that China and Pakistan had broad prospects for cooperation in the field of traditional medicine.

The official believes that China is heading in the field of traditional medicine education, and more and more Pakistani students will come to China to learn TCM in the future.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1202/c90000-20105168.html>

Xinhuanet News

Pakistani engineers from CPEC transmission project receive training in China, enhance technical skills

by Ali Jaswal, Wang Huan, Zhu Xiaoguang

ISLAMABAD/JINAN, Dec. 2 (Xinhua) -- Muhammad Talha is one of 11 Pakistani engineers who have recently attended a technical training program in China's State Grid technical college of Tai'an city in east China's Shandong province.

Talha is serving as a supervisor of a converter station at ± 660 kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The training program focused on skill development as well as exploring Chinese culture and society.

"I am really happy in China with my team for our training. It has been a great experience for me to embrace Chinese culture and of course, learn technical knowledge from the best professionals at the college," he told Xinhua recently while expressing excitement about his first trip to China.

The training program, which started in October, comprised around 47 professional courses, including converter station equipment inspection, direct current power adjustment, and operation and maintenance of converter station, in order to help them enhance techniques of HVDC operation at Matiari-Lahore project.

This was Pakistan's first HVDC transmission project funded, constructed and operated by the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) under the CPEC framework. The project was officially put into commercial operation in September 2021. It has the maximum capacity to transmit electricity of 35 billion kilowatt-hours annually.

"With the help of Chinese technology and equipment in this project, power loss of the 886 km-long transmission line has been reduced greatly," said Talha.

As the Karot Hydropower project, Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project and some other power projects under the CPEC have become operational, the Matiari-Lahore

HVDC project is now playing a more critical role and is going to take on a large proportion of Pakistan's transmission capacity from south to north, he added.

Besides the hectic technical training, the participants have also visited some ultra-high voltage (UHV) converter stations in cities including Qingdao, Jinan and Linyi in the province, providing them with the opportunity to closely learn about the world-leading Chinese UHV technology.

"I visited Yinan converter station in Linyi city and Shandong provincial dispatch center. I have realized that China's power construction achievements are very impressive, and Pakistan can learn a lot from China," said Talha.

Rana Shaheer Mehmood, a supervisor of the converter station of the project, said that the technical learning, especially through this program, allowed Pakistani engineers to gain not only knowledge but also experience that China has had in the field of HVDC.

"With continued cooperation, the CPEC is going to further strengthen the deep-bonded relationship of the two countries and would open the door for a brighter future for Pakistan," he said.

Liu Hao, a lecturer in the training program and also a member of the first batch of operation and maintenance personnel at the project, said that since June 2020, the SGCC has trained more than 120 technical personnel of direct current transmission for Pakistan through online or on-site training.

He added that Pakistani engineers have been able to independently undertake around 173 types of HVDC transmission operations, becoming a major force for operation and maintenance at the project.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation and now entering a new stage of high-quality development, expanding cooperation in science and technology, agriculture and people's livelihood.

"I see the CPEC a significant and promising venture for China and Pakistan, and it holds the potential to boost economic development, job creation, and enhance connectivity in the region," said Talha, pledging that he will use his knowledge in work and train other Pakistani engineers for better operation of the grid in the country.

<https://english.news.cn/20231202/0b01dd50f3e84302bdea0fb74698b08a/c.html>

GLOBALink | CPEC hydropower project benefits socio-economic development in Pakistan

The Suki Kinari Hydropower project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has benefited local socio-economic development. Upon completion, it will produce safe and clean energy, boosting Pakistan's green development.

<https://english.news.cn/20231202/3d4ec3829ad34d8e9f06d86795ed83f3/c.html>

December 03, 2023

Global Times News

Understanding China Conference addresses understanding deficit, calls for correcting misperception toward China

Chinese modernization entirely different from Western path, centered on peaceful development, benefits the world

By Ma Ruiqian, Bi Mengying in Guangzhou and Chen Qingqing in Beijing

The 2023 Understanding China Conference (Guangzhou), which concluded on Sunday, has become a major platform to address a significant "understanding deficit" between different countries and civilizations and to help fostering mutual trust.

As the key to understanding China is understanding Chinese modernization, which is different from Western modernization, a number of attendees to the conference told the Global Times that it's significant to promote and increase the understanding between China and the people around the world, especially when the US' and Western media have not only been misleading the public on China but also deliberately orchestrating and engineering hostility that has been deepening the understanding deficit.

The three-day conference, attracting 70 international guests from more than 30 countries and regions, kicked off under the theme of "China's New Endeavors amid Unprecedented Global Changes -- Expanding the Convergence of Interests and Building a Community of Shared Future" on Friday.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Understanding China Conference, which has developed into a major platform for the world to gain insight into China's development strategies.

President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the conference on Saturday, saying that "to understand China, the key lies in understanding Chinese modernization."

China is advancing the noble cause of building a great country and national rejuvenation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, Xi said, noting that China's future is closely linked with the future of humanity.

"The Understanding China Conference celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Over the past decade, we have witnessed the rapid development of China amid global changes. Knowledgeable individuals in China and worldwide have increasingly recognized a significant 'understanding deficit' between different countries and civilizations, and this deficit has adverse effects on fostering mutual trust," said Zheng Bijian, founding chairman of the China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy.

Zheng noted that the conference has consistently upheld the principle of three understandings - understanding China, understanding the world, and understanding the changes of the century.

Chinese modernization in focus

"I think one of the characteristics of Chinese modernization, which is profoundly different from Western modernization, is that while Western modernization was really built on exploiting the rest of the world through colonialism, Chinese modernization, as a developing country, builds a very close and constructive relationship with the developing world," Martin Jacques, Senior Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Studies at Cambridge University, told the Global Times during the conference.

Chinese modernization is actually a gift...that benefits the developing world, where the great majority of the world's population lives, whereas Western modernization was really about preventing and suppressing, Jacques said.

A key message delivered by Xi's congratulatory letter is the importance of deepening mutual understanding and jointly addressing global challenges, demonstrating China's determination and actions in expanding high-level openness. It also expounded on the essence of Chinese modernization that is modernization based on the peaceful development, seeking its own development while firmly maintaining world peace, and in turn, using its development to better uphold global peace and development, observers said.

We are seeing the world today with two different parts, two different narratives and two different world views, Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman of the Pakistani Senate's Defense Committee and Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, told the Global Times during the conference.

"One has been presented by the US and Western countries, which is security centered, which is military dominated with talks of conflicts, with talks of confrontation," he said, noting that in China the world view is about connectivity, cooperation and inclusive.

China's approach to modernization, in terms of its own people, centers on shared development, some attendees to the conference said.

"China doesn't have an exploited working-class enduring poverty to enrich a small elite. Chinese modernization is about shared development, about everybody rising," David Ferguson, Honorary Chief English Editor of Foreign Languages Press, told the Global Times during the conference.

It is not about exploiting other countries; it is about helping other countries to develop through things like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "The BRI operates on a win-win approach, which says we've been successful in our development, and we can help you to be successful in your development, and your success can be feedback to us," Ferguson said.

China-US ties in focus

During the conference, some discussions were focused on the relations between China and the West, especially the China-US relations following the high-stakes meeting between the heads of state of the two countries in mid-November in San Francisco.

"For me the closed-door dialogues were the most substantive and impactful," Bert Hofman, director of the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, who attended the conference for the first time, told the Global Times on Sunday.

"I attended both the China-Europe and the China-US dialogue, and in both a frank exchange of view, deep expertise, and mutual empathy and understanding resulted in excellent discussions and several concrete options to pursue in order to improve relationships among major powers," Hofman said.

Cui Tiankai, former Chinese ambassador to the US, said at the conference on Saturday that understanding involves addressing issues of perception. Some of the current narratives about China in the world, especially in some Western countries, are misunderstandings or intentional distortions. These misrepresentations hinder people's accurate recognition of China's development strategies and domestic and foreign policies, Cui said.

There are four types of misrepresentations including China's strategic intention in the world, China's multilateral diplomatic policies, the Taiwan question and our diplomatic styles, Cui said, who also quoted former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, calling China and the US to make joint efforts and find the right way of co-existence for the world's development.

"The recent San Francisco meeting was a sort of a good stop to the presence of deterioration which had been pretty headlong. However, maybe it can stabilize a bit, but there is still a long way from having a really serious relationship," Jacques told the Global Times.

However, some experts believe that it's difficult to address the understanding deficit between the US and China, especially when the US is deliberately creating and orchestrating hostility toward China among American people.

"The key action China can take in response is to recognize that the political and media audience in the US is not listening," Ferguson said, suggesting that China should shift its focus to engage with a more receptive audience - ordinary people in the US.

"China talks too much to an abstract and general American. China needs to talk to ordinary people, engaging with them on a human level by telling them stories and by explaining to the ordinary people in the US that China isn't their enemy," he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1302930.shtml>

December 04, 2023

Global Times News

Chinese modernization a gift that benefits the developing world

Editor's note:

The Understanding China Conference was held in Guangzhou from Friday to Sunday. During the conference, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter, in which he stated "to understand China, the key lies in understanding Chinese modernization." Through the lens of participating foreign pundits, we examine the connotation and significance of Chinese modernization.

In a conversation with Global Times (GT) reporter Ma Ruiqian, Zafar Uddin Mahmood (Mahmood), former special Pakistani envoy for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, David Ferguson (Ferguson), honorary chief English editor of Foreign Languages

Press, Martin Jacques (Jacques), a visiting professor at the Institute of Modern International Relations at Tsinghua University and a senior fellow at the China Institute, Fudan University, Essam Sharaf (Sharaf), former prime minister of Egypt, and Mushahid Hussain Syed (Syed), chairman of the Pakistani Senate's Defense Committee and chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, shared their views on how to understand China as well as Chinese modernization.

GT: How do you interpret "to understand China, the key lies in understanding Chinese modernization?"

Mahmood: President Xi's letter once again emphasizes the significance he places on the idea of understanding China and underscores his desire to further promote this understanding. Chinese modernization needs to be conveyed to the world. Chinese modernization is unbelievable. However, so many people don't believe it because they lack knowledge about it. Therefore, it is essential to make Chinese modernization credible by telling them the stories of contemporary China, rather than solely focusing on its historical aspects from thousands of years ago.

Jacques: The modernization process in China is highly significant and a central focus for China and our time. It has entered a new and distinctive phase that goes beyond merely catching up with other countries. I believe that understanding China is bigger than understanding Chinese modernization. China is deeply rooted in historical characteristics, notably being a civilization state, which has profoundly shaped its socio-economic features over an extended historical period. For instance, the relationship between the state and society in China differs significantly from that in nation-states like the US, the UK, or France. Therefore, understanding China means understanding a lot of things, and it has to be rooted in an understanding of the fundamental historical features of China.

GT: What do you think are the characteristics of Chinese modernization?

Sharaf: Chinese modernization is a miracle, achieving remarkable accomplishments in a short period. This development has not only brought significant changes to the Chinese people but has also had a profound impact on the development of other countries. This miracle is unparalleled and occurred under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The CPC's leadership has been a tremendous driving force for China's economic development. The Party has demonstrated its ability to grasp the whole situation and control the development of the whole of China during a time of unprecedented changes. Under its leadership, China has not only created opportunities for its own people but has also offered the world and the era extensive prospects for development and cooperation on a deep level.

Syed: Currently, there are two distinct narratives and worldviews prevailing in the world. One narrative, championed by the US and other Western countries, emphasizes security, military dominance, and discussions of conflicts and confrontation. On the other hand, China is promoting a vision of modernization that differs from what the US is pursuing, and this vision is widely accepted and supported by the Global South. China's worldview is characterized by connectivity, cooperation, and inclusivity. It is more about respect for diversity and equality, guided by the principles of peaceful coexistence and collaboration. In China's path to modernization, everybody gains.

Mahmood: Chinese modernization is the shared prosperity of humanity. The people across the world will benefit from such development, which brings peace to the world. You can see the benefit of modernization and prosperity all over China, and I think the Chinese government and the Chinese leadership want to take this prosperity to the people of the world.

