



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

December 16-31, 2023

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Supervised by Dr. Muhammad Irfan

Data collected and compiled by Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

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December 16, 2023

Daily Times

PU, Jiangxi University sign 8 MoUs

A Punjab University (PU) delegation comprising nine senior professors, deans and heads of departments, led by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, visited Jiangxi University of Science and Technology, China.

A meeting was held at the university and eight memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were signed to facilitate collaborative efforts. The delegation toured various departments and the library, exploring opportunities for academic and research cooperation.

The Advisory Board of the Confucius Institute showed keen interest in fortifying the Centre, emphasising the importance of collaboration. Overall, the meeting served as a significant step towards fostering stronger ties between the two universities, paving the way for fruitful collaborations in various areas including faculty and student exchanges, joint scientific research, cooperative education and people-to-people exchanges in future.

Dr Khalid Mahmood, while talking to the media representatives, said “we should work together for the best

future of our students and Pak-China friendship”. He hoped that our teachers and students would soon benefit from the MoUs signed with the universities in China. He said that they were trying to solve problems being faced by students in their educational journey from the first day and work would continue in future.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1152171/pu-jiangxi-university-sign-8-mous/>

Pakistan Observer

China’s role in COP28: An expert opinion

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

NOW the COP28 has concluded in Dubai. The participation of more than 80,000 delegates (the highest in the history of the COP) from 200 countries around the globe clearly demonstrated superior Chinese human wisdom to jointly working against the increasing intensity and velocity of global climate change incidents, producing huge devastating socio-economic and geopolitical effects around the world in which the developing countries unfortunately have been in the line of fire because of the advanced world’s unwise and unnatural industrial development and macro-economic policies of decoupling and de-risking.

In September 2020, China proposed its strategic goals to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, with top down societal involvement. The development of Chinese industries around new energy, including new-energy vehicle (NEV) and photovoltaic unit manufacture are creating new patterns of development and, of course, producing the new transformational development path of the Middle East Region and in the world. The Chinese delegation and its many institutions, enterprises and observers and setup pavilions, held many

related events to provide a platform for participants from various countries to engage in exchanges and understand China's carbon reduction measures and achievements.

Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment, said at a China pavilion side event that the investment will create significant market opportunities in clean energy, such as photovoltaics and wind power, as well as in the circular economy sector. The rigorous participation of the representatives including government policy makers, business gurus, investors, researchers, leaders and civil society groups was the clear indication that there was an urgent need of jointly and consensually pushing forward for aid and effective action to block the compounding and horrifying consequences of global warming in the world. Keeping in view the rampant incidents of global climate change resultantly producing high temperatures and extreme weather events affecting states, societies and systems around the globe, the UN rightly terms 2023 COP28 as a vital window of opportunity to correct ways and means and accelerate joint action plan to combat the severe climate crisis.

Critical analysis reveals that of the global climate change's efforts in the last 30 years since the Rio Summit and the UNFCCC launch, the main stakeholders and parties of the conference has convened every year to determine ambitions and responsibilities related to climate change and assess climate measures but due to complex and complicated socio-economic priorities, geopolitical conflicting realities and last but not the least unwise geostrategic confrontational preferences played a decisive role in the delayed consensus in the world. Even the previous session, COP27 held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt pledged to establish a Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) which has not yet been materialized and implemented. Thus ratios and incidents of global climate change are ruining lives and collateral damages around the world.

So humanity, nature, biodiversity, preservation of ecology, agricultural productivity, health and living standards have been compressed and compromised in the world. Therefore, the Paris Agreement has spurred action on climate change, current policies and promises of the western world to cut greenhouse gas emissions are not sufficient. On the other hand, China being the pioneer of green energies pertaining to wind, solar and hydrogen power generation has been assisting all the members of the BRI and Global South developing countries to cope with looming threats of climate change in the world.

Being the biggest investors of wind & solar energies China has been stimulating green energy transformation in all the BRI member countries. In a giant strategic move the Chinese President Xi Jinping has stopped any new coal energy project in the BRI countries since long, vividly reflecting the global green economic cooperation of the Chinese government. Moreover, because the developing world is facing the numerous spillover socio-economic repercussions of the global climate change, China has been staunch supporter of the "Concept of Climate Justice (CCJ)" to provide some essential economic assistance and financial aid to overcome devastating effects of the global warming in the developing country. In every regional and international forum China has been striving hard to protect the vested interests of developing countries including Pakistan.

China again supported genuine and just demands of the developing countries in the today's COP28 which will further encourage green transformation, global funds for climate change

and most importantly, seeking consensus, cooperation, coordination and collaboration among all main stakeholders to chalk out a holistic and comprehensive global policy to tackle the increasingly incidents of global warming in the world. In this regard, numerous thematic programs covered key climate-related issues, including fast-tracking a just, orderly and equitable energy transition and delivering funds for climate action were held. Thus the COP28 clearly streamlined its strategic priorities by putting nature, lives and livelihoods at the centre of climate action and mobilizing for the most inclusive COP.

In summary, as usual China played an important role in the COP28 and striving hard to reach on a global consensus of limiting long-term global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as was agreed in the Paris Agreement. Therefore successful transition from fossil fuels to clean energy sources is must. Ironically, the US emissions per capita are eight times those of China, and 25 times the emissions of India. Thus the main responsibility rests with the developed world and joint efforts between the developed and developing countries should be the global mantra. Good news is that on the opening day of the conference, COP28 reached a consensus on the operation of a \$300 million fund aimed at assisting vulnerable countries to cope with the losses and damages caused by climate change, marking a significant breakthrough on the first day of this year's climate conference.

—*The writer is Executive Director, Centre for South Asia & International Studies, Islamabad, regional expert China, BRI & CPEC & senior analyst, world affairs, Pakistan Observer.*

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-role-in-cop28-an-expert-opinion/>

The Nation

Gwadar Trade & Investment Forum from Monday

ISLAMABAD - Gwadar Trade and Investment Forum 2023 is all set to be held from December 18-19 at the newly inaugurated Huafa Exhibition Centre in Gwadar Free Zone.

Co-organised by China Overseas Ports Holding Company and Gwadar Port Authority, the expo is the third of its kind in Gwadar. The first day of the event will feature blue economy while the second day will highlight the potential of petrochemical business in Gwadar Free Zone. To tap the potential of aqua culture, fish farming and fish processing, Haixintian Pelagic Fisheries Company Limited will promote the sector through the event.

It has already planned to establish a cold storage in Gwadar Free Zone, perhaps one of the largest in Pakistan, with a capacity of 5000 metric tons and equipped with state of the art machinery with an objective to cater to international transshipment and aqua culture needs of the international market. East Sea Group has already submitted its proposal to establish a petrochemical complex in North Free Zone. On the platform of this forum, significance of this sector will be highlighted not only for Pakistan but the whole region.

Other panellists from Pakistan State Oil and Pakistan Refinery Limited will also underscore the prospects of this industry in the Free Zone.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Dec-2023/gwadar-trade-investment-forum-from-monday>

Pak-China marine protection coop to combat climate change: Experts

“The increasingly severe climate change has an immeasurable impact on the marine ecological environment, and thus on global fisheries,” said Shoaib Kiani, Assistant Professor at the University of Karachi’s Institute of Marine Science.

During an interview with Gwadar Pro, he stressed that the impact will be even greater on tropical maritime countries.

“The temperature of the shallow seawater gradually increases, and the temperature difference between the shallow and the bottom seawater further expands, which seriously affects the upwelling of nutrients from the depths of the ocean.”

He maintained, “Fish will not be able to obtain the nutrients needed for reproduction, growth and other life processes. In addition, the ecology of those organisms at the lowest level in the food chain, such as phytoplankton, will be severely damaged, triggering a domino effect that will affect the entire marine ecosystem.”

Statistic showed that about 850 million people worldwide live within 100 kilometers of tropical coastal ecosystems and derive income from industries such as fishing, aquaculture and tourism.

Nearly 20 percent of the per capita animal protein intake of 3 billion people comes from fisheries, and 400 million people rely heavily on fish production for their food security. “There is no doubt that country like Pakistan that rely on fisheries and lack systematic marine ecological protection measures will suffer extremely.”