Ferguson: I believe the primary characteristic of Chinese modernization is that it is different from Western modernization. Western modernization, in my view, was built on what I refer to as three exploitations: the exploitation of the poor within their own countries, the exploitation of other countries through colonialism, and the outright looting and invasion along with the exploitation of the environment. Chinese modernization, on the other hand, doesn't follow the same path.

China's approach to modernization, in terms of its own people, centers on shared development. Unlike Western countries, China doesn't have an exploited working class enduring poverty to enrich a small elite. Chinese modernization is about shared development, about everybody rising. It is not about exploiting other countries; it is about helping other countries to develop through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI operates on a win-win approach, which means we've been successful in our development, we can help you to be successful in your development, and your success can be a feedback to us.

Chinese modernization recognizes that economic development alone cannot occur without considering its impact on a deteriorating and wounded environment. Over the last decades, China has been engaged in a modernization process that encompasses economic development while also incorporating social and environmental considerations.

Jacques: I think one of the characteristics of Chinese modernization, which is profoundly different from Western modernization, is that while Western modernization was really built on exploiting the rest of the world through colonialism, Chinese modernization builds a very close and constructive relationship with the developing world. Chinese modernization is actually a gift that benefits the developing world, where the great majority of the world's population lives, whereas Western modernization was really about suppressing.

GT: Faced with the growing Cold War mentality, what should China do to help the world better understand China as well as Chinese modernization and reduce understanding deficit?

Mahmood: The reform and opening-up in China have brought significant changes to the lives of ordinary people, making China a prominent story worldwide. However, there are widespread misperceptions and misunderstandings about China. It is not the people who are misinformed; rather, it is the media which is diverting them in the wrong direction and not telling them the real story. So it is crucial to tell the world what the real China is.

Conferences like "Understanding China" hold great significance as they play a crucial role in promoting and enhancing understanding between China and people worldwide. Given the rapid and substantial changes occurring in China, it becomes essential to portray these transformations accurately and realistically. Every time we attend this conference, we gain a lot. We can see many new changes in China, which further deepens our understanding of China across aspects. And if we understand it clearly, we will be able to go back to our own country and promote it to the people of our country.

Ferguson: The first and the most important thing to address understanding deficit is to stop misunderstanding. Misunderstanding is caused by a lack of information or inaccurate information. And the problem with misunderstanding can be addressed by rational means by giving more accurate information. The problem with the US is not misunderstanding; it's a deliberately created, orchestrated, engineered hostility that operates at a fundamentally emotional level. What China needs to do is find a way of engaging with people on the same emotional level that the problem has been created.

China needs to recognize that the political and media audience in the US is not listening. Instead of attempting to address an unresponsive audience, China should shift its focus to engage with a more receptive audience - ordinary people in the US. China needs to talk to ordinary people in the US, engaging with them on a human level by telling them stories and explaining to them that China is not their enemy.

What Chinese modernization is looking for are the same things that the ordinary Americans are looking for: a roof over our heads, food on the table, clothes on our backs, schools for our kids, safe streets, and a healthy environment. China is not trying to take these things away from others. China wants to find a way of working together so that we can all enjoy these outcomes.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1302996.shtml>

December 05, 2023

Global Times News

China-aided hospital, seawater desalination plant in Pakistan are completed

Construction of the Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital and China-aided Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant were completed on Monday. The two projects are important infrastructure projects within the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to China Media Group, the desalination plant in Gwadar in Balochistan province covers an area of about 3,700 square meters, with a daily output of 5,000 tons of fresh water, which will satisfy the water demand of tens of thousands of local residents in the area.

As another project completed in Pakistan, the Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital project expanded the existing hospital into a 150-bed general hospital. After the project is put into operation, the daily consultation capacity can reach 900 people, which can provide better medical care for the residents in the rapidly developing Gwadar region.

During the completion ceremony, Pakistani Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that China and Pakistan enjoy "iron-clad friendship" and the two are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. The path of Chinese modernization is of great significance and impact not only for China but also for the world, Kakar noted.

Within the framework of the CPEC, China has invested a lot in Gwadar Port and the new international airport at Gwadar Port will soon come into operation. China has built a large

number of highways in Gwadar, which provide great convenience to local residents, according to Kakar.

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said during the ceremony that after 10 years of unremitting efforts, the construction and operation of Gwadar Port has made great progress. In the first half of this year, the port's cargo throughput reached 1.6 times of last year's total, and it has attracted 46 enterprises to register there.

In the future, China will increase its investment in Balochistan province, and continue to enhance local residents' understanding of China, Jiang noted.

The Pakistani leader urged the people of Balochistan, particularly young people to avail the historic opportunity of development in their province as "the detractors of the CPEC were about to lose their relevance" soon, according to a report on the CPEC official website. Kakar said the journey of CPEC would move forward, while not backward, so joining the development course would be a prudent decision. "Trade worth \$36 trillion was expected to take place in and around China in the near future, therefore it was a must to join the journey through skill-development," he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1303065.shtml>

Every person a note in symphony of BRI

By Han Fei

As a reflection of the times, numerous documentary series about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have emerged this year, celebrating the BRI's 10th anniversary.

Among them, a large-scale documentary series titled *The Call of the Silk Road*, consisting of 15 episodes, including 14 country-specific episodes and a 60-minute summary episode titled "Sharing the Future," has been launched.

Using a perspective filled with humanistic care, the series captures the stories of 14 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America - Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Greece, Cambodia, Tanzania, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Brazil, the UAE, Egypt, Pakistan, Senegal, Hungary and Iran - as well as the lives and destinies of people of these countries changed by the BRI.

The program, presented in multiple languages such as Chinese, Arabic, Russian, and Spanish, is being broadcast worldwide, reaching a potential overseas audience of over 400 million viewers.

The Call of the Silk Road tells the stories of the BRI with a narrative focused on development. It aggregates vivid examples on a country-by-country basis, adhering to a "people-centered" philosophy, focusing on ordinary individuals, and embodying the idea of a "community with a shared future for mankind."

Over the past decade, the BRI has blossomed into a globally acclaimed public good and a collaborative platform for international cooperation. This success is inseparable from collaboration between countries and cooperation among people. The narrative of the series focuses on the core theme of "the modernization of the Silk Road," often unfolding within the framework of "challenge-solution."

The documentary does not shy away from addressing developmental issues such as the digital divide and ecological conservation. It even responds to stigmatizing labels like "debt trap."

It adopts a constructive approach to storytelling, showcasing initiatives like the construction of Indonesia's digital Silk Road and Egypt's new capital's CBD. It incorporates Chinese solutions and wisdom in a flexible manner. The documentary embeds the spirit of inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, allowing the audience to experience the true essence of the Silk Road spirit.

The series unfolds on a country-by-country basis for the first 14 episodes. The BRI involves numerous countries and regions with diverse economic development, social cultures, religious beliefs, and local customs.

By implementing a strategy of localized and differentiated storytelling, the series roots itself in each country to discover stories, respectfully show their cultural beliefs, address their concerns, and focus on shared values among diverse cultures. The aim is to find common ground in the narrative of the BRI, allowing for precise communication and reaching the audience accurately, thereby eliciting empathy.

How has China's proposal of the BRI changed the lives of hundreds of millions of ordinary people worldwide? Over the past decade, what roles have the people along the Belt and Road played?

This series focuses on ordinary individuals, who form the main content of the film. There are stories of a female truck driver raising a child on her own, a unicorn entrepreneur learning from Chinese experiences, a port worker cultivating world champions and generations of farmers growing grapes.

These stories of ordinary people are drawn from local contexts and seamlessly integrated into the era's tide of jointly building the Belt and Road, resonating with each other.

The documentary uses the word "call" to convey the idea that the joint construction of the BRI is a harmonious collaboration, representing a shared destiny.

The concluding episode portrays the common aspirations of people in the countries, conveying a belief in a shared future.

In addition to the main series, this series also produced five short videos under the theme "Together." These videos, featuring stories of a Chinese-Indonesian coffee entrepreneur, a Senegalese wrestler, an Egyptian photographer, a Greek world champion father-daughter duo, and a Cambodian lion-fighting girl, were broadcast on multiple international media outlets, including CNN.

The diverse formats of micro, short, and long videos, and even the active exploration of the "shooting and broadcasting" model, align with the current trends in media dissemination in the era of integrated media.

In the final analysis, the BRI, from inception to implementation, has evolved into a collaborative journey toward shared development and mutual prosperity. Consequently, the

core narrative of the BRI is inherently a development narrative. Spanning the vast expanses of Asia, Europe, and Africa, the visual construction of the Belt and Road narrative can be achieved by crafting authentic and diverse country-specific documentaries. These documentaries, rich in local flavor and shared values, embrace both differences and commonalities, respecting diversity while showcasing distinctive features, ultimately seeking a shared understanding.

The development and progress fostered by the BRI are fundamentally rooted in people.

The dreams, hopes, struggles, and achievements of individuals along the Silk Road are brought to life in the documentary series.

Each individual story, a note in the grand symphony, resonates with the overreaching theme of shared future, creating a harmonious melody that echoes across the Silk Road.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1303097.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

China-donated seawater desalination plant to resolve water shortage in Pakistan's Gwadar: PM

GWADAR, Pakistan, Dec. 5 (Xinhua) -- The China-donated seawater desalination plant will resolve the water shortage in Gwadar district of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, which has been the biggest problem in the area for many years, Pakistani Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar has said.

The water shortage has been the largest hurdle in the development of Gwadar district, the prime minister said on Monday while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the China-aided desalination project and upgrade of the Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar.

He said there were many problems in the area related to the lack of drinking water, adding that Gwadar is of central importance to Balochistan.

The desalination plant will provide 5,000 tons per day of potable water.

Additionally, the China-donated Pak-China Friendship Hospital has been upgraded from having 50 beds to 150 beds with necessary medical equipment, while the hospital has emergency department, outpatient department, inpatient department, medical technology department, and administration and supporting system.

Pakistan and China should work together to build Gwadar into a high-quality port, regional trade center and connectivity hub, the prime minister added.

On the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners.

Both countries have actively promoted the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and worked hard to bring the benefits of the CPEC development to all the people of Pakistan, the ambassador said, adding that the Gwadar port has made great progress in its construction and operation as a leading project of the CPEC.

China is willing to work with Pakistan to coordinate on security and development and advance the high-quality construction of the CPEC, the Chinese envoy said.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20231206/0ac9256d474c4e1cb7ffcb301cfeaa01/c.html>

December 06, 2023

People Daily News

China-donated seawater desalination plant to resolve water shortage in Pakistan's Gwadar: PM

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Pakistan and China should work together to build Gwadar into a high-quality port, regional trade center and connectivity hub, the prime minister added. On the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Both countries have actively promoted the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and worked hard to bring the benefits of the CPEC development to all the people of Pakistan, the ambassador said, adding that the Gwadar port has made great progress in its construction and operation as a leading project of the CPEC. China is willing to work with Pakistan to coordinate on security and development and advance the high-quality construction of the CPEC, the Chinese envoy said. Launched in 2013, the CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation. <http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1206/c90000-20106633.html>

Xinhuanet News

Interview: World Media Summit essential for media cooperation, says Pakistani media head

by Jamil Bhatti

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 6 (Xinhua) -- The World Media Summit (WMS) is an instrumental platform in addressing key media issues and strengthening media cooperation, said Muhammad Asim Khichi, managing director of the Associated Press of Pakistan.

"I hope that the summit would provide opportunities for participants to collaborate in fields such as cultural exchanges, content sharing, language support, joint initiatives, technology transfer, and joint coverage of global issues," Khichi told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"The summit is a valuable platform for media organizations to learn from each other, embrace opportunities, and tackle challenges in the ever-evolving media sector," said Khichi.

Pakistan's state news agency and Xinhua have collaboration potential in amplifying the voices for shared progress and win-win cooperation, said Khichi, adding that such cooperation could provide a broader platform for their perspectives and promote a more inclusive global discourse.

Khichi highlighted the close relationship between the two media agencies, which started in 1964 as a successful example of media cooperation and expressed confidence that the WMS would solidify the partnership and pave the way for new initiatives.

Recognizing the growing influence of media, particularly digital and social media, he stressed the need for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China in countering fake news.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20231206/bac9514c7a9a4e1e063950dee96cac/c.html>

December 07, 2023

People Daily News

Chinese modernization inspiring for world, say participants at World Media Summit

Coming from various regions including the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Europe, the participants agree that the best way to know China's development is to "see with your own eyes."

GUANGZHOU, Dec. 7 (Xinhua) -- Participants at the ongoing fifth World Media Summit in the Chinese cities of Guangzhou and Kunming shared their insights about Chinese modernization, saying it is inspiring for the world.

The summit provides them with an opportunity to personally experience China's approach to modernization, its people-centered philosophy and its emphasis on innovation, they said.

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE

Coming from various regions including the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Europe, the participants agree that the best way to know China's development is to "see with your own eyes."

Mohamad Malli, press center manager of the Lebanese Ministry of Information, said that he used to know China from reading as a poor country with poverty-stricken people.

"But when I come and see with my own eyes, I find you have clean and good nature, polite and educated people," he said.

General manager of Grupo Multimedios (Mexico) Guillermo Franco Gallegos has a similar view, saying that people will know whether the China they watched on TV, read in the newspaper, or heard from others is true after coming to see it by themselves.

"If I didn't come here, I wouldn't know that it is a great civilization," said Peter Tata Mabu, deputy managing editor of Cameroon News and Publishing Corporation.

Janna Tolstikova, CEO of TV BRICS, said, "This kind of events (the fifth World Media Summit) brings opportunities for participant to see with their own eyes what's happening here."

PEOPLE-CENTERED

A key hallmark of Chinese modernization is its commitment to people-centered development, prioritizing the well-being, empowerment and quality of life for its citizens.

"The key element of that modernization in China is what can be referred to as a people-centered modernization, people-centered development," said Mark Levine, an American professor at the Minzu University of China.

The economy and societal development are important, but it all starts with improving the lives and living conditions of Chinese people, Levine said.

Martin Jacques, a renowned British scholar, said that China's modernization, which is people-oriented, "seeks to humanize modernity, to put people's needs and interests before narrow material gain, to prioritize people's spiritual needs above those of narrow consumerism."

"The prosperity of a society is inseparable from the well-being of its people which is the most crucial issue," said Zafar Uddin Mahmood, president of the Understanding China Forum, a Pakistan-based think tank.

The fact that China has nearly lifted 800 million rural individuals out of poverty serves as the best proof of the people-centered philosophy of Chinese modernization. And now, China is embarking on a new journey towards constructing a modern socialist country.

INNOVATION-DRIVEN

Citing the development of trains, construction, and autonomous vehicles, Chun Wai Wong, chairman of the Malaysian National News Agency, said Chinese modernization is advancing tremendously.

"Every time I come to China, it's an eye-opener for me," he said.

The reason why China can modernize at such a fast pace is that the country sticks to an innovation-driven strategy. The tour to Huawei village and Tencent headquarters on the sidelines of the summit organized by Xinhua has left a profound impression on the participants.

Jose Juan Sanchez, chief of Brazil's financial and agricultural information provider CMA Group, said that he was deeply impressed by the rapid pace of China's technological development and its substantial support for talent.

Echoing Sanchez, Khalid Mubarak SH S Al-Shafi, editor-in-chief of The Peninsula Newspaper, said, "This is my second visit to China, and I'm amazed by the technological advancement and significant development."

Roy Iwan Lie-Atjam, an editor of Diplomat Magazine, said it's eye-opening for him to see so many technological advances.

The veteran editor from the Netherlands said he would tell the readers that "we had a completely wrong view about China."

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1207/c90000-20107308.html>

December 08, 2023

People Daily News

Full text: For a better world-- looking at the past decade of jointly pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative from a human rights perspective

BEIJING, Dec. 7 (Xinhua) -- China Foundation for Human Rights Development and New China Research, the think tank under Xinhua issued on Thursday a report titled "For a Better World -- Looking at the Past Decade of Jointly Pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative from a Human Rights Perspective."

Following is the full text of the report:

For a Better World

-- Looking at the past decade of jointly pursuing the 'Belt and Road' Initiative from a human rights perspective.

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Introduction

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the joint construction of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road," known as the "Belt and Road" Initiative (BRI). The BRI aims to enhance all-dimensional and multi-tiered exchanges and cooperation among relevant countries, fully tap into and leverage each country's development potential and comparative strengths, and create a community of shared interests, shared responsibility, and shared destiny. It seeks to promote development through cooperation and

human rights through development to advance the joint development and prosperity of partner countries and enhance the well-being of all humanity.

Over the past decade, as a crucial practical platform for building a community with a shared future for humanity, the BRI has attracted participation from more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations. It has driven investment of nearly one trillion dollars, generated a multitude of cooperative projects, created numerous job opportunities for partner countries, and helped lift thousands upon thousands of people out of poverty. Over the past decade, the BRI has become a highly popular international public good, a global cooperation platform, and a path to happiness, aiding partner countries in promoting human rights protection and achieving a better life.

Promoting and safeguarding human rights is a common cause for all of humanity. Today, in the 21st century, hunger, poverty, conflicts, and environmental pollution persist while the development gap continues to widen. Many countries still face practical challenges like insufficient development momentum, relatively low overall development performance, and outdated infrastructure, which challenge the development of human rights and global human rights governance. The vision of common development and actual achievements embodied in the "Belt and Road's" cooperative construction have contributed to China's strength in advancing the global human rights cause and offered Chinese wisdom for improving global human rights governance.

Chapter 1: Initiatives Aiming to Achieve Common Development and Promote the Enjoyment of Human Rights for All

Development is the eternal pursuit of human society. Only through development can we address the root causes of conflicts, safeguard the people's fundamental rights, and meet their aspirations for a better life. Developing countries have put forth the concept of the right to development to seek equal and fair development opportunities, and the right to development has become a universally recognized fundamental human right in the international community.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes that "everyone... has the right to enjoy the realization of all economic, social and cultural rights necessary for his dignity and the free development of his personality." In 1986, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right to Development, clearly proclaiming that the right to development is an inalienable human right, stating that "everyone and all peoples have the right to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized." In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, reiterating that the right to development is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. In 2015, the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, outlining a concrete pathway for implementing the right to development.

The cooperative construction of the "Belt and Road" Initiative proposed by China conforms to the historical trend of economic globalization, the requirements of the times for the

transformation of the global governance system, and the strong desire of people of partner countries to live a better life. It is an initiative for common development and for promoting and protecting human rights.

1. Jointly pursuing the "Belt and Road" Initiative provides new paths and approaches to achieve the right to development

In today's era, humanity faces prominent issues of unbalanced, inadequate, and unsustainable development and many problems like hunger, poverty, war, terrorism, environmental pollution, and climate change, which pose severe challenges to realizing the right to development. How do we tackle these thorny questions? Countries worldwide and the international community have been exploring ideas to answer the question. China has put forward the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity, using the joint pursuit of the BRI as a practical platform to promote the common development of all countries to uplift the living standard of their people. The concept demonstrates a major country's responsibility for addressing global challenges and advancing the cause of human rights worldwide.

Joint pursuit of the BRI is a development initiative that provides realistic paths and feasible plans for promoting the realization of the right to development. It takes the "hard connectivity" in infrastructure as an important direction, "soft connectivity" in rules and standards as an essential support, and "heart connectivity" with the people of the partner countries as a vital foundation. We will continue consolidating the political foundation of cooperative construction of the BRI to promote coordinated development among partner countries by creating synergy for policy communication and planning connectivity through policy coordination. Guided by major projects and critical undertakings, we will continue improving the jointly built BRI's infrastructure network through facility connectivity. We will continue unleashing the vitality of mutually beneficial cooperation by promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation through unimpeded multilateral trade. We will continue enhancing the jointly built BRI's diversified investment and financing system to further collaborate in the financial sector through financial connectivity. We will make the BRI's cooperative construction better benefit the people of all countries and achieve people-to-people connectivity by building friendly bridges among nations worldwide.

The joint pursuit of the BRI is a global public good offered by China to the international community, characterized by Eastern wisdom and conducive to achieving common development. This initiative advocates the principles of consultation, cooperation, and shared benefits, aiming to achieve complementarity and mutual benefit. It has opened up new opportunities for global economic growth, established new platforms for international trade and investment, expanded new practices for improving global economic governance, and made new contributions to enhancing the well-being of people in all countries, thus becoming a path of prosperity for the common development of all nations.

2. Jointly pursuing the "Belt and Road" Initiative provides a practical model for promoting development through cooperation and advancing human rights through development

The joint pursuit of the BRI embodies people's aspirations for peace and tranquility, their pursuit of common development, their longing for a better life, and their desire for cultural exchange. It is committed to ensuring that people from partner countries can live a life free from deprivation, enjoy development, and have dignity. In essence, this aligns perfectly with the unwavering pursuit of respecting and protecting human rights by people worldwide.

The cooperative construction of the BRI aims to promote development through cooperation. It aligns with the development and cooperation plans of international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, ASEAN, the African Union, the European Union, the Eurasian Economic Union, and various countries' development strategies. It fosters extensive finance, trade, and investment cooperation by building upon infrastructure connectivity, effectively promoting common development. According to a World Bank research report, participation in the BRI is expected to increase trade among partner countries by 2.8% to 9.7%. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres believes that the cooperative construction of the BRI contributes to more balanced, inclusive, and harmonious development in economic globalization. It holds significant importance for addressing the many challenges facing the world today through international cooperation.

For the majority of countries, the most urgent and practical task is to eliminate hunger and poverty and accelerate economic development. Joint pursuit of the BRI promotes human rights through development, actively assisting underdeveloped countries in overcoming development bottlenecks such as infrastructure deficits, fostering the economic and social development of co-building nations, ensuring and improving people's livelihoods in the process of development, continually strengthening the foundation of human rights development, and thereby better protecting and promoting human rights.

3. Jointly pursuing the "Belt and Road" Initiative has contributed Chinese wisdom to advancing global human rights governance

Global human rights governance should adhere to the principle of democratic consultation. Promoting and protecting human rights is a universal endeavor that one or a few countries should not determine. The cooperative construction of the BRI fully respects all nations' sovereignty, security, development interests, and cultural traditions. It advocates mutual respect, inclusivity, exchange, and learning among various civilizations and countries. The initiative encourages engagement in development policy synergy and cooperative projects through voluntary participation, open communication, and seeking common ground while preserving differences and reaching consensus through negotiation. It reflects the idea that "international rules should be written together by all."

The principle of equal participation should be upheld in global human rights governance. Regardless of their size, strength, or wealth, all countries are equal members of the international community and can contribute wisdom and strength to improving global human rights governance. Joint pursuit of the BRI is not one country's solo performance but a symphony played by all partners. It emphasizes that all parties involved in jointly pursuing the BRI are equal participants, contributors, and beneficiaries and that they are also shared bearers of responsibilities and risks. It advocates for increased participation through various forms of cooperation, including bilateral, third-party market, and multilateral cooperation,

encouraging more countries and enterprises to engage in and profoundly and persistently advance the initiative. It aligns with the idea that "global affairs should be jointly handled by all."

The principle of win-win cooperation should be adhered to in global human rights governance. Faced with various uncertainties brought about by war conflicts, financial crises, anti-globalization trends, and sudden public health emergencies, the international community urgently needs to strengthen cooperation to address the grave challenges facing global human rights governance. Jointly pursuing the "Belt and Road" rejects zero-sum thinking and provides a sunshine road for China and partner countries to share opportunities and seek development together. Focusing on addressing issues such as development imbalances, governance challenges, the digital divide, and income disparities ensures more equal development opportunities by allowing development benefits to reach a broader population. It embodies the idea that "development benefits should be shared by all."

Chapter 2 Enhancing Dignity of Life: Promoting the Protection of the Right to Life for the People of the "Belt and Road" Partner Countries

The rights to subsistence and development are the primary, basic human rights. The BRI, through a number of cooperative projects, promotes the economic and social development of various countries, effectively improving people's basic living and healthcare conditions, increasing employment, and raising income levels, thereby better ensuring their right to sustenance.