“Not only limit to the impact on fisheries, research shows that global upper ocean temperatures have increased over the past few decades, with sea levels rising by an average of 1.7mm per year. And long-term ocean circulation trends, surface winds, storm systems and wave patterns have also experienced regional changes. Salinity has decreased in high and mid-latitudes, while it has increased in low latitudes.”

Increased surface temperatures have led to less oxygen in warm water, while there has been a long-term trend of ocean deoxygenation. Carbon dioxide stored in the ocean more than 50 times higher than the atmosphere, and the global ocean’s expanding storage of carbon dioxide is causing the ocean environment to become increasingly acidic, potentially accelerating the rate of sea level rise.

“Floods in Pakistan caused more than \$30 billion in direct losses, and as a result, sea levels rise is definitely not good news for us,” Prof Kiani told reporter.

Lately, Dr Adnan Arshad, Director of the Climate Change Education Programme at Potohar Organisation for Development Advocacy (PODA)-Pakistan, called for increased collaboration with China to combat the crisis at the just concluded COP28 conference held from November 30 to December 13 in Dubai, UAE.

“For poor and developing countries, they are badly in need of stronger and more practical measures. Today, the industrial activities of many developed countries have caused a series

of major harm to the global climate, however, the consequences are overwhelmingly borne by developing countries,” echoed Prof Kiani.

“By now, Pakistan has taken a series of substantive steps. Our government has begun funding various climate research projects. There are also organizations established to respond to natural disasters, but it far from enough. Government needs to provide more sustainable funding for basic research on climate change and adaptation,” he added.

In 2017, for the first time in the history of Pakistan, Astola Island, located about 39 kilometres east of Pasni, Balochistan, in the Arabian Sea, has been declared the first dedicated Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the country. Although small in size, Pakistan has taken the first successful step.

“In the future, I hope that Pakistan and China can cooperate in the field of comprehensive coastal area management. In China, many related projects have achieved great success. Our two countries can carry out frequent exchanges of information on marine ecological management, and China can also provide relevant consultation,” Prof Kiani indicated.

“On the other hand, in order to maximise the sustainable development of marine ecology, fishery-related laws need to be further clarified, and illegal fishing, illegal nets and the like need to be strictly prohibited. Pakistan can learn from China’s work experience in this regard. Marine pollution is also an important aspect that we need to pay attention to. China and Pakistan can exchange information and learn from each other in wastewater treatment.”

Both China and Pakistan enjoy long coastlines and diverse marine life species. “Therefore, the long-term sustainable cooperation strategy under the CPEC framework is of great benefit.” Prof Kiani believes the two countries should cooperate to train related ecological protection personnel, and even establish work group to hold regular exchange meetings.

“Sustained development goes hand in hand with improving our marine environment, which are going to benefit generations to come.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Dec-2023/pak-china-marine-protection-coop-to-combat-climate-change-experts>

The News

Minister invites Chinese company to invest in Punjab

LAHORE: Provincial Caretaker Minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad, who is on a five-day official visit to China, invited the Chinese company to invest in Punjab and expressed his hope that the economic and trade relations between Pakistan and China will be further strengthened. He also held an important meeting with China’s Hengli Group of Textiles under the leadership of Federal Minister for Trade and Commerce Gohar Ejaz. In the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on industrial development in Punjab. The provincial minister said that Pakistan especially Punjab will continue its journey of development with the collaboration of China. —Correspondent

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=264073>



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-16

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Classified&Date=2023-12-16

December 17, 2023

Business Recorder

Progress seen in Sino-Pak trade ties

KARACHI: Member of the advisory council, Zubair Tufail has said that there has been significant progress in Pakistan-China trade relations and China has agreed to revise the Free Trade Agreement.

An Advisory Council of 20 major exporters under the leadership of Caretaker Minister of Commerce Gohar Ijaz reached Pakistan after completing their visit to China.

Former president of Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) and member of the advisory council, Zubair Tufail, who is part of the delegation, told the media after reaching Karachi that the visit to China was very successful and China is ready for new investment in Pakistan. In the auto, mineral, agricultural sectors, China is preparing to invest, while it was agreed to start joint ventures in other sectors, including textiles. In addition, China's technology will be transferred to special economic zones in Pakistan. Zubair Tufail said that the visit will speed up the trade relations between Pakistan and China and investments are moving towards Pakistan.

He said that Chinese President Xi Jinping has given a unique gift of CPEC to Pakistan, bringing together the businessmen of both countries, the BRI vision of President of the People's Republic of China is being pushed forward and in this context. Chinese industrialists will increase trade with Pakistan and for this purpose, business-to-business meetings were organized between the Pakistani delegation and Chinese industrialists, which were very successful. Zubair Tufail said that China's automobile sector will invest in Pakistan, which has been decided.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/17/3-page/979895-news.html>

Dawn News

MoUs signed for \$10bn Chinese investment

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have signed several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for a hefty investment of \$10 billion in four major export-oriented sectors signifying a robust commitment to the country's economic growth.

The joint ventures (JVs) are aimed at establishing industries in key sectors including textiles, agriculture, food, and car spare parts manufacturing, Caretaker Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz told *Dawn* on Saturday.

The MoUs were signed between the private sectors of the two countries.

For boosting exports to China, Pakistan is set to despatch its first shipment of fresh chillies from Karachi on coming Tuesday, according to the minister. This follows a protocol signed last October in response to China's annual chilli import bill of \$10bn. Pakistan plans to export chillies in three forms: fresh, paste, and powder.

Additionally, a protocol has been signed to export halal meat to China. In the coming weeks, Pakistan will commence shipments of boiled meat to China shortly, according to Mr Gohar.

During a recent visit to China, the caretaker minister revealed that the Chinese government has agreed to provide preferential access to Pakistani agricultural products. A list of these products, for which duties will be reduced under the free trade agreement with China, is being formulated and will be finalised in consultation with all stakeholders.

The China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT) has also expressed support for increasing textile imports from Pakistan. The commerce ministry aims to shift 10pc of CCCT's imports, which will contribute to an increase in overall textile exports to China. The total textile exports of CCCT currently stand at \$320bn.

The minister has said that he plans to visit China on Jan 15 for subsequent discussions with Chinese investors. These potential investors are scheduled to visit Pakistan in February to deepen their engagement with local partners and finalise their investment plans in special economic zones.

Under the proposed joint ventures, there will be a complete Chinese investment. Investors in the textile, food, agriculture, and automobile parts sectors will add value to exports to China and other countries.

Furthermore, these investors can take advantage of the preferential market access under the Generalised System of Preferences Plus scheme to the European market. This presents a significant opportunity for exporters to gain duty-free access to European markets.

Mr Gohar revealed that a protocol has been signed with a Chinese investor to cultivate peanuts across 10,000 acres of the Cholistan desert. The peanuts will be exclusively grown for export purposes.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1798527>

Pakistan Observer

Transfer of Chinese technology to Pakistan's SEZs discussed

Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz has discussed exploring the transfer of Chinese technology to Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in China tour.

The minister along with a high-profile delegation, has concluded a visit to China.

The comprehensive tour spanned three key Chinese cities, providing a platform for fostering collaborations across diverse sectors, said a press release issued here Saturday.

The delegation actively participated in the China-Pakistan Textile Summit, a pivotal event that brought together industry leaders from both nations.

Engaging in insightful discussions, the delegates aimed to fortify bilateral trade relations and explore avenues for increased cooperation.

A significant milestone during the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the China Chambers of Commerce and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA).

This agreement marks a commitment to enhance collaboration and promote mutual interests in the textile sector.

The delegation comprised businessmen, seized the opportunity to engage in fruitful Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings with their Chinese counterparts.

The focus was on enhancing textile imports and exports, with the ultimate goal of strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

Exploring possibilities beyond textiles, the delegates delved into discussions on potential joint ventures across multiple sectors.

This exemplifies the collaborative spirit and shared vision for business growth between Pakistan and China.

Emphasizing the importance of joint efforts, the delegates underscored the need for collaboration among business individuals from both nations. Discussions included the application of advanced Chinese technology to enhance value addition in Pakistan's industries.

The delegates engaged in detailed discussions on how this transfer could drive innovation and economic development in Pakistan.

Highlighting the positive impact of increased Chinese investments on Pakistan's GDP growth, the delegation emphasized the strategic opportunity for Chinese exporters to reach markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Africa through Pakistan.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/transfer-of-chinese-technology-to-pakistans-sezs-discussed/>

The Express Tribune

Minister explores tech collaboration in China tour

Ejaz discusses transfer of Chinese technology to Pakistan's SEZs

ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz, has discussed the prospect of transferring Chinese technology to Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during his recent visit to China. Accompanied by a high-profile delegation, the minister concluded a tour of three key Chinese cities, providing a platform for fostering collaborations across diverse sectors, according to a press release issued Saturday.

The delegation actively participated in the China-Pakistan Textile Summit, a pivotal event that brought together industry leaders from both nations. Engaging in insightful discussions, the delegates aimed to fortify bilateral trade relations and explore avenues for increased cooperation.

A significant milestone during the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the China Chambers of Commerce and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). This agreement marks a commitment to enhance collaboration and promote mutual interests in the textile sector.

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Highlighting the positive impact of increased Chinese investments on Pakistan's GDP growth, the delegation emphasised the strategic opportunity for Chinese exporters to reach markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Africa through Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2450248/minister-explores-tech-collaboration-in-china-tour>

The Nation

Transfer of Chinese technology to Pakistan's SEZs discussed

ISLAMABAD-Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz has discussed exploring the transfer of Chinese technology to Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in China tour. The minister along with a high-profile delegation, has concluded a visit to China. The comprehensive tour spanned three key Chinese cities, providing a platform for fostering collaborations across diverse sectors, said a press release issued here Saturday. The delegation actively participated in the China-Pakistan Textile Summit, a pivotal event that brought together industry leaders from both nations. Engaging in insightful discussions, the delegates aimed to fortify bilateral trade relations and explore avenues for increased cooperation. A significant milestone during the visit was the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the China Chambers of Commerce and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). This agreement marks a commitment to enhance collaboration and promote mutual interests in the textile sector. The delegation comprised businessmen, seized the opportunity to engage in fruitful Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings with their Chinese counterparts. The focus was on enhancing textile imports and exports, with the ultimate goal of strengthening economic ties between the two countries. Exploring possibilities beyond textiles, the delegates delved into discussions on potential joint ventures across multiple sectors. This exemplifies the collaborative spirit and shared vision for business growth between Pakistan and China. Emphasizing the importance of joint efforts, the delegates underscored the need for collaboration among business individuals from both nations. Discussions included the application of advanced Chinese technology to enhance value addition in Pakistan's industries. The delegates engaged in detailed discussions on how this transfer could drive innovation and economic development in Pakistan. Highlighting the positive impact of increased Chinese investments on Pakistan's GDP growth, the delegation emphasized the strategic opportunity for Chinese exporters to reach markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Africa through Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/17-Dec-2023/transfer-of-chinese-technology-to-pakistan-s-sezs-discussed>

The News

PU delegation signs eight MoUs with Chinese varsities

LAHORE: A Punjab University delegation comprising nine senior professors, deans and heads of departments led by the Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood of Science and Technology, China. A meeting took place at Jiangxi University of Science and Technology in China. During the visit, they signed eight MoUs to facilitate collaborative efforts. The delegation toured various departments and the library, exploring opportunities for academic and research cooperation. The Advisory Board of the Confucius Institute conveyed its keen interest in fortifying the Center, emphasising the importance of collaboration. Overall, the meeting served as a significant step towards fostering stronger ties between the two

universities, paving the way for fruitful collaborations in such areas as faculty and student exchanges, joint scientific research, cooperative education and people-to-people exchanges in the future. PU VC Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, while talking to media representatives during his visit to Jiangxi University of Science and Technology, said that we should work together for the best future of our students and Pak-China friendship. He hoped that our teachers and students will soon benefit from the MoUs made with universities in China. He said that they are trying to solve the problems faced by the students in their educational journey from the first day and the work will continue in the future.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=264367>

K2 Daily News

بقیہ 11

دعوات کو قبول کرنا ہی پروگرام کے لیے کیجئے سے
محقق جازدہ ایہاں منتقد ہوا۔ غیر اعلیٰ تہات عامر
سے جاری پان کے مہاجن جازدہ ایہاں میں کے
آئی کے ہاں پائڈا کو پ، فیصلہ ملاحظہ اور
چائے کے یونان فارسی ایڈیٹوریل کالج کے
ایڈیٹوریل سمیت، دیگر ذمہ داران موجود
تھے۔ ایہاں میں ایڈیٹوریل پروگرام سے محقق اب تک
ہوئے والے اقدامات کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔
پروگرام کے تحت اب تک پانچ کے 26 اور
فارسی کے 22 طلبہ کو ایڈمٹ کیا گیا ہے جو اپنی
تصانیف میں کے ساتھ ساتھ ایڈیٹوریل کے کے معلق
لیول کی تعلیم بھی حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ یہ طلبہ دو سال
جائزہ فارسی میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے بعد ایک
سال کے لیے یونان فارسی ایڈیٹوریل کالج
جائیں گے۔ جازدہ ایہاں میں جائزہ فارسی کے
ہاں چائے کے پانچ ایڈیٹوریل پروگرام کو
میں کے آئی کے پروگرام کو کرنے کی دعوت بھی دی اور
میں جائزہ فارسی میں پاکستانی ایڈیٹوریل پانچ
شعب کے معاملے سے کانفرنس منتقد کرنے پر بھی
انتقاد کیا گیا۔ ایہاں میں یہ بھی ملے پانچ ایڈیٹوریل
بعد دوں اداروں کے درمیان جازدہ ایہاں منتقد
کیا جائے گا۔ جس میں منتقد پروگرام کے معلق
مراحل کو قریب سے دیکھا جائے گا۔ پانچ کے
منتقد ایڈیٹوریل پروگرام اپنی قومیت کا پانچ پروگرام
ہے جس کی کامیابی کے لیے دونوں اداروں نے
ممبر پانچ جاری رکھنے کا بھی اعلان کیا۔ اس موقع
پر پانچ دو دنوں کے پروگرام کو منتقد میں مزید
پانچ کے معلق کا بھی اعلان کیا۔

پاک چائے ایڈیٹوریل پانچ پروگرام کو کرنے کا فیصلہ

فارسی ایڈیٹوریل اور یونان فارسی ایڈیٹوریل کالج کا پانچ ایڈیٹوریل پانچ

طلبہ 2 سال فارسی ایڈیٹوریل اور ایک سال چائے کے کالج میں تعلیم حاصل کریں گے

گلت (پانچ) فارسی ایڈیٹوریل اور منتقد ایڈیٹوریل پروگرام کے تحت غیر فارسی
یونان فارسی ایڈیٹوریل کالج کے معلق، پانچ کے طلبہ (باقی صفحہ 7 پیج نمبر 11)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Front_Page&Date=2023-12-17

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-12-17

December 18, 2023

Business Recorder

CPEC: speakers at workshop urge media to counter negative propaganda

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the training workshop here on Sunday called upon the Pakistani media to engage in objective and factual reporting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and counter the negative propaganda against the game-changer project. The journalists are the source of information for the public and their impartial reporting can convey authentic information about CPEC to the people of Pakistan, they said.

The speakers expressed these remarks during a three-day training workshop organized by the Center for Democracy and Climate Studies (CDCS) for the journalists of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Bao Zhong, Counsellor of the Political and Media Section, Embassy of China to Pakistan while speaking to the participants said that the Pakistani media was playing a vital role in promoting CPEC and creating a positive image of the China-Pakistan bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields beneficial for both the nations.

She however said the fake news and negative propaganda against the CPEC still exist in some sections of the media which should be countered by the journalists.

She said that the Chinese embassy was always open to answer queries about CPEC or information related to any project initiated by the Chinese embassy.

She urged the journalists to do factual reporting on CPEC and play their role against malicious media campaigns and disinformation against the projects.