1. Facilitating the satisfaction of basic life necessities

The Chinese see "food as an overriding priority." Hunger has long been one of the most severe problems facing the world. Amid slowing economic development and a deteriorating ecological environment, the global issue of hunger continues to be a grave problem. Over the past decade, many people in partner countries have solved the issues of hunger and drinking water safety by jointly pursuing the BRI. As a result, their fundamental living conditions have improved.

Agricultural cooperation is one of the critical areas of the cooperative construction of the "Belt and Road." Drawing upon its experience of development and poverty reduction, China has assisted partner countries in agricultural production, increasing their food production and creating conditions to alleviate hunger among local populations. China actively participates in global food and agricultural governance and has jointly released the "Vision and Action on Jointly Promoting Agricultural Cooperation on the Belt and Road" with relevant countries. China has signed over 100 agricultural and fishery cooperation documents with nearly 90 partner countries and international organizations. It has also established regional agricultural cooperation mechanisms, such as the "10+10" cooperation mechanism for Sino-African agricultural research institutions, actively promoting regional cooperation in food security.

Charles Ngendakumana, a farmer from the Bubanza Province, Burundi, went from not having enough to eat to providing his family with plenty of food and building a new house in just four years.

"Chinese experts taught me planting techniques, allowing me to have enough food to feed my children!" said Charles, a father of six. He started growing Chinese hybrid rice four years ago under Chinese experts' guidance. Today, the yield from his land has increased from less than 6 tons per hectare to 9 tons, and the cultivation area has expanded from half a hectare to five.

"As livelihood improved, his family has built a new house that stands out in the village. "Next, I plan to buy more land and a few more cows and add two new water pumps when the dry season comes," Charles envisions for the future.

The Ninga 4 Village, Commune of Gihanga, where Charles resides, is the first rice-based poverty reduction demonstration village established by a Chinese expert team in Burundi. Under the framework of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum and based on agreements between the governments of China and Burundi, China has implemented a high-level agricultural expert technical cooperation project in Burundi since August 2009. A total of five batches of 45 Chinese agricultural technology experts have been sent to the region to assist with aid tasks. They have successfully implemented several demonstration village projects on hybrid rice and poverty reduction. Chinese experts conducted in-depth field research and experiments, introducing various rice varieties suitable for local cultivation. They solved historical challenges in mountainous areas where rice crops suffered from reduced yields or even complete losses due to the disease of rice blast fungus (*Magnaporthe grisea*). They also achieved the localized cultivation of some rice varieties. The cultivation area of hybrid rice in Burundi has been continuously expanding, reaching 4,000 hectares by June 2023. Rice production has increased by 19,000 tons, and farmers' incomes have grown by 9.1 million US dollars. This progress contributes to the Burundian government's vision of "food for all and savings for every household."

As of 2021, China had sent more than 2,000 agricultural experts and technicians to more than 70 countries and regions, promoted and demonstrated more than 1,500 agricultural technologies in many countries, and helped projects increase production by 40% to 70% on average.

Water is the source of life, but residents' access to essential drinking water remains unsecured year-round in many regions worldwide, especially in arid areas. The Rural Well Project is one of the measures under the China-Africa 'Ten Major Cooperation Plans.' Senegal, located near the Sahara Desert, has vast central and eastern areas that are semi-desert zones, with temperatures reaching as high as 45°C during the dry season. In rural areas far from cities, villagers face significant challenges in basic drinking water. After implementing the Rural Well Project, financed by China, 251 wells will be sunk, and 1,800 kilometers of pipelines will be laid. This initiative will address the water needs of one-seventh of Senegal's population.

Touba Fall in the Diourbel Region was once such a water-scarce village. "Fetching water used to be very difficult for us. We had to walk 1.5 kilometers daily to a neighboring village to draw it from a well 25 meters deep. Sometimes, we had to line up from early morning till midnight. Many children in the village had to miss school," said Dioung, one of the villagers.

In 2018, when the Chinese companies' well-digging project team arrived at the village of Touba Fall, Dioung joined the team to work on sinking a well. After completing the well project, Dioung was hired as the well's coordinator, responsible for its maintenance. Dioung mentioned that now, water pipes have reached every household in the village, enabling the villagers to have access to clean water right in their homes. He said "it was unimaginable in the past."

While Dioung's wife was cooking with the water from the pipe system, a group of elementary school students walked by, chatting and laughing. Dioung remarked "now that we have water, the children can attend school regularly, and our lives have improved as well."

Macky Sall, president of Senegal, has repeatedly stated that the Rural Well Project is a flagship initiative under Senegal's Rural Development Urgent Plan. The well-sinking and water-supply project spans the country, holds significant importance, and will provide robust support for developing agriculture and rural areas in Senegal. "We are thankful that China has aligned its priorities with those of Senegal and provided comprehensive support to this project," he added.

2. Promoting the realization of the right to work

Employment is the cornerstone of people's livelihoods. The BRI, through a number of collaborative projects, has created more jobs and provided more vocational training and education opportunities for the people in partner countries, thereby improving their human resource situation. Chinese companies involved in the BRI fully ensure the rights of their local employees in terms of rest, holidays, healthcare, and more.

In the Smederevo Steel Plant in Serbia, over 5,000 employees found new job opportunities through their involvement in the BRI. Once known as "Serbia's pride," this plant had supported the livelihoods of one-fifth of the local population but faced difficulties due to intense international market competition and mismanagement. In April 2016, China's Hebei Iron and Steel Group acquired the steel plant and turned it around from losses to profits in a short period.

This "reborn" steel plant retained all its original employees, with only nine Chinese resident managers sent by the Chinese side. This approach earned the trust of the local workers and received full recognition from the Serbian government. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic stated that the Chinese company saved this nearly bankrupt steel plant and preserved all its jobs. Together with the cooperating businesses, this steel plant can provide 50,000 job opportunities, a significant number for Serbia.

The Chinese private company Asia Potassium International launched the "Asia Potassium International Smart Industry Park" project in Laos in 2022, contributing to advancing its industrialization and urbanization. It is expected to increase Laos' annual fiscal revenue by 320 million US dollars and generate employment for 30,000 to 50,000 people. Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone stated that this project is a model of win-win cooperation between the two countries, providing a strong impetus for Laos' economic and social development and bringing many benefits to the local people.

The China-Laos Railway is Laos' first modern railway, fulfilling the country's long-standing aspiration to transform from a "landlocked country" to a "land-linked country." It has not only promoted regional connectivity and mutual benefits but has also generated employment opportunities in Laos. From its commencement on December 3, 2021, to May 2023, the China-Laos Railway recruited over 3,500 Laotian employees and indirectly created more than 100,000 jobs in logistics, transportation, trade, and tourism. Thanks to this railway, an increasing number of young people from remote areas of Laos can step out of the mountains and embrace the world.

While creating job opportunities, Chinese companies also provide training and educational support to local employees, helping them enhance their skills and qualifications. In Greece, the COSCO Shipping Piraeus Port project launched the "Educational Assistance Fund" program in 2018, providing significant tuition support for employees pursuing further education while working. Antonis Apergis, the engineering department supervisor, is seeking a Master's in Business Administration with the program's assistance. He said "I am very pleased with the company's culture that prioritizes employees' well-being. The excellent working environment provided by the company and the support we receive have empowered us to tackle future challenges."

In Doha, Qatar, China Railway International Group, which built the World Cup main stadium, not only provides safe and sanitary working conditions for over 3,000 employees from 18 different countries but has also established a "gold-level" camp with a construction area of more than 50,000 square meters. This camp includes the amenities of prayer rooms, laundromats, sports facilities, and internet cafes. In addition, the company purchases various insurances for the employees, equips them with a dedicated medical team, and ensures they enjoy rights such as vacation time, social insurance, and fringe benefits.

3. Raising the income levels of residents

The BRI has created new development opportunities for partner countries to drive local industrial development, helping residents increase their income and lifting them out of poverty.

According to a research report by the World Bank, by 2030, the BRI is expected to lift 7.6 million people in partner countries out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty.

Cambodia actively participates in the BRI, and its "Five Pillar Strategy" aligns well with the initiative. In Preah Sihanouk province, as a model project for practical cooperation between China and Cambodia under the BRI, the thriving Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone has become the economic driver of the province's development. After years of continuous construction and development, the economic zone has attracted 175 companies, employing nearly 30,000 people. The annual import and export volume of enterprises in the special economic zone exceeds 2.4 billion US dollars, contributing more than 50% of the province's economic output.

With Sihanoukville's continual progress, many tourists and investors have come to Preach Sihanouk province, driving the development of the local tourism, service, and real estate

sectors, benefiting the local population directly. Currently, the per capita annual income in Preah Sihanoukville Province has reached 4,180 US dollars, ranking first among all the provinces in Cambodia and more than double the national average.

New Hope Egypt Limited Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a Chinese enterprise established in Egypt, with four feed companies and one poultry breeding company under its umbrella. The company has imported formulation technology, production management systems, and breeding service systems from China, sourcing high-quality raw materials globally. Through systematic capabilities in high-quality products, professional services, industry support, and financial assistance, it annually supports the local poultry farming industry with a production of 85 million broilers and increases poultry farmers' income by over 150 million RMB.

One "happiness fungus" plant leads to prosperity for thousands of families. In a mushroom cultivation workshop in the capital city of Kigali, Rwanda, workers carefully mix Juncao powder, cottonseed husks, lime powder, and water in the proper proportions. After sterilization and packaging, bagged mushroom culture dishes are ready. Emmanuel Ashimana, the operator of this workshop, used to work as a mechanic in a local sugar factory and was often concerned about his family's livelihood. However, with the guidance of Chinese experts, he mastered the mushroom substrate technology. In 2016, Ashimana founded this workshop, where the cultivated mushrooms are wholesaled to local vegetable markets, supermarkets, and restaurants and exported to neighboring countries like Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Using Juncao Technology to cultivate mushrooms is now a lucrative business in Rwanda. And it's helping people escape poverty," said Ashimana. "I have four children, and with the income generated from Juncao Technology, I can even save some money to expand my business further after covering my children's school fees and our living expenses. The Chinese Juncao Technology has benefited me and many others."

In Rwanda, over 35,000 farmers have received Juncao Technology-related training provided by Chinese experts, and more than 3,800 households, along with over 50 companies and cooperatives, are engaged in related industries. Currently, Chinese Juncao Technology has been extended to over 100 countries and regions worldwide, helping many farmers escape poverty. Amson Sibanda, Chief of the National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch in the Division for Inclusive Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, noted that Juncao Technology contributes to achieving various sustainable development goals, making it a priority project for the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund.

4. Improving healthcare conditions

China actively promotes the construction of a human health community and carries out a large number of medical assistance and related infrastructure projects in countries participating in the BRI, contributing to improving the level of local medical services and promoting the development of global health undertakings.

Over the past decade, China has continued to send medical teams to dozens of countries and regions around the world, including Africa and Asia, and has actively diagnosed and treated patients, winning widespread praise. Currently, Chinese foreign aid medical teams are still working at 115 medical points in 57 countries worldwide, nearly half of which are in remote areas with harsh living conditions.

Over the years, Chinese medical teams have achieved many "firsts" in the medical history of various African countries, such as the first hip replacement surgery, the first mitral valve separation surgery, the first hand-reattachment surgery, the first craniotomy for traumatic brain injury, and the first corneal transplant surgery. Their compassionate care and expertise have benefited numerous African patients, and the "Chinese Docs" have become synonymous with professionalism and trustworthiness.

Mamacherie comes from a remote mountain village in Lesotho, a country in southern Africa. She has been suffering from a "strange disease" for a long time: a massive lump in her upper and lower abdomen. Due to the scarcity of local medical resources and the complexity of her condition, although Mamacherie sought medical treatment everywhere, no hospital could treat her.

After many inquiries, Mamacherie heard that Chinese doctors working at Motebang Hospital in Northern Lesotho could help her. So, with the attitude of giving it a try, she walked two or three hours on the mountain road to the hospital. After careful examination by doctors from the Chinese medical team, Mamacherie's symptoms were diagnosed as "huge uterine fibroids combined with a huge hernia in the upper abdominal wall." After a detailed discussion and risk assessment, the medical team combined the two operations into a one-time hysterectomy and repair of the sizable abdominal wall hernia. Mamacherie was excited when she heard that Chinese doctors were willing and able to operate on her.