Expressing deep affection for Pakistani friends, Bao Zhong, with over six years of service in the country, emphasized the robust foundation of the China-Pakistan relationship, attributing it to the profound political trust, particularly exemplified by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

She expressed the confidence in ongoing collaboration with the Pakistani government and encouraged media and citizens to contribute valuable insights for the continued success of China-Pakistan relations. She highlighted the warm reception of Pakistani visitors in China, underscoring the reciprocal treatment she and her family receive in Pakistan.

Motivated by these strong ties, she called for joint efforts to further deepen and strengthen cooperation, urging the passing on of this relationship from generation to generation.

Bao Zhong emphasized collaborative endeavors at both government and private sector levels, encouraging increased business-to-business (B2B) cooperation. She stressed the significance of encouraging Pakistani youth to study in China and return to contribute to their homeland, focusing on highlighting commonalities. She urged a collective focus on these areas, seeking advice and active promotion from Pakistani media to maximize joint benefits.

Highlighting the initial focus on infrastructure and energy, she stressed the importance of empowering Pakistan through energy projects, subsequently moving towards broader industrial cooperation.

She said that China extends a helping hand to Pakistan in overcoming energy challenges, paving the way for increased industrial productivity and collaboration.

The Counsellor said that China sees the world as a big family, echoing a philosophy of global unity and cooperation the Belt and Road Initiative is presented as a tangible effort towards building a global community of shared future.

Despite challenges such as the impact of COVID-19, China remains confident in its progress under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China.

Naghmana Hashmi, former ambassador of Pakistan to China speaking on the occasion, said that the media should do impartial reporting on CPEC.

Highlighting the significance of CPEC for Pakistan, she said bilateral cooperation under CPEC has contributed to Pakistan's energy and infrastructure development while the second phase focuses on poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, agriculture and industrial development in Pakistan.

Former vice chancellor of Sargodha University Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad said that the media's role was significant in shaping public opinion about CPEC. He hailed the Pakistan's media role and its contribution towards CPEC development. He also said that higher education institutions can play a major role in reaping the real benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by bridging a gap in the language and cultural sectors of both countries.

Prominent journalists and anchors/analysts Javed Iqbal, Rasheed Safi, Aoun Sahi, Sherish Qureshi and Muhammad Imran also attended the three-day training workshop.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/18/3-page/979944-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

China, Pakistan sign MOU to boost textile cooperation

MOU to deepen collaboration in joint venture:Gohar

China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT) and All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) signed an MOU, at the “China Pakistan Textile & Apparel Executive Summit” to boost textile cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries, DrGoharEjaz participated in the summit and said this MOU will pave the way for deeper collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint ventures. “This MOU signifies Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and reinforces the strategic economic partnership.

This collaboration will unlock significant potential for our textile industries, propelling them to even greater heights,” he said, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro. He stated that “attending this esteemed gathering presents a unique opportunity to explore avenues for

enhanced private-sector cooperation, solidifying the textile industry as a cornerstone of our bilateral economic partnership.”

“Through insightful discussions and dedicated business meetings, we aim to unlock new frontiers in trade, innovation, and sustainability, paving the way for a mutually prosperous future. Together, the two nations work for a stronger, more resilient textile landscape that benefits our economies and communities

alike,” he added.

Addressing on the occasion, Zhang Xinmin, Vice Chairman, China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT) expressed appreciation for cooperation between the two countries and hoped to enhance cooperation in the field of textile. He noted that through this cooperation both parties will work together to assist in the exchange of delegations and organise events for business representatives from both sides.

“The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to promote and strengthen the development of economic and trade relations and co-operation between member companies of APTMA and CCCT on the basis of equality and mutual benefits,” he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-sign-mou-to-boost-textile-cooperation/>

The Nation

CPEC’s HPPs three projects get ADB’s financial support

ISLAMABAD - An agreement valued at \$250 million has been signed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as part of the Power Transmission Strengthening Project (PTSP).

This initiative aims to facilitate the procurement of power transmission equipment, essential for efficiently harnessing affordable and environmentally friendly power generated by four major projects in the northern region.

Three of these projects are integral components of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Gwadar Pro reported.

The agreement was signed by ADB, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) under PTSP to power infrastructure enhancement to ensure National Grid stability, energy security, climate resilience, and increased transmission capacity to deploy sufficient, reliable clean and cost-effective energy for sustainable economic growth.

As per the official statement of NTDC, the said infrastructure development financing will be utilised for the procurement of power transmission equipment for the expansion of the transmission network, especially in the North region of Pakistan for the evacuation of cheap and environment-friendly energy from 800 MW Mohmand Dam, 884 MW Suki Kinari, 700.7 MW Azad Pattan and 1124 MW Kohala hydropower projects.

Moreover, high voltage transmission operations and maintenance works in Lahore are also a part of this financing by ADB. PTSP will also support gender mainstreaming, institutional

and financial management, climate resilient system planning and operation, and project management capacity of NTDC.

Suki Kinari, an 884 MW hydropower project in Mansehra, KP, is 70% complete since achieving Financial Close (FC) in February 2017, according to CPEC's official website. Azad Pattan, a 700.7 MW hydropower project on the Jhelum River in AJK/Punjab, with China Gezhouba Group Company as a sponsor, is in the land acquisition phase, progressing toward FC.

Kohala, a 1124 MW hydropower project near Muzaffarabad on the Jhelum River, has initiated land acquisition, with FC in progress. Mohmand, an 800 MW hydropower project by WAPDA, is under construction at 12 key sites. Expected to be completed in 2026, it aims to control floods, generate 800 MW of eco-friendly electricity, and provide 300 million gallons per day of drinking water to Peshawar.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/18-Dec-2023/cpec-s-hpps-three-projects-get-adb-s-financial-support>

The News

Objective reporting on CPEC stressed to counter propaganda

Jamila Achakzai

Islamabad: In a three-day training workshop organized by the Centre for Democracy and Climate Studies (CDCS), speakers urged Pakistani journalists to engage in objective and factual reporting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to counter negative propaganda surrounding the vital project.

Bao Zhong, Counsellor of the Political and Media Section, Embassy of China to Pakistan, commended the media's role in promoting CPEC and emphasized the need to combat fake news. The workshop aimed to equip journalists from Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with tools to contribute to the continued success of China-Pakistan relations. Former ambassador Naghmana Hashmi highlighted the importance of impartial reporting, while former Vice Chancellor Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad underscored the significant role of higher education institutions in maximizing CPEC benefits.

Notable journalists and analysts, including Javed Iqbal, Rasheed Safi, Aoun Sahi, Sherish Qureshi, Mian Ibrar Hussain, and Muhammad Imran, also participated in the event.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=264488>

K2 Daily News

بقیہ 40

ایگزیکٹو سٹاف میں معاہدے کی یادداشت پر اختلاف رکھے۔ گوارہ پروڈکٹس پاکستان کے وفاقی وزیر برائے تجارت و صنعت ڈاکٹر گوہر اجازت سے سٹ میں شرکت کی اور کہا کہ اس معاہدے ناسے سے گہرے تعاون، معلومات کے تبادلے اور مشترکہ منصوبوں کی راہ ہموار ہوگی، یہ مطابق یادداشت پاکستان کے فیڈرل مینسٹری آف ایگریکچر سے اسٹیٹ اقتصادی شراکت داری کو تقویت دیتی ہے، یہ تعاون ہماری لیکچرل صنعتوں کے لئے نمایاں امکانات کھولے گا اور انہیں مزید بڑھائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس سمرز ایجنس میں شرکت نئی شعبے کے تعاون کو بڑھانے کی راہیں تلاش کرنے کا ایک اہم موقع فراہم کرتی ہے جس سے لیکچرل کی صنعت ہماری دوطرفہ اقتصادی شراکت داری کی بنیاد کے طور پر مضبوط ہوتی ہے۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے چانگ کیوہو آف کارپوریشن ڈائریکٹر ایگزیکٹو سٹاف لیکچرل (سی ٹی) کے ایس خیزین ڈانگ شمن نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون کو سراہا اور لیکچرل کے شعبے میں تعاون بڑھانے کی امید ظاہر کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس تعاون کے ذریعے دونوں فریقوں کے درمیان تبادلے میں مدد کے لئے شراکت داری کریں گے اور دونوں اطراف کے کاروباری نمائندوں کے لئے تقریبات کا اہتمام کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس معاہدے کی یادداشت کا مقصد مسادات اور ایسی ٹیکنالوجی کی تبادلے اور ایسی ٹی کی ممبر کمپنیوں کے درمیان اقتصادی اور تجارتی تعلقات اور تبادلات کو فروغ دینا اور مضبوط کرنا ہے۔

پاک چین کیمیکلز کا تعاون کے فروغ کا معاہدہ
سی ٹی اور ایچ ڈی کے ہونے کا کاروباری تقریبات کا اہتمام کریں گے ڈانگ شمن

معاہدہ کیمیکلز کے لیے نمایاں امکانات کھولے گا، گوہر اجازت کا خطاب

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) چانگ کیوہو آف (ایچ ڈی) نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان لیکچرل کارپوریشن ایگزیکٹو سٹاف لیکچرل تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے لئے "چانگ پاکستان (سی ٹی) اور آل پاکستان لیکچرل ٹرانسپورٹیشن لیکچرل ایگزیکٹو سٹاف (سی ٹی) کے ساتھ 7 دسمبر 40)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-18

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-12-18

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان فرنیچر کونسل وفد کی دورہ چین مینزبر دست پذیرائی، تجارتی فروغ کمی نوید

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان فرنیچر کونسل (پی ایف سی) کے وفد کو دورہ چین کے دوران اپنے ہم منصبوں کی جانب سے زبردست پذیرائی ملی ہے جو تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے ان کی مسلسل کوششوں کی کامیابی کی نوید ہے۔ چین کے شہر گوانگژو سے گزشتہ روز موصول ہونے والے پیغام کے مطابق اس دورہ سے پاکستان اور چین کی فرنیچر کی صنعتوں کے مابین تعاون کو فروغ دینے کیلئے بہترین پلیٹ فارم مہیا ہوا ہے۔ وفد کے پر جوش استقبال سے ثابت ہوتا ہے فرنیچر کے شعبے میں دو طرفہ تجارت اور شراکت داری کے فروغ کے وسیع امکانات موجود ہیں۔ ایک ایسے وقت میں جب دونوں ممالک اقتصادی تعاون کو فروغ دینے کی راہیں تلاش کر رہے ہیں۔ پی ایف سی کے چیف آپریٹنگ آفیسر میاں کاشف اشفاق کی سربراہی میں پاکستانی وفد کی گوانگژو میں مثبت مصروفیات ان تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے اور باہمی خوشحالی کو فروغ دینے کے عزم کی عکاس ہیں۔ یہ دورہ فرنیچر سیکٹر کی ترقی اور تنوع میں معاون ثابت ہو گا جس سے دونوں ممالک میں اس شعبے سے وابستہ کاروبار کیلئے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ پاکستانی اور چینی وفد کے مابین ملاقاتیں پائیدار روابط کو فروغ دینے اور فرنیچر کی صنعت میں اقتصادی صلاحیت کو زیادہ سے زیادہ بڑھانے کی جانب ایک بڑا قدم ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-12-18/page-9/detail-10>

December 19, 2023

Business Recorder

Long-term contracts

China would talk to elected govt, only

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: China is reportedly unwilling to talk to the caretaker government for long-term contracts in any sector and is waiting for the elected government for further cementing business relations.

Background interviews with some of the businessmen who accompanied the caretaker Minister for Commerce and Gohar Ijaz during his recent visit to China, told this scribe that the Chinese are waiting for the elected government for new endeavours to strengthen business relations.

Pakistan is desirous of an expansion of current Free Trade Agreement (FTA with China, which is massively in favour of Beijing.

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

The caretaker Minister held meetings with Chinese officials and private sector. He did not meet this Chinese counterpart with any specific agenda on trade expansion.

According to the caretaker Commerce Minister, China's exports to Pakistan stood at \$ 20 billion per annum whereas Pakistan's exports to China are merely \$ 2 billion.

During individual meetings between Pakistan's delegation with their Chinese counterparts, the latter insisted that whatever agreements are reached should be honoured in letter and spirit.

Pakistani businessmen who held meetings with their Chinese counterparts received an encouraging response with respect to enhancing business to business relations, but Pakistani businessmen are not disclosing their deals with Chinese companies.

Citing an example, the entrepreneur stated that one of the members of the delegation said that he was leaving for Pakistan but later it was revealed that he went to some other province to meet his counterpart for a deal. He is expected to start exporting his product very soon.

The information collected from the entrepreneurs also suggest that Chinese officials were not happy with the statement of caretaker Minister for Commerce and Industry with respect to trade balance with China.

“Chinese are extremely angry at the statement of caretaker Commerce Minister with respect to imbalance in trade,” said one the entrepreneurs.

The delegation, sources said, was surprised to note that lights were turned off in Beijing during late hours of the night as the Chinese government was saving electricity.

“What we saw in Beijing was totally contrary to Pakistan where traders are not ready to close their shops after at 8 pm or 9 pm,” they stated.

According to an official statement, the delegation actively participated in the China-Pakistan Textile Summit, a pivotal event that brought together industrial leaders from both nations. Engaging in insightful discussions, the delegates aimed to fortify bilateral trade relations and explore avenues for increased cooperation.

A significant milestone during the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the China Chambers of Commerce and All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). This agreement marks a commitment to enhance collaboration and promote mutual interests in the textile sector.

The delegation seized the opportunity to engage in fruitful Business-to-Business meetings with their Chinese counterparts. The focus was on enhancing textile imports and exports, with the ultimate goal of strengthening economic ties between the two countries, the statement added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/19/1-page/980034-news.html>

CSAIL outlines its contribution to national grid under CPEC

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: The China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL) launched its “ESG Performance Report 2023” outlining its contribution to Pakistan’s national grid from hydel, solar and wind power projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The launching ceremony was held at a seminar titled, “Development Experience of Hyrdo, Wind Farm and Solar Power Projects”, organised by the Pakistan-China Institute with speakers included Mustafa Haider Syed, executive director of the institute, Wang Minsheng, CEO CSAIL, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Shah Jahan Mirza, managing director Private Power and Infrastructure Board, Ministry of Energy, Power Division.

Wang Minsheng, CEO CSAIL gave an overview of the China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL) profile.

He said that CSAIL, an investment holding company formed by China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) and the China Three Gorges International Corporation (CTGI) on September 30, 2011, on the Cayman Islands, with the purpose to acquire, develop, build, own and operate renewable power generation projects. Its initial registered capital was US\$ 100,000, and its current registered paid-up capital is over \$380 million.

The current portfolio of CSAIL projects in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative has a cumulative capacity of over 3,000 MW with an investment of around \$7 billion.

The CTG is a state-owned Chinese Power Company and one of the largest power companies in the World, which owns and operates multi-stage hydro, solar, and wind power generation projects in China and globally, with a cumulative under-construction and installed capacity of

over 125 GW and an annual electricity generation of over 340 TWh. The CTG also owns 22,500 MW Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric power plant and is currently developing many mega projects in Pakistan and other parts of the World. The CTG's international operations cover Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and the Americas.

In Pakistan, CSAIL's three Wind Power Projects located at Jhimpir, Sindh i.e. 49.5 MW Three Gorges First Wind Power Project, 49.5 MW Three Gorges Second Wind Power Project, 49.5 MW Three Gorges Third Wind Power Project and its 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project located on Jhelum River in Punjab are already in operation, while its 1,124 MW Kohala Hydropower Project located on Jhelum River in AJK is under financial close stage and 640 MW Mahl Hydropower Project also located on Jhelum River is under development phase. He said that Karot Power Company (Pvt) Ltd (KPCL), a subsidiary of CSAIL, has developed 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project with an average annual energy output of 3,206 GWh on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis at Karot Village, District Rawalpindi, Punjab. The project has been listed as a "Prioritized Project" under the CPEC and also "Key Project" as part of One Belt, One Road Initiative.