The entire surgery took approximately three hours, and the procedure went smoothly without complications. The patient's postoperative recovery was also very successful, and she could get out of bed and move around on the second day after surgery. Mamacherie, in her exhilaration after the successful surgery, exclaimed "thank you, Chinese doctors. Without your help, I would have never been able to escape the torment of this strange illness. You are my lifesavers!"

Chinese builders contribute to creating a robust health defense system in Belt and Road Initiative partner countries. In January 2023, Phase I of the Chinese-aided African Union Africa CDC Headquarters project was completed in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. After completion, it will become the first modern and well-equipped African CDC on the continent, offering office space and advanced laboratory facilities. Local resident Wakjira Totofa expressed that "Malaria has taken away the lives of my loved ones, so I have always feared diseases. When I heard about the completion of this project, my family and friends were all very excited. It will improve our medical conditions."

In the face of the century's worst pandemic, China is committed to unity and cooperation, joining hands with the world community in the fight against COVID-19. China has sent 38 batches of expert teams to 34 countries and provided over 2.2 billion vaccine doses to more

than 120 countries and international organizations, offering vital support to BRI partner countries in their fight against the pandemic. When Chinese medical expert teams arrived, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic greeted them at the airport, warmly kissing the five-star red flag. When Chinese-assisted COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Zimbabwe, President Emmerson Mnangagwa held a handover ceremony at the presidential palace.

Chapter 3: Improving the Quality of Life: Promoting the Realization of the Right to Development of the People in the "Belt and Road" Partner Countries

Through constructing various production and life infrastructures, the cooperative construction of the BRI promotes partner countries' economic and social development, helps meet their residents' basic needs, and advocates for broader cooperation in various fields. It encourages companies to fulfill their social responsibilities actively, assisting local communities in improving living conditions and realizing their rights to development in areas such as education, culture, and the environment.

1. Improving living conditions

Infrastructure development is a key focus of cooperatively building the "Belt and Road" with many collaborative projects providing various facilities and conveniences such as transportation, communication, and housing for local populations. These initiatives help residents significantly improve their quality of life.

"My friend, please listen to my long story of the railway.

It cements friendship, and it brings hope.

My hometown is more beautiful day by day,

My compatriots are more high-spirited day by day...."

These are the lyrics from the "Song of the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway - A Railway to My Hometown," sung by Kenyan artist Sudi Boy, telling the story of the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) built by Chinese companies. The vision of railway development depicted in the song is becoming a reality one by one.

On May 31, 2017, this SGR connecting the largest port in East Africa, Mombasa, with the capital, Nairobi, was completed and opened for operation. In the past, traveling between these two cities by long-distance bus often took over 10 hours, with high costs and a lengthy journey that left passengers exhausted. Today, passengers can reach their destination on the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway in just over four hours, enjoying its convenience and comfort. After the railway's opening, Nairobi resident Lilian Otuma embarked on a journey to the seaside in Mombasa. She mentioned that it was her first time riding a modern train, and the convenient and fast Mombasa-Nairobi Railway fulfilled her dream for many years.

Having operated without major hitches for 2,314 days as of Sept. 30, 2023, the modern railway line stretching from Mombasa to Naivasha had transported 2,405 million standard containers and 28.609 million metric tons of goods since its reception.

The number of passengers transported through the Mombasa-Nairobi-Naivasha SGR in the same period stood at 11.155 million, with an average seat occupancy rate of 95.8 percent.

Between April and May 2016, Ecuador experienced a series of strong earthquakes that resulted in significant loss of life and property. China promptly extended a helping hand and actively supported Ecuador in post-disaster reconstruction efforts. The Ecuadorian government's "Housing for All" national housing project also received support from China, and many citizens have since moved into new homes. Silvia Marquez, who lives with her two young children, expressed her gratitude by saying "thanks to China, we have a home where my children and I can lead a dignified life."

In recent years, China's digital infrastructure projects have achieved results in many areas, promoting connectivity and seamless trade to improve the lives of local populations. At the end of 2021, Thailand launched a 5G Smart Hospital project with Siriraj Hospital as the pilot site. This project introduced technologies such as 5G, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence from China's Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. It facilitated the comprehensive digital transformation of hospital services, from 5G ambulance services to AI-assisted diagnostics and remote healthcare for discharged patients. Dr Visit Vamvanij, the director of Sriraj Hospital, stated that 5G ambulances have saved crucial time in treating patients and significantly improved survival rates for emergency cases.

Examples like this abound. As of November 2021, Chinese companies have constructed over 50% of wireless sites and high-speed mobile broadband networks in Africa, laying over 200,000 kilometers of optical fiber and providing services to over 900 million African people. A public "cloud" serving the African region and the first commercial standalone 5G network has been established in South Africa. Introducing Chinese cloud technology into the Latin American market has significantly driven regional digital development and supported local technological innovation.

2. Enhancing education standards

Everyone has the right to education. In the BRI, China and its partner countries strive to provide more educational opportunities for their residents, enabling them to acquire professional knowledge and skills, thereby improving their education conditions and standards.

In 2017, Peru experienced severe flooding and mudslides, which caused significant damage to many schools. Chinese companies actively participated in post-disaster reconstruction efforts. In October 2022, Power Construction Corporation of China completed the construction of four schools. Mrs. Bustamante, the principal of one of these schools, said, "I am very excited to see the school completely renovated and students returning to campus with earthquake-resistant features and improved functionality. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the builders."

At the end of 2022, during the graduation ceremony of the first senior class at Butuka Academy in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Powes Parkop, Governor of the National Capital District of Papua New Guinea, stated that the establishment of Butuka Academy serves as a vivid example of China's development benefiting the world. He emphasized that every student benefits from the educational cooperation between Papua New Guinea and China.

A Chinese-funded project for the local community, Butuka Academy, has been built by China to benefit the local people. Since its inauguration in November 2018, it has become a new landmark in Port Moresby. The academy was originally a primary school with 1,500 students and a building area of 2,000 square meters. Some classrooms collapsed due to disrepair, and there was a severe shortage of desks and chairs, forcing many students to sit on the floor during classes. After expansion, the academy now covers an area of 10,800 square meters and includes facilities for kindergarten, elementary, and middle school education, totaling 52 classrooms. This expansion has successfully addressed the challenges more than 3,000 primary and secondary students face in accessing education. It has become the largest, most comprehensive, and most advanced school in Papua New Guinea in terms of its facilities and functionality.

Professor Jose Pedro Magalhaes Lucas, the leading expert in automation at the Polytechnic Institute of Setubal in Portugal, still vividly recalls his first encounter with colleagues from Tianjin. In 2018, during his initial visit to the Tianjin Vocational College of Mechanics and Electricity, he was profoundly impressed by the college's advanced training equipment and technology. "I never imagined that China's technology is leading the world," he remarked.

Where advanced technology education is concerned, Sino-Portuguese collaboration thrives on a hardware-software synergy. The Chinese side excels in equipment operation and installation, while the Portuguese strength lies in system debugging. "It's a perfect match, a mutually enriching process," describes Jiang Ying, the Director of the Electrical Automation Research Department at Tianjin Vocational College of Mechanics and Electricity, deeply involved in establishing the Luban Workshop in Portugal.

"Here, I not only learned how to use various robots and machine vision but also developed an industrial communication research project." Alexander Geraldo, a student at the Polytechnic Institute of Setubal, has gained a lot during his three years of practical training at the Luban Workshop in Portugal.

In August 2022, the first World Vocational School Skills Competition was held in Tianjin. Over a thousand teachers and students from more than 100 countries and regions participated, including a team of students and teachers from Tianjin Vocational College of Mechanics and Electricity and the Luban Workshop in Portugal. The former pair comprised He Linfeng and Zhang Bo, and the latter, Sosa and Luis Barroso.

Although they could not meet in person due to the pandemic, the teammates overcame the time difference and synchronized their preparations in the "cloud." "We connect multiple times weekly and jointly research and resolve every challenge no matter how minute. We became a cohesive unit and developed close bonds through learning from each other," said Zhang Bo. Ultimately, this team won the silver medal in the intelligent production line installation and debugging competition.

Since 2016, China has established 27 "Lu Ban Workshops" in countries participating in the BRI. These workshops offer programs in industrial robotics, new energy, the Internet of Things (IoT), and other specialized fields. They have provided formal education to over 3,000 individuals and conducted training for more than 11,000 people. This initiative has

contributed significantly to developing a substantial number of skilled technical professionals in these regions.

3. Supporting public cultural development

Enjoying cultural achievements and participating in cultural activities are important manifestations of cultural rights. Many projects of joint pursuit of the BRI are being implemented, actively participating in constructing public cultural infrastructure, protecting and salvaging local cultural heritage, enriching partner countries' cultural resources, and helping their people realize cultural rights.

The Chinese "Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages" project aims to provide satellite digital television access to 10,000 villages in African countries. As of the end of 2022, the project has successfully been implemented in 20 African countries. It covers 9,512 villages, benefiting over 190,000 households of nearly ten million people. Transitioning from having no access to electricity to being able to watch satellite digital television, Emir, a local employee of the project in Africa, said: "When we gained "eyes," we also acquired tools to understand the world and improve our homeland. We can now learn about more advanced development technologies and models."

In May 2022, China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited's Piraeus Port Authority (PPA) signed an agreement with the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports in the Port of Piraeus. According to the agreement, the Chinese company will provide approximately 13,000 square meters of land to construct the Underwater Archaeology Museum of Greece to enhance the port's cultural significance and enrich the local community's cultural life.

"I am willing to give a bag of gold just to catch a glimpse of Khiva," says this ancient saying from Central Asia. The thousand-year-old city of Khiva in Uzbekistan had some of its ancient buildings in disrepair due to the passage of time, causing this "pearl" of the Silk Road to be "covered in dust" for a while. Thanks to the joint restoration project between China and Uzbekistan and the ingenious craftsmanship of Chinese experts, the ancient city of Khiva has now been restored to its original appearance and is once again shining brightly. Shakir Madaminov, the director of the Ichan-Kala Museum-Reserve, stated, "Chinese experts have been involved in restoring the ancient city of Khiva for three years, and now the city looks exceptionally beautiful. Seeing the restored ancient city, the residents here are very proud because it is a cultural treasure of Uzbekistan."

4. Respecting religious customs

"Freedom of religious belief is a fundamental human right and a long-standing basic policy of the Chinese government. Customs and habits represent the cultural heritage created, enjoyed, and passed down by the vast populations of a nation or ethnic group throughout history. In jointly constructing the BRI, China fully respects the religious beliefs and customs of the people in various countries, provides services or financial support for the construction of local religious venues, and facilitates local employees to carry out religious and folk activities.

The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway is a flagship project of China and Indonesia to foster greater synergy between development strategies and the BRI's joint pursuit. To respect

Indonesia's local population's religious beliefs and cultural traditions, the Chinese design team tailored its plan for the project. It is reported that the design of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway station buildings is adapted to the local context, following the concept of combining traditional and modern elements and fully integrating the religious and cultural characteristics of Indonesia to incorporate local cultural elements. The station buildings include facilities such as dedicated prayer rooms for Muslims. Chinese companies trained their employees on religious etiquette and related matters during the project's implementation. They also gift local employees and nearby mosques during festivals like Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

The Great Mosque of Algiers, constructed by China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), is the largest mosque in Africa and the third-largest in the world. It has become a new landmark and is featured in Algerian currency. A resident named Habib Nadir mentioned that the Great Mosque of Algiers exemplifies modern Islamic architecture. By attending religious activities here, he can meet more fellow Muslims to share experiences and feelings, thus better understanding his people's religious beliefs.

5. Protecting the ecological environment

The BRI is a path not only to economic prosperity but also to green development. China has consistently been committed to promoting green development within the framework of the joint pursuit of the BRI. This commitment involves respecting the people's environmental rights in partner countries, adhering to local laws and regulations, establishing platforms for ecological and environmental cooperation, and fostering harmonious economic, social, and ecological development in the local areas. This approach aims to make green development a fundamental aspect of the joint pursuit of the BRI.