Kohala Hydro Company (Pvt) Ltd (KHCL), a subsidiary of CSAIL, is developing 1,124 MW Kohala Hydropower Project with an expected annual energy generation of 5,149 GWh on a BOOT basis to be located on River Jhelum in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, he added. He added that the Project has been listed as an "Actively Promoted Project" in the CPEC. Mahl Power Company (Pvt) Ltd (MPCL), a subsidiary of CSAIL, is developing a 640 MW Mahl Hydropower Project on a BOOT basis to be located on River Jhelum on the boundary between AJ&K and Punjab, he added.

He further stated that the Three Gorges First Wind Farm Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd (TGF), a subsidiary of CSAIL, has funded and built the 49.5 MW wind power project, which is located in Jhimpir, Sindh. It was the first wind farm project in Pakistan which was completed ahead of schedule when it was commissioned back in year 2014. Three Gorges Second Phase Wind Power Projects (2x49.5 MW) have been developed by Three Gorges Second Wind Farm Pakistan Limited (TGS) and Three Gorges Third Wind Farm Pakistan (Pvt) Limited (TOT), which are subsidiaries of CSAIL. These projects have been developed on a Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis, he said, adding that these projects are listed as "Actively Promoted Projects" in the CPEC since August 2014 and achieved successful commissioning in June 2018 and are currently providing reliable electricity to the National Grid of Pakistan.

Mushahid Hussain Syed highlighted the Chinese contribution in addressing the energy crisis in the country and other infrastructure projects under CPEC, saying that China has so far made a \$26 billion investment and created over 3,000 jobs. He said that 26,000 Pakistani students are currently studying on scholarships in various Chinese educational institutions that also include 8,000 students who are pursuing their PhDs in various subjects in China. Referring to the overall connectivity projects, he said that a whole new world is opening up through connectivity under the BRI. "The Gwadar-to-Gilgit project will take Pakistan up," he further stated.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/19/1-page/980035-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan's exports to China soar to \$1.3b

During the initial five months of July-November in the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan experienced a remarkable surge of 72.78% in exports to China compared with the corresponding period in the preceding financial year. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday quoting Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)'s latest statistics.

Pakistan's export growth this fiscal year is primarily attributed to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and favorable prices in the Chinese market. In July-November of the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan recorded \$ 1307.89 million (1.31 billion) in exports to China, reflecting a significant increase of 72.78% compared to the \$756.98 million exports registered during the same period in the fiscal year 2022-23. Rice exports to China: During the first five months of FY 2023-24, Pakistan has exported rice worth \$ 1.4 billion to different countries of the world including China. According to the Pakistan Trade Perspective quarterly trade analysis (1st Quarter), for Pakistani rice, China, the Philippines, and Nigeria are primary buyers. Pakistani rice like wholly milled and broken rice is becoming popular in the Chinese market. In 2022 Pakistan exported rice worth over \$455 million to China.

This year, Pakistani exporters are eyeing the Chinese market for a greater share. Cotton Yarn & Refined Copper: In the initial five months of FY 2023-24, Pakistan experienced a significant uptick in exports, including a 49.77% increase in cotton yarn, reaching \$480.01 million.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-exports-to-china-soar-to-1-3b/>

Pakistan, China focus on B2B coop, technology transfer: Hashmi

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil ur Rahman said on Monday that engineering, construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, energy storage, mining development, green and sustainable development and other fields will be the key to future cooperation between Pakistan and China.

“Now we have entered the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), our focus is more on business-to-business cooperation, investment and technology transfer between the two countries, which is also in line with the vision of the leaders of the two countries,” he said in his speech at the Pakistan-China Exchange Conference on Investment Opportunity held at the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing.

The conference was aimed at strengthening cooperation in engineering construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, mining and other fields.

With the theme of “New Opportunity, New Cooperation, and New Development”, this conference is expected to present a higher level of cooperation.

Ambassador Hashmi further said that the Pakistani government has stepped up efforts to facilitate investors and joint ventures in Pakistan. To this end, the government has established the Special Investment Facilitation Committee (SIFC) to provide “single window” facilities to foreign investors and businessmen by removing all systemic barriers. The Prime Minister

of Pakistan himself chairs the SIFC Supreme Council. Mining and energy, particularly renewable energy, are priority areas for SIFC.

Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Ghulam Qadir introduced the policies and incentives to invest in Pakistan.

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“We are looking for Chinese investments in different areas, especially industries that are moving from China to Pakistan where we can export value-added products to the world,” he said.

He invited Chinese entrepreneurs to participate in the 3rd Pakistan Engineering and Healthcare Expo to be held in Lahore from January 18 to 20, 2024.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-focus-on-b2b-coop-technology-transfer-hashmi/>

Pakistan delegation visits Xinjiang Muqam Art Theatre

If anybody from the West and other part of the world want to see Uyghur Muslims and their bustling quality life, “Muqam” known as the “mother of Uyghur music,” is one of the barometers. Muqam’s artistic charm blooms in the peaceful and tranquil social atmosphere of Xinjiang, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Does it make sense that oppression is growing on the one hand and music is booming on the other? It could be said that the Western media must come out of the information cocoon of their own creation and accept the reality – the so-called national government supports the suppression of Uyghur Muslims is just a absurd fantasy.

Some members of Pakistan Journalists and Think Tank delegation recently visited Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. They visited the Xinjiang Muqam Art Theater and watched live singing, dancing and music performances. Immersed in the beautiful singing, dancing and music, the rumors about the so-called “Uyghur Muslims are being oppressed” were disproven.

The delegation had the opportunity to enjoy the Music of Muqam and its theatrical performances. Xinjiang Muqam Art Theatre Director DilshadFarhat during exclusive interview told that cruel brutality and musical exuberance cannot coexist. Therefore, the flourishing development of Muqam music in Urumqi proves that Uyghur Muslims enjoy wonderful music and a peaceful life.

Encapsulating about Muqam, he said that it integrates song, dance and folk music and is a part of the tapestry that makes up the culture of Xinjiang, a hub on the ancient Silk Road. In 2005, Xinjiang’s Twelve Muqams were inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. He added that President Xi Jinping paid special visit to Muqam Art Theatre and praised the folk performances. “Obviously, President Xi’s visit reflects his determination to promote Uyghur music.”

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-delegation-visits-xinjiang-muqam-art-theatre/>

 <p>37</p>	<p>سی پیک کے تحت چین کے اشتراک سے کام کر رہے ہیں، ایم ڈی پی پی آئی بی</p>
<p>کھنگ ڈائریکٹر شاہجہان مرزا نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کے تحت چین کے اشتراک سے کام کر رہے ہیں اور ایک اہم چیز دولت حاصل کر رہے ہیں مجموعی طور پر 24 ہزار بیجاوات منصوبے پر کام جاری ہے، ان خطبات کا انعقاد پورے پاکستان میں پاک چین اقتصادی لوٹ کے ذریعہ اہم اقتصادی کاموں سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔</p>	<p>اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) ایم اینیٹ پور ایڈیٹرز ایسوسی ایشن کے (دبئی مطب 77 نمبر 37)</p>

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-19

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_GB&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-12-19