China is actively promoting the establishment of a cooperative mechanism for green and low-carbon development for the joint pursuit of the BRI. They have signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Green Belt and Road Construction with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and have entered into more than 50 cooperation agreements on ecological and environmental protection with relevant countries and international organizations. China has jointly launched the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development with 31 partner countries and jointly established the Belt and Road Initiative Energy Partnership with 32 partner countries. It also launched the BRI International Green Development Coalition, established the Green Belt and Road Lab, and set up the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform. These initiatives aim to help partner countries enhance their environmental governance capabilities and improve the well-being of their populations. China is actively assisting partner countries in strengthening green talent development by implementing the "Green Silk Road Ambassador Program," which has trained over 3,000 people from more than 120 partner countries. Additionally, they have formulated and implemented the "Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road" to promote green investments in the BRI.

Since the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) constructed by China began to operate, the mangrove forests in the Mombasa Mangrove Wetland Park along the railway line have continued to thrive as usual, thanks to the efforts of the Chinese engineering team. During the SGR's construction, China pre-installed multiple water culverts within the

mangrove growth area to ensure that seawater can enter the area cut off by construction work to nourish the mangroves and allow them to grow undisturbed. Additionally, many sections of the SGR run through wildlife passages. Therefore, sound barrier technology has been applied to reduce noise when trains pass through. Renowned Kenyan environmentalist Ali Mohammed commented, "I am proud that my country has such a modern railway because it not only contributes to economic revitalization but also prioritizes the protection of the ecosystem along the route. The efforts made by the project have safeguarded marine ecosystems, including the mangrove forests."

The Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the CAS Research Center for Ecology and Environment of Central Asia, in collaboration with the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan and the S. Seifullin Kazakh AgroTechnical University jointly implemented the Kazakhstan Capital Region Ecological Forest Construction Technology Demonstration Project. They established a nursery spanning hundreds of acres and provided training in planting techniques and irrigation. During the project's implementation, a joint survey team from China and Kazakhstan examined various protective forest belts and collectively identified construction obstacles. China invited several Kazakh experts to inspect ecological projects in Xinjiang, and together, they reached agreements on plant selection, structural configuration, and initial planting density control. They overcame critical technical challenges through concerted efforts, including selecting highly stress-resistant plants and large-scale seedling cultivation. They also broke through technical bottlenecks for afforestation on arid slopes and gravelly barren land. They developed forest belt nurturing and maintaining techniques, created a reforestation model for subarctic desert grasslands, and established monitoring networks. As of now, the project has completed more than 20 hectares of demonstrative carbon-sequestration protection forests, contributing to establishing an ecological protective barrier for the capital region of Kazakhstan and mitigating the impact of grassland windstorms on its residents' lives.

Chinese companies also make efforts to raise environmental awareness among local communities. During their involvement in the investment, construction, and operation of the Lekki Port in Nigeria, China Harbour Engineering Company Limited regularly educates local employees and nearby villagers about environmental protection and conducts activities such as beach cleanups. In June 2022, the company collaborated with a local environmental association to organize a "Beach Rescue Action" event involving over 300 villagers from the surrounding area and company employees. Together, they cleaned approximately 5 square kilometers of the beach. Dr Felicia Chinwe Mogo, President of the African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative (AFMESI), commented, "The Chinese companies' actions demonstrate that they not only adhere to local laws and regulations but also prioritize environmental protection. They work diligently to raise environmental awareness among local communities and collaborate with partners to protect the environment."

Chapter 4: Making Development More Universally Beneficial: Promoting Special Groups to Equally Share the Results of the Cooperative Construction of the "Belt and Road"

In the joint pursuit of the BRI, efforts are being made to promote the protection of the rights and interests of special groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities from various countries, aiming to enable them to participate equally in social life and share the benefits of developing the joint pursuit of the BRI.

1. Promoting the protection of women's rights and interests

Equal employment and safeguarding women's economic rights are key factors in improving women's social and family status and achieving gender equality.

In April 2016, the Sindh government of Pakistan, several Pakistani companies, and China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) formed a consortium to initiate the construction of the Thar Coal Field's open-pit mining project, which required a significant number of dump truck drivers. The project employed exclusively Pakistani drivers, establishing a dedicated training center that provided training to tens of thousands of individuals, including over 50 women. The employment of female drivers not only increased household income but also enhanced the social status of women.

Nusrat Bai, originally a tailor in Bhakuo of the Thar district, faced financial hardship. After a year of training, she became an outstanding dump truck driver, earning several times more monthly than before. She said, "Now, I'm one of the few in my area who can afford milk, fruit, and good clothes. Our family's life has changed tremendously, and it's hard to describe how happy I am."

Mosini Bai is a mother of four children who had no prior employment. Her family's livelihood depended solely on her husband's small vendor business. She had a strong desire to work as a dump truck driver. However, according to local customs, it was nearly impossible for women to work independently without the companionship of brothers or husbands. She said, "The project also hired my husband to support me. Now, both of us are working on the project, and we receive a good income. Our children can go to school, and we are building a beautiful brick house," Mosini added.

On the island of Luzon, the Philippines, the Powerchina International Group Limited Office of the San Marcelino Photovoltaic Power Project actively optimized the construction process by creating specific tasks suitable for women, such as pre-installing bolts and sorting washers. This initiative has provided nearly a hundred job opportunities for women in nearby villages. Many local female workers have expressed that this job increased their income, made them recognize their worth, and significantly improved their status in their families.

China is committed to improving healthcare conditions for women to enhance their health. China Gezhoubu Group Company Limited, which undertook a dam project in southern Kenya, learned that a local hospital lacked a dedicated maternity ward and essential facilities. Therefore, they invested in constructing a maternity building, providing pregnant women and newborns with improved healthcare services.

2. Paying attention to children's rights and welfare

Children are the future and hope of the world. In the BRI, Chinese companies strive to promote realizing children's rights through donations for education, infrastructure

improvement, and volunteer activities, thereby ensuring that children become the BRI's essential beneficiaries.

Iraq once had the best educational facilities in the Middle East, but years of conflict and turmoil have resulted in a shortage of school buildings. Many students can only attend classes in makeshift huts or converted shipping containers. To address the "access to education" challenge, the Iraqi government has formulated plans for new school construction, prioritizing it as one of the most urgent projects for the well-being of its citizens. In the first phase, out of the 1,000 schools tendered, Powerchina International Group Limited has been contracted to construct 679 schools in ten provinces. Upon completion, this project will provide access to education for approximately 430,000 students.

In January 2018, China and Cambodia signed the "Memorandum of Understanding of the 'Love Heart Journey' Project," aimed at providing medical assistance to children with congenital heart disease (CHD) in Cambodia. Subsequently, medical professionals from the two countries conducted screenings in remote villages across more than ten provinces in Cambodia, examining tens of thousands of children. One of the beneficiaries of this program was a Cambodian boy named Doudang suffering from CHD. Through the collaborative efforts of medical personnel from both countries, Doudang successfully underwent free surgery and fully recovered at the Fuwai Hospital in Yunnan Province, China. The hospital is also China's National Center for Cardiovascular Diseases.

In November 2021, the 19th batch of Chinese medical teams arrived in Senegal, starting a two-year medical assistance mission at the Chinese-aided Children's Hospital of Diamniadio. The Chinese doctors' remarkable medical skills and a strong sense of duty received high praise and widespread acclaim from the local population. As of March 31, 2023, the medical team had conducted outpatient services for 7,058 patients and performed 3,150 surgeries.

On May 23, 2022, a few days before the International Children's Day, the China State Construction Engineering Corporation's Egypt branch, in collaboration with four other Chinese enterprises in Egypt, visited the "African Hope Learning Center" for refugee children to provide them with textbooks, stationery, and children's masks. Emeke Adim, the Administrative Assistant at the center, expressed that this initiative would help improve the learning conditions for all students and contribute to a brighter future for refugee children.

Similar stories abound. Take Cambodia, for example, again. With the help of Chinese enterprises, the Cambodian Children's Art Welfare Institute boasts a new school building with kitchens and bathrooms, and its outdated equipment and facilities have been upgraded...

3. Caring for the rights of disabled individuals

The cooperative construction of the BRI is a significant platform for inclusive development. While promoting partner countries' economic and social development, it also pays attention to the special group of persons with disabilities, helping them hone their skills and making them participants and beneficiaries of the joint pursuit of the BRI.

In Pakistan, China Huadian Group Co., LTD. actively hires local individuals with disabilities, providing them with equal employment opportunities. It built accessible pathways and elevators in residential and work areas when construction began. They also accommodate

employees with disabilities on the ground floor of their dormitories, helping them better integrate into the community and realize their dreams and values.

Mr. Mohammad Kashif, the senior financial manager of the company, cannot walk due to an illness he suffered in his childhood. Still, he always believed that his physical disability would never hinder him from achieving his life goals. Since joining China Huadian Group, he has constantly helped the company improve its tax system with his excellent competency and professionalism. He works hard to pursue tax incentives and demonstrate the company's positive image to local tax authorities. As a result, he has received the title of "Outstanding Individual" for multiple consecutive years.

One day in 2022, warm sunlight streamed into a brand-new kindergarten in Peru, where a little girl named Yamile, who suffered from a degenerative neurological condition, sat happily in her classroom, reciting her favorite poem once again. Five-year-old Yamile, who could not walk due to her illness, had previously been carried up and down the stairs by her teachers. Thanks to an electric wheelchair donated by Powerchina International Group Limited, Yamile could navigate the building using elevators and accessible pathways. The restrooms also feature disability-friendly facilities, making it much more convenient for disabled students like Yamile.

At the Parnassos Ski Resort in the central part of Greece, 40-year-old alpine skier George Sfaltos is diligently training with a customized sit-ski, trying to earn a spot at the 2026 Winter Paralympics taking place in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Participating in the Winter Paralympics is George Sfaltos' dream. However, due to the inability to afford new equipment, Sfaltos' training plans were severely impacted, causing him to lose hope. In his quest for social support, China COSCO Shipping Corporation Piraeus Port Authority SA (PPA) extended a helping hand by donating a customized sit-ski for him. "The act has provided tangible assistance for me to pursue my dream," said Sfaltos. "I have found my footing little by little through competitive sports. I will continue to chase my dream."

Chapter 5: The Relevancy of the Joint Pursuit of the "Belt and Road" Initiative for Global Human Rights Governance

Currently, the world continues to face issues of injustice, intolerance, and unrest. Imbalanced, disparate, and unsustainable development persists. The advancement of global human rights and their governance faces significant challenges. Humanity urgently needs to explore concepts and solutions for global human rights governance that align with the demands of the times.

The joint pursuit of the BRI conforms to the urgent expectations of many developing countries to promote human rights through cooperative development, assists partner countries in their economic and social development and human rights advancement, and provides new thinking, new impetus, and new opportunities for global human rights governance.

1. Putting people first

People's happy life is the most significant aspect of human rights. Whether the human rights situation in a country is good or not primarily depends on whether the interests of its citizens are effectively safeguarded and whether the people's sense of gain, happiness, and security are enhanced.

The joint pursuit of the BRI adheres to the people-centered thinking of development, focusing on eradicating poverty, increasing employment, and improving people's livelihoods. It aims to ensure that the results of jointly building the "Belt and Road" benefit partner countries' people and make tangible contributions to their economic and social development and human rights advancement. Over the past decade, more than 150 partner countries have embraced the concept of win-win cooperation in jointly pursuing the BRI. They are committed to the cooperative construction of the "Belt and Road" to drive their social and cultural development and to the continuous effort to enhance their people's quality of life and well-being.

Human rights are not privileges enjoyed by some or a few people. Instead, they are the rights enjoyed equally by all. As Stephen Brawer, Chairman of the Belt and Road Institute in Sweden, pointed out, "A crucial concept is achieving the common interests of all." In this sense, the joint pursuit of the BRI aligns with the goals of human rights development and the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Global human rights governance should adhere to a people-centered approach. The concept of people-centered human rights is rooted in the pursuit of the values of human civilization. It aligns with the UN's original intent to incorporate human rights into the international governance system and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. It respects people's aspirations worldwide for a better life and represents the direction of human rights cause. Therefore, the BRI makes human rights more practical and comprehensive, injecting new meaning into the development of global human rights.