K2 Daily News

 <p>16</p>	<p>سی پیک سے پاکستان کا سماجی و اقتصادی منظر نامہ تبدیل ہوا، سوئی 2 لاکھ 36 ہزار روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوئے، سی پیک ایک حقیقت بن چکا ہے میڈیا سی پیک کے حقیقی اثرات اور امکانات کو درست طریقے سے عوام تک پہنچانے</p>
<p>انکانات کو درست طریقے سے عوام تک پہنچانے ہوئے قیصری مکالمہ میں اپنا حصہ ڈالے، سی پیک صرف فیڈرل ڈیولپمنٹ کا منصوبہ نہیں، سی پیک سے پاکستان کا سماجی و اقتصادی منظر نامہ تبدیل ہوا ہے، سی پیک کے تحت 2013ء سے اب تک 2 لاکھ 36 ہزار روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوئے۔ چوہدری جہاں کاسٹیک میں آج بھی چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) میڈیا فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے عمران وقتی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ 2018ء میں انہیں چین میں ہونے والے سی پیک میڈیا فورم کے پختہ ایجنڈا میں شرکت کا موقع ملا جو چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے بارے میں پریزنٹیشن کے لیے وقف تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کا انٹیلیٹیٹ نے 2014ء میں سی پیک میڈیا فورم کا آغاز کیا تاکہ سی پیک کے خلاف ہونے والے پریزنٹیشن کے بارے میں گوری آکھی پیدا کی جاسکے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کیلئے انتہائی مناسب وقت پر آیا جس نے مستقبل کے بارے میں پاکستان کے عوام میں امید، اعتماد اور یقین پیدا کیا۔ یہ منصوبہ ایک حقیقت بن چکا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 2013ء میں اپنے آغاز کے بعد سے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) نے پاکستان کا سماجی و اقتصادی منظر نامہ تبدیل کر دیا ہے۔ قزاقی کے چین عمران سے ملنے میں سی پیک نے پاکستان کو ڈرامائی کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک سے پہلے پاکستان کو 2013ء میں ملنے والے روزگار کے مواقع کا سامنا تھا جس میں طویل لوڈ شیڈنگ سمیت معاشی بحران شامل تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک صرف فیڈرل ڈیولپمنٹ کا منصوبہ نہیں، اس منصوبے کے تحت 2013ء سے اب تک 2 لاکھ 36 ہزار روزگار</p>	<p>اسلام آباد (ایچ این ڈی) عمران وقتی وزیر بارے میں رائے عامہ کی تشکیل میں میڈیا کے اہم اطلاعات اثرات و پارلیمانی امور میں شریک ہوئے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک ایک چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے حقیقی اثرات اور (دبئی مطب 77 نمبر 16)</p>

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

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

December 20, 2023

Business Recorder

New era of Sino-Pak trade ties

First shipment of dried chillies sent to China

ISLAMABAD: The caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries, Dr Gohar Ejaz, announced a significant breakthrough in Pakistan's agricultural exports to China with the inaugural shipment of dried chillies.

The Commerce Ministry stated that this achievement was made possible through the efforts of Litong Food Co Ltd, marking the beginning of a new era in the trade relationship between Pakistan and China.

Ejaz extended congratulations to Litong Food Co Ltd for their extraordinary feat and expressed sincere appreciation for the unwavering support of the Chinese government in creating a substantial market for Pakistani goods within China.

“I am delighted to announce that the first-ever consignment of dried chillies is on its way to China. This achievement not only showcases the capabilities of our exporters but also highlights the potential for further collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese businesses,” stated Ejaz. The minister emphasised that the exports of Pakistan's products to China have the potential to exceed \$20 billion in the coming years. However, achieving this ambitious goal requires concerted efforts from Pakistani agricultural exporters. Ejaz encouraged the exporters to uphold high-quality standards, increase productivity, and implement effective marketing strategies to meet the expectations of the Chinese market.

Acknowledging the crucial role of the Chinese companies in the process, the minister expressed optimism about the prospects of collaboration. “If our companies can meet the standards set by the Chinese authorities, our exports can soar. I congratulate the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, and our Mission in China for their dedicated work in finalising protocols and completing compliance formalities in just four months,” added Ejaz.

Benefiting from the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement, Pakistan enjoys a competitive edge with zero tariffs, giving it a unique position in the region. The minister highlighted the immense potential for growth in the Chinese market, especially in the agricultural sector and urged the adoption of new technologies such as hybrid seeds and openness to corporate farming. Ejaz expressed gratitude to the Chinese counterparts for their warm reception during his recent visit to China. “Our Chinese brothers have opened their doors for us, be it the Ministry of Commerce, the Agriculture Ministry, COFCO—the largest agricultural goods importer with \$100 billion worth of imports—or the mayors of the cities we visited. The enduring Pak-China relationship has withstood the test of time, and this dried chilli export will pave the way for Pakistani agricultural goods to reach new markets in China,” Ejaz added.—TAHIR AMIN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/20/12-page/980204-news.html>

Dawn News

First shipment of dried chillies leaves for China

KARACHI: Pakistan on Tuesday shipped the first consignment of dried chillies to China as part of a drive to increase exports of agricultural commodities. Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister retired Justice Maqbool Baqar sent off the shipment of dried chillies from the province to China, saying the potential for trade, cooperation and industry-level partnerships between the two countries was vast. Speaking at a ceremony marking the shipment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) agricultural project, he said Sindh contributed approximately 80 per cent of the total national production of chillies, amounting to 144,000 tonnes. The ceremony was also attended by the consul general of China, while recorded messages of the federal food minister and Chinese ambassador were shown on the screen. The chief minister said the prospect of deeper cooperation held the promise of a brighter future for both the nations. He extended best wishes for the inaugural shipment of chillies from Pakistan to China. "This milestone transcends mere commercial significance; it symbolises the realisation of our collaborative efforts," he said, adding that it may be the precursor of many more successful ventures, opening new avenues for trade and fortifying the economic ties between the two countries. He said the collaborative efforts served as an exemplary model, demonstrating how such partnerships could yield economic benefits, create employment opportunities and foster cross-cultural understanding. The chief minister lauded the efforts made by Chinese company Sichuan Litong and the Chinese embassy and the role played by the agriculture and plant protection department in this regard. He said the commemoration of export was a testament to the exemplary strides made in fostering China-Pakistan friendship and advancing economic collaboration, exemplified by the commendable achievements of both Pakistani farmers and Sichuan Litong. Mr Baqar said the enduring bond between the two nations showcased through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and CPEC. He said the agriculture department's Research Institute, Kunri, had developed two new varieties — Kunri-I and Nageena — which produced 25-30 per cent more yield than local varieties. He said the chillies produced in Kunri were renowned for their colour and taste. "The establishment of dehydration and processing facilities could help minimise aflatoxin growth and improve its quality and demand in the international market, which contributes to earning foreign exchange," he added. The CM said Sindh was endowed with fertile lands and a diverse climate and represented an abundant reservoir of agricultural potential. "Our province, with its storied history in agriculture, stands poised to leverage these resources for sustainable and innovative practices," he said. "We have observed the noteworthy achievements of Chinese agri-products company, Sichuan Litong, and recognised the transformative partnerships that could elevate our agricultural landscape and bring tangible benefits to our farmers." Mr Baqar said chillies were grown on more than 143,000 acres of land with a production of approximately 144,000 tonnes in the country. "Sindh contributes about 80 per cent in national production," he said, adding that major chilli-growing districts in Sindh were Umarmot, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Jamshoro, Sanghar, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Dadu and Shikarpur. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1799293#:~:text=Caretaker%20Sindh%20Chief%20Minister%20retired,the%20two%20countries%20was%20vast.>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pakistan land resources institute launched

China-Pakistan Land Resources Institute launched in Jiangxi College of Applied Technology (JCAT). The signing and inauguration ceremony of “China-Pakistan Land Resources Institute” took place at (JCAT). Afifa Shajia Awais, education attaché from the Embassy of Pakistan in China, congratulated the ceremony. She emphasized that educational cooperation is a crucial element of China-Pakistan collaboration.

She hopes that the cooperation model of China-Pakistan joint training of professional talents, co-construction, and sharing of advanced vocational education concepts will lead to the training of more excellent Pakistani land resources survey and management professional and technical personnel.

She stated that the embassy will continue to monitor the institute’s development and provide necessary support. Tao Xiaojun, Deputy Director General of Jiangxi Provincial Department of Natural Resources, participated in the ceremony, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

He introduced the overall development of Jiangxi and its distinctive mineral advantages. He proposed that the establishment of the institute represents a new milestone in the collaboration between China and Pakistan in the field of education, and another significant achievement of the amicable and pragmatic partnership between Jiangxi Province and Sindh Province.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-land-resources-institute-launched/>

First shipment of dried chillies exported to China

Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has said that Sindh is responsible for contributing approximately 80 per cent of the total national production of Chillies, which amounts to 144,000 metric tons.

This he said while speaking at the ceremony of the First Shipment of Dried Chillies Exported from Pakistan to China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Agricultural Project.