2. Promoting cooperative development

The interdependence and indivisibility of various human rights are fundamental principles of human rights protection.

At the same time, for developing countries, which account for over 80% of the global population, the rights to subsistence and development are vital and urgent. Realizing other human rights is difficult or impossible without economic development laying the material foundation and various social conditions.

In today's world, where countries' development is deeply intertwined, cooperation and mutual benefit are the best solutions to address development challenges and remove development obstacles. Strengthening cooperation to ensure people's subsistence and development and promoting the progressive protection of other human rights through comprehensive economic and social development holds significant implications for the human rights cause of developing countries and the world.

The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action emphasizes, "The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development."

The joint pursuit of the BRI has established an inclusive and pragmatic platform for broad international cooperation. Its concept of peaceful cooperation and mutual benefit has attracted the participation of more than three-quarters of the world's countries and over thirty international organizations.

Therefore, it can effectively activate the partner countries' economic development potential and promote their economic and social development, thus meeting the practical demand of the international community for "development through cooperation, and human rights through development" and satisfying the needs of the times for advancing the improvement of global human rights governance.

According to Sebastien Perimony, an international affairs expert from the Schiller Institute in France, the joint pursuit of the BRI is not a solo performance by China but rather a symphony of partner countries.

China promotes development through cooperation, and the joint pursuit of the BRI has contributed significantly to global development. China's initiative is conducive to achieving win-win cooperation, which is the correct path the world should choose today.

3. Embracing openness and inclusivity

Human rights are historical, concrete, and realistic. Countries have different national conditions, histories, cultures, social systems, and economic and social development levels and face various human rights issues.

We should adhere to the principle of universality of human rights and integrate it with the actual situation of each country, follow a human rights development path suitable for each country's national conditions, and determine the priority, protection methods, and realization methods of human rights based on each country's actual situation.

All countries should maintain the diversity of civilizations in a spirit of equality and openness, strengthen dialogue and exchanges among different civilizations, build more consensus through dialogue and exchanges, and jointly promote the development and progress of human rights.

The joint pursuit of the BRI adheres to mutual respect and equal treatment, advocates cultural tolerance, respects the development paths and models chosen independently by each country, respects each other's core interests and major concerns, views the development and policy concepts of other countries objectively and rationally, and strives to seek common ground while reserving differences and working together on development.

An article in the Indonesian newspaper The Jakarta Post points out that the joint pursuit of the BRI spans different countries and regions, diverse cultures and religions, and various customs and lifestyles. In the framework of the cooperative construction of the BRI, the partner countries' common goal is to seek to establish a mutually beneficial partnership.

4. Upholding fairness and justice

Global human rights governance should promote the common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom shared by all humans.

It should uphold the dignity and rights of people in all countries, promote the building of a community of shared future for humanity, and jointly create a better future for the world.

Countries come in different sizes, strengths, and development speeds. Still, they are all equal members of the international community and have the right to equal participation in regional and international affairs, including human rights.

The joint pursuit of the BRI spans different regions, development stages, and civilizations without any sense of superiority toward any.

It neither excludes nor targets any party nor imposes any special requirements on the political and economic systems of the partner countries. All BRI partner countries have the right to fair rights, opportunities, and rules as they develop.

All BRI partner countries are equal participants, contributors, and beneficiaries, sharing intertwined interests and destinies.

The joint pursuit of the BRI upholds the principle of "consultation, contribution, and shared benefits," rejecting the power logic of some countries to conquer or assimilate different cultures and civilizations and striving to promote the construction of fairer and more equitable order and norms.

The development of human rights is a joint endeavor for all humanity. Only by turning "you," "me," and "him" into "us" and ensuring that every country and its people enjoy equal rights and opportunities can the world effectively address global challenges and truly achieve equal participation, cooperation, and shared benefits in the development of human rights.

Conclusion

Though initiated by China, the joint pursuit of the BRI belongs to the world. It is rooted in history and faces the future.

The first decade of jointly pursuing the BRI is one for China and other countries to develop together under a new paradigm of international cooperation. It is also a decade for us to protect and enhance human rights in our common development.

Currently, the world is once again standing at the crossroads of history. Building a community with a shared future for humanity is the future for people of all nations.

Only through equality, mutual benefit, cooperation, and shared development among countries can prosperity be sustained and the great dream of every individual thoroughly enjoying human rights be realized.

We believe that in the next decade of jointly pursuing the BRI, China will continue to offer new opportunities to the world through its development, adding fresh momentum to establishing a community with a shared future for humanity.

The Chinese people and people of other countries will undoubtedly enjoy broader, more adequate, and more comprehensive rights, achieving all-round development at a higher level.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1208/c90000-20107788.html>

December 11, 2023

Global Times News

**‘Linyi Trade City · China Aggregation’ Intl Brand Promotion Conference
kicks off in Beijing**

The "Linyi Trade City China Aggregation" International Brand Promotion Conference themed on "Gathering and Selling of Quality Goods around the World" was held in Beijing on December 10, 2023. The conference gave a detailed introduction of the achievements of Linyi, East China's Shandong Province in the trade and logistics industry in recent years and the development and deployment of Linyi Trade City's transformation and upgrading, aiming at further enhancing the influence of Linyi Trade City's international brand and helping the investment attraction to a new level.

Zhang Xiaobin, member of the Standing Committee of CPC Linyi Municipal Committee and head of the city's publicity department presided over the conference. More than 100 foreign envoys, heads of business associations and representatives of trade and logistics enterprises attended the event.

Linyi is a well-known commercial city in China and the country's logistics capital. And Linyi Trade City is the city's market cluster. Linyi Trade City is a fruitful achievement of more than 40 years of reform and opening-up, and has become a world-renowned bright business card and a source of vitality for Linyi's modernization. Ren Gang, Secretary of CPC Linyi Municipal Committee, delivered a speech at the conference. He pointed out that in recent years, based on the advantages of trade logistics, Linyi has vigorously implemented the strategy of putting trade logistics first, and cultivated Linyi Trade City, which is "buying and selling goods all over the world." He said that at present, Linyi is in a critical period of great change. The overlapping empowerment of major policies such as "the Belt and Road Initiative" and achieving green, low-carbon and high-quality development has brought unprecedented opportunities for city's leap-forward development. Linyi will continue to optimize its business environment, actively adapt to the trend of restructuring international economic and trade rules, promote exchanges and cooperation with all partners, and strive to achieve mutual benefit and common development. Chen Jian, former vice minister of China's Ministry of Commerce, delivered a video speech and put forward three suggestions for the next development of Linyi Trade City: First, drive the city's development to a new level through the "big channel." With the channel to bring logistics, trade and industry, the city will be able to continuously enlarge the opening-up and market advantages of Linyi Trade City; The second is to promote trade growth with digitalization as a new engine. The city will continue to accelerate the innovation of digital technology and carry out high-quality cooperation in cross-border e-commerce and mobile payment. The third is to stimulate new impetus with the construction of an excellent environment to empower the park. Strengthen the creation of an excellent business environment for the park, and make Linyi Trade City a powerful cornerstone for enterprises' development.

Awais Zafar, First Secretary of Pakistani Embassy in China, said that China-Pakistan friendship is profound and long-lasting. The development of Linyi in recent years reflects the

vitality and innovation of China's economy. Building a modern commercial and logistics city not only tapped Linyi's own development potential, but also promoted it to become an important participant in the global economic structure. In the face of unprecedented cooperation opportunities, China and Pakistan will be able to further strengthen economic and cultural exchanges and expand new areas of cooperation.

Juan Xinyang, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Linyi Municipal Committee, and Vice Mayor of Linyi, made a promotion of "Linyi Trade City · China Aggregation." He pointed out that Linyi Trade City has adhered to the integrated development of "commerce, warehouses, logistics, parks and exhibitions," accurately served and merged into the construction of "four trade cities" - digital trade city, international trade city, green trade city and chain trade city, and has developed into a pilot area of market procurement trade mode, a national logistics hub of business service, a cross-border e-commerce and a provincial "Belt and Road Initiative" comprehensive experimental area, with obvious advantages of policy superposition. Juan said the city expects domestic and foreign merchants to visit Linyi for sightseeing, negotiation and cooperation, and make new and greater contributions to comprehensively accelerating the pace of transformation and upgrading of Linyi Trade City. At the promotion conference, Zhou Keren, former deputy minister of China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, delivered a keynote speech entitled "grasping the present situation and trends of international trade development and promoting the foreign trade construction of Linyi Trade City." He pointed out that in the face of the current challenges in global trade, the city needs to respond by strengthening cooperation, promoting innovation and inclusive growth. In this process, Linyi Trade City should exert its efforts in deepening regional economic cooperation, focusing on innovative cooperation in new fields, cultivating new formats and models of digital trade, strengthening international cooperation and exchanges, and increasing the international spread of brands.

Zhu Siqiao, an associate research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, said that the digital economy which brings with it new innovation, strong permeability and wide coverage has become a new economic growth point, a fulcrum for transforming and upgrading traditional industries, and an important engine for building a modern industrial system. Empowering business logistics through digital technology, realizing intelligent warehousing, logistics and other scene applications, and promoting related enterprises to carry out model innovation and product innovation, which can organically link production and consumption, expand the scope of transactions, promote the deepening of division of labor, and improve production efficiency, which is of great significance to promoting the stable development of China's economy. Yu Xinwen, CEO of Shandong Huafeng Enterprise Group, Guan Zhaojun, CEO of Shandong Lanhua Group, Sun Siyong, Chairman of Linyi Wholesale Market Group, Sun Baoan, President of the Linyi Wholesalers Association, and Li Hui, General Manager of Linyi Xinminghui Safety Technology spoke as enterprise representatives respectively.

The conference was hosted by Linyi Municipal People's Government, and jointly undertaken by Linyi Trade City Management Committee and the government of Lanshan district.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1303408.shtml>

December 12, 2023

People's Daily

China advances RMB internationalization

By Qiu Haifeng

The Chinese currency renminbi (RMB), or the yuan, has been increasingly used as an international currency in recent years, gaining popularity as a payment, investment, and reserve currency in the global market.

As China's economy recovers and its financial market further opens up, the yuan's investment and hedging functions have strengthened.

Panda bonds, or yuan-denominated debts sold by foreign issuers in China, have been well-received.

According to the 2023 Yuan Internationalization Report released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC), China's central bank, 58 panda bonds were issued from January to August 2023, totaling 106 billion yuan (\$14.79 billion). This represents a year-on-year increase of 58.2 percent, surpassing the total number and amount of issuances from the previous year.

The macro-prudential management bureau of the PBOC announced on November 9 that various channels for mutual stock market access, such as the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, mutual recognition of funds, Bond Connect, the Shanghai-London Stock Connect, and the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect, have been opened and optimized.

The policy framework for supervising qualified investors has been consistently enhanced and it has become easier for foreign entities to issue panda bonds. Additionally, Chinese stocks and bonds have been incorporated into major international indices. These developments have collectively contributed to an enhanced investment and financing environment for the yuan.

As of the end of September 2023, a total of 1,110 foreign institutions had entered the Chinese bond market, holding 3.3 trillion yuan in Chinese bonds, an increase of nearly 200 percent compared to five years ago. Domestic RMB financial assets held by overseas entities, including stocks and bonds, had reached 9.3 trillion yuan.

As foreign institutions continue to expand their presence in the domestic bond market, offshore yuan trading has also witnessed a surge in activity.

In late October, two yuan clearing banks were inaugurated, including one in Islamabad, Pakistan, which marked the official launch of yuan clearing services in the country. Additionally, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Vientiane Branch in Laos held a ceremony to commence yuan clearing services. This development increased the number of yuan clearing banks established by China in Southeast Asia to five.

"The yuan is assuming a growing significant role in the global economy and financial markets," stated Jameel Ahmad, governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. The establishment of a yuan clearing bank will help reduce costs for local banking systems and support Pakistani

businesses in exploring new markets, thereby contributing to the long-term development of the Pakistani economy and banking system, Ahmad added.

Since 2022, China has established yuan clearing banks in Laos, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Brazil. It has continuously enhanced the overseas yuan clearing network, resulting in smoother cross-border transactions for trade and investment. Presently, the PBOC has authorized 31 yuan clearing banks in 29 countries and regions, encompassing significant international financial centers globally.

"Since last year, the connectivity and cooperation between domestic and foreign financial markets have strengthened, resulting in a broader selection of offshore yuan products and enhanced facilitation and liberalization of cross-border investments," stated a representative from the PBOC.

According to a survey by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the yuan's market share in global foreign exchange transactions has surged from 4.3 percent to 7 percent in the past three years. This has resulted in a rise in its ranking from the eighth place to the fifth.

This growth has made the yuan the currency with the fastest-growing market share, as offshore entities increasingly adopt it for foreign exchange and risk management purposes.

Multiple sectors have shown optimism regarding the future prospects of the yuan's internationalization.

Argentina has announced its plan to use the equivalent value of yuan under the China-Argentina currency swap agreement to repay its external debt and interest owed to the International Monetary Fund. This decision comes after Argentina's previous use of the yuan to repay matured external debt at the end of June.

In July 2023, the Bolivian government announced that the state-owned bank Banco Unión has started trading operations involving the yuan. Marcelo Montenegro, Bolivian Minister of Economy and Public Finance, stated that the yuan trading operations have gotten off to a good start in the country. Montenegro highlighted the potential for increased utilization of the yuan within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"More countries are now participating in yuan transactions, and the internationalization of the currency is advancing rapidly," Montenegro expressed. He further stated that the yuan is expected to play a more significant role in future international trade activities.

More companies have expressed their confidence in the yuan. The PBOC recently released the Market Survey on the International Use of the RMB in 2022.

The survey, conducted among over 3,600 domestic and foreign commercial enterprises, found that around 82.8 percent of the companies are considering using the yuan in cross-border transactions or increasing its usage. This represents the highest level in recent years. Additionally, 71.8 percent of the foreign commercial enterprises surveyed expressed a preference for using the yuan as the currency for trade financing with China, marking the highest intention in the past three years.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1212/c90000-20109193.html>

December 13, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Projects supported by China catalyze transformation in Pakistan's Gwadar

by Misbah Saba Malik, Tang Binhui, Wang Huan

GWADAR, Pakistan, Dec. 13 (Xinhua) -- Arifa Haleem, a resident of Pakistan's southwest Gwadar district, has witnessed a prolonged struggle in her community with the scarcity of clean drinking water since her childhood until a desalination plant, a generous gift from China, brought about a transformative change in her life.

The coastal district of Gwadar faces an ongoing challenge due to the salinity of its water source, which poses difficulties for the local population. However, the plant under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has solved the longstanding issue.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor linking Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

It had been a long desire of local residents to drink clean water. The Chinese brought happiness to the lives of the Pakistani people who will not only benefit from the plant but also deem it as the sweetest gesture from Chinese friends, Haleem told Xinhua.

The plant is set to provide 5,000 tons of potable water daily to the residents of Gwadar, alleviating the water shortage.

Ghazanfar Ali, the health and safety engineer at the project, said that the lack of clean water in Gwadar has adversely affected both daily life and agriculture.

"The inherently fertile land of Gwadar has been underutilized due to water scarcity, limiting employment opportunities. With the advent of the seawater desalination plant, residents here can now harness the fertility of the land, cultivating small areas around their homes to grow a variety of crops," he added.

"The seawater desalination plant is designed in a modern way to get the most out of it by consuming very little energy," he said, adding that because of the use of energy-saving devices, natural process has been given more importance.

The old fishing town of Gwadar was now being transformed into a modern port city under CPEC, which not only brought investment and business to Pakistan, but also improved the lives of the Gwadar people through various donations.

Apart from the plant, China has also helped the people of Gwadar by upgrading an existing 50-bed hospital into a 150-bed medical facility.

The Chinese government and people have provided medical equipment, including emergency departments, outpatient departments, inpatient departments, medical technological departments, and administration and support systems for the hospital.

Talking to Xinhua, Muhammad Zubair, a Pakistani engineer at the "China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital" project, said it has provided Gwadar residents with comprehensive medical services and one-stop medical solutions, especially in the diagnosis and treatment of complicated diseases.

"Previously Gwadar people had to travel hundreds of miles to get good medical facilities in big cities of the province, but after the inauguration of the friendship hospital, many facilities have been made available in Gwadar, which will save many lives and bring comfort to the lives of the residents," he said.

In the arid landscapes of Gwadar, the plant and the hospital have not only quenched the long-standing thirst for clean water and improved medical infrastructure, but also revitalized the community's agricultural prospects, showcasing the fruits of bilateral cooperation under CPEC in addressing basic needs and uplifting socio-economic development of the region.

<https://english.news.cn/20231213/002d398a44c549da9fb029e7c4694478/c.html>

December 14, 2023

Global Times

Pakistan: Ambassador attends ‘Foreign Heads of States on the Great Wall’ launch ceremony

The Great Wall marks an abiding symbol of China's cultural heritage, resilience, and timeless spirit of its people, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi as he gave a speech at the launch of the Micro Video Series II, "Foreign Heads of States on the Great Wall," on Tuesday in Beijing. Li Li, director general of Beijing Diplomatic Service, Liu Yutong, counsellor of the Information Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and 12 diplomatic envoys to China from eight countries including Zambia, Chile, and Pakistan attended the event. Ambassador Hashmi underscored the deep-rooted historical and cultural connections between Pakistan and China by referring to the Ranikot Fort as Pakistan's Great Wall. He emphasized the need for further collaboration and mutual exchanges to showcase heritage, architecture, culture, and the arts. Ambassador Hashmi also expressed a willingness to invite the creators of the Micro Video series to explore Pakistan's architectural and cultural heritage and utilize them to foster more deeper bonds between the people of Pakistan and China. Alfred Likokoto Sililo, Minister Counsellor at Embassy of Zambia to China, in his address, commended the cultural meaning of the extraordinary Great Wall of China. He emphasized that the Great Wall is a bridge that has connected other countries and cultures, and is a symbol of resilience and creativity of the Chinese people. After the launch ceremony, the guests also climbed the Badaling Great Wall extension to experience its magnificence amid a snowy winter view. This extension, is the new opening area this year and preserves the original style which has a distinctive construction compared with previously opened part of the Badaling Great Wall. Starting from December 12, the Micro Video Series II of "Foreign Heads of States on the Great Wall" will be launched, airing an episode a day on domestic and international mainstream websites.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1303638.shtml>

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China Daily

Key corridor brings green energy transformation

CHANGSHA — In October, in the Thatta district of southern Pakistan's Sindh province, more than 100 wind turbines were constantly delivering green power to households in rural areas.

"This is an important part of our wind power project portfolio, and at present, all 12 wind power projects, with a total installed capacity of 610 megawatts, have been connected to the grid," said Yang Jianduo, chief representative of Power-China in Pakistan.

Yang said the project portfolio has created over 20,000 jobs for the local people, and once fully completed, it will provide 2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean energy annually, equivalent to a 2-million-metric-ton reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

These projects are under the framework of the 3,000-kilometer China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, highlighting energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

CPEC has achieved fruitful results, noted Hassan Daud Butt, senior advisor at the China Study Center of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank.

By the end of 2022, CPEC had brought a direct investment of \$25.4 billion to Pakistan, created 236,000 jobs and helped Pakistan add 510 km of expressways and 8,000 MW of power supply, he said while attending the Second Conference of Global Economic Development and Security Forum of Boao Forum for Asia, held in late October in Changsha, Central China's Hunan province.

"We are very happy and proud to say that we have actually achieved most of our targets and projects," he said.

Over 2,500 representatives from government departments, international organizations, academia and leading multinationals attended the conference, which aimed to explore the interrelationship between development and security, and its impact, so as to better cope with global economic risks and structural problems.

Cooperation under the framework of the BRI was a major topic for discussion at the conference as this year marks the 10th anniversary of its launch.

In Pakistan's northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the 272-meter-high Diamer-Bhasha Dam on the River Indus is under intensive construction.

As a landmark project of China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation, it will be the tallest roller compact concrete dam in the world, with an installed capacity of 4.5 million kW once completed, generating an estimated 18.1 billion kWh of electricity every year.

Tabi Satti, who returned to Pakistan in 2021 after six years of study and work in China, now works as the project manager.

"When I was studying in China, every time I returned home, I could see the changes that the BRI had brought to my hometown," he said. "We have smoother roads, easier travel, better quality and stable electricity, and more importantly, more job opportunities. The BRI has brought broad development opportunities to Pakistan, and has given me the confidence to participate in it."

Over the past decade, CPEC has turned vision into reality in Pakistan, and it continues to do so.

The China-funded New Gwadar International Airport and Gwadar East-Bay Expressway will soon be put into operation, investment is pouring in for the first phase of the Rashakai special economic zone, and China's hybrid rice has significantly increased Pakistan's total crop yield.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/15/WS657bb31fa31040ac301a7ebb.html>

CPEC spurs big growth in Pakistan

Infrastructure significantly increases opportunities, leading to prosperity

ISLAMABAD — Ghulam Khatoon, a native of southern Pakistan's Sindh province, has evolved from being a financially challenged housewife to a resilient and independent woman, all because of the wave of development brought on by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to her hometown.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwest Gwadar port with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, highlighting energy, transport and industrial cooperation.

Khatoon is now a professional truck driver at CPEC's Thar Coal Block-II Coal Electricity Integration project. Her path to employment has not only improved her life, but also profoundly impacted her entire family, which now enjoys a higher standard of living, improved access to education, better-quality food, and a newfound sense of peace and happiness.

"Driving a mighty dump truck professionally and making good money out of it by a woman who had never even ridden a bicycle in her lifetime was implausible. No one, except the Chinese company, believed that I could do it," Khatoon told Xinhua News Agency.

The project, built by China Machinery Engineering Corp, has a major power plant under CPEC in Pakistan to help the country meet its electricity demand by using locally available coal.

"There are several dozen women at work, and CPEC illuminated our lives with colors of happiness and prosperity," she added.

CPEC is also acting as a game-changer for Gwadar, where it develops and operates the port as well as brings about positive changes to the lives of the city's residents.

Talking about the impact of CPEC on the education sector, Muneer Notezai, a district education officer in Gwadar, said he has witnessed firsthand the changes in his hometown and recalled how several local students had to quit their studies after high school due to poor road infrastructure to other cities.

He said it is nothing short of transformative, as a Chinese company supported the expansion of a small school with a capacity of 50 students into a large college building where over 500 students receive high-quality education.

"In the old town of Gwadar, where most of the residents were fishermen for generations, CPEC introduced a technical vocational training institute, offering a wide range of courses, including port management, information technology and artificial intelligence," he added.

Apart from that, a state-of-the-art hospital is being constructed. After its inauguration, healthcare access will be greatly improved so that residents will not have to travel long distances to the country's big cities for medical treatment.

"The Chinese are also constructing a desalination plant to cater to the need for clean drinking water of the residents of Gwadar, and after its inauguration, a substantial supply of potable water will be available for the area that has long grappled with water scarcity," Notezai said.

The China-aided New Gwadar International Airport is a monumental blessing for the region, as it will drastically reduce travel constraints and promises increased economic activity and opportunities, Notezai noted.

Infrastructural development in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province under CPEC has made life comfortable for residents, significantly increased business opportunities, and brought prosperity to people's lives.

Muhammad Ashfaq, a trader of clothes and dry fruit in the provincial capital city of Peshawar, said that before CPEC, it took him hours to reach cities within the province and the country's north Gilgit-Baltistan region, but now his business has doubled as he can access new markets.

"A great dream of businessmen is coming true with the construction of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Peshawar under the CPEC framework. It presents a fantastic investment opportunity as after its inauguration, the Chinese will bring investment and technology, which will be instrumental in training our labor force and enable Pakistan to leverage cutting-edge technology for its benefit," he added.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/15/WS657bb20ea31040ac301a7ea5.html>