The program was attended by Consul General of China Yang Yundong, Zheng Project Manager Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. Federal Minister of Food Security & Research Kausar Abdullah Malik and Chinese Ambassador Jian Zaidong recorded messages were shown on the screen.

The CM said that the Agriculture Department’s Research Institute, Kunri has developed two new varieties (Kunri-I and Nageena), which produced 25-30 per cent more yield than local varieties.

He added that Chillies produced in Kunri were renowned for their colour and taste. “The establishment of dehydration and processing facilities could help minimise aflatoxin growth and improve its quality and demand in the international market, which contributes to earning foreign exchange. The CM said that Sindh was endowed with fertile lands and a diverse climate, and it represented an abundant reservoir of agricultural potential.

“Our province, with its storied history in agriculture, stands poised to leverage these resources for sustainable and innovative practices,” he said and added that as we observed the noteworthy achievements of Chinese Agri-products company, Sichuan Litong, we recognize the transformative partnerships that could elevate our agricultural landscape and bring tangible benefits to our farmers. Justice Baqar said that

In Pakistan, chillies were grown on more than 143,000 acres giving the production of 144,000 metric tons, approximately.

“Sindh contributes about 80 per cent in national production,” he disclosed and said that in Sindh, major chilli growing districts were Umarnot, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Jamshoro, Sanghar, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Dadu, Shikarpur.

The potential for trade, cooperation, and industry-level partnerships between China and Pakistan is vast. The CM said and added that the collaborative efforts serve as an exemplary model, demonstrating how such partnerships could yield economic benefits, create employment opportunities, and foster cross-cultural understanding.

He added that the prospect of deeper cooperation holds the promise of a brighter future for both our nations. He extended best wishes for the inaugural shipment of chillies from Pakistan to China. “This milestone transcends mere commercial significance; it symbolizes the realisation of our collaborative efforts,” he said and added that it may be the precursor of many more successful ventures, opening new avenues for trade and fortifying the economic ties between our two countries.

The CM lauded the collaborative efforts of the Chinese Sichuan Litong Company, the Chinese Embassy and the instrumental roles played by the Agriculture, Food Security Department, and the Department of Plant Protection. He said that Sindh —a province characterized by its rich history, cultural heritage, and untapped agricultural potential.

He added that the commemoration of export was a testament to the exemplary strides made in fostering China-Pakistan friendship and advancing economic collaboration, exemplified by the commendable achievements of both our diligent farmers and the Sichuan Litong Company.

Justice Baqar said that the enduring bond between our nations, showcased through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, reflected a profound friendship that has withstood the test of time. He added that these frameworks were not merely geopolitical constructs; rather, they symbolize the strength of the ties that bind us. “The collaborative endeavours we witness today underscore the depth of this friendship and a shared commitment to mutual prosperity,” he said. The Chinese company Sichuan Litong announced the establishment of two chilli processing plants, one at Hyderabad and the other at Faisalabad next year.

<https://pakobserver.net/first-shipment-of-dried-chilies-exported-to-china/>

Pak-China exchange conference on investment opportunity held in Beijing

Pakistan-China Exchange Conference on Investment Opportunity was held here at the Pakistani Embassy, aiming to strengthen cooperation in engineering construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, mining and other fields.

With the theme of “New Opportunity, New Cooperation, and New Development”, the conference is expected to present a higher level of cooperation, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. Khalil urRahmanHashmi, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, said in his speech at the conference that he believes that engineering, construction, carbon neutrality, new energy, energy storage, mining development, green and sustainable development and other fields will be the key of future cooperation between the two countries.

“Now we have entered the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, our focus is more on B2B cooperation, investment and technology transfer between China and Pakistan, which is also in line with the vision of the leaders of the two countries,” he stated.

He further said that the Pakistani government has stepped up efforts to facilitate investors and joint ventures in Pakistan.

To this end, the government has established the Special Investment Facilitation Committee (SIFC) to provide “single window” facilities to foreign investors and businessmen by removing all systemic barriers. The Prime Minister of Pakistan himself chairs the SIFC Supreme Council. Mining and energy, particularly renewable energy, are priority areas for SIFC.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-exchange-conference-on-investment-opportunity-held-in-beijing/>

The Express Tribune

China to set up chilli processing plants

Sindh CM says Sindh is endowed with fertile lands and diverse climate

KARACHI: The Chinese company Sichuan Litong announced the establishment of two chilli processing plants, one at Hyderabad and the other at Faisalabad next year.

"The establishment of dehydration and processing facilities could help minimise aflatoxin growth and improve its quality and demand in the international market, which contributes to earning foreign exchange.

Sindh chief minister said that Sindh was endowed with fertile lands and a diverse climate, and it represented an abundant reservoir of agricultural potential."

"Our province, with its storied history in agriculture, stands poised to leverage these resources for sustainable and innovative practices," he said and added that as we observed the noteworthy achievements of Chinese Agri-products company, Sichuan Litong, we recognize the transformative partnerships that could elevate our agricultural landscape and bring tangible benefits to our farmers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2450592/china-to-set-up-chilli-processing-plants>

The News

Pakistan spices up agricultural exports with first-ever chilli consignment to China

KARACHI: Pakistan on Tuesday announced a significant breakthrough in its agricultural exports to China with an inaugural shipment of dried chillies, Arab News reported on Tuesday.

Around 150,000 acres (60,700 hectares) of farms in Pakistan produce 143,000 tons of chilli annually, making the country the fourth largest for chilli production worldwide. The southern Sindh province, which produces 126 million tons, contributes around 88 percent of the country's total chilli production.

Official figures show Pakistan's dried red chilli exports have declined in the last few years, mainly due to contamination during the drying process. As per the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan exported 2,751 metric tons of dried red chillies in 2019, which declined to 1,665 metric tons in 2022.

"This momentous achievement, made possible through the outstanding efforts of Litong Food Co. Ltd. [leading Chinese food firm], marks the beginning of a new era in the trade relationship between Pakistan and China," Commerce Minister Dr. Gohaz Ejaz was quoted as saying in a statement released by his office that did not specify the size of the shipment.

"I am delighted to announce that the first-ever consignment of dried chillies is on its way to China.

This achievement not only showcases the capabilities of our exporters but also highlights the potential for further collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese businesses."

The minister said exports of Pakistani products to China had the potential to "exceed \$20 billion in the coming years."

"However, achieving this ambitious goal requires concerted efforts from Pakistani agricultural exporters ... to uphold high-quality standards, increase productivity, and implement effective marketing strategies to meet the expectations of the Chinese market."

He added that exports could soar if Pakistani companies worked to meet the international standards set by Chinese authorities.

Last month, Arab News reported on an innovative initiative in Sindh, where a dozen growers are successfully using modern methods and machines to protect their chilli crops against fungal contamination in a region that is highly vulnerable to climate change.

"The Minister ... urged the adoption of new technologies such as hybrid seeds and openness to corporate farming," the commerce ministry's statement added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=264923>

Pakistan seeks to boost honey exports, certification with China's help

LAHORE: The honey industry could triple its value and enhance its export potential if it establishes labs and certification systems with China's assistance, the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) said on Tuesday.

President PCJCCI Moazzam Ghurki said Pakistan's honey, which is cheaper and tastes better than New Zealand's, is sold for merely \$20 or \$25 per kg, but the price can rise to \$100 per kg when it is packaged at other countries. "Pakistani honey is cheaper and tastes better than New Zealand's honey, but the latter's certification has been recognized by 4 international companies. If we work to establish an internationally recognized modern laboratory, our honey will be among the best." "The situation could improve if we establish labs and certification systems and implement management and supervision policies," he said during a think tank session held at PCJCCI Secretariat. He expressed the urgency of upgrading the Pakistani honey industry. Another way to upgrade Pakistan's honey industry is to establish large-scale honey processing plants, Ghurki said, adding that China has already adopted advanced filtration technology and packaging. Fang Yulong, senior vice president PCJCCI, said China's honey-producing companies are willing to provide honey production and processing technology to Pakistan. "The honey processing technology is said to feature the honey raw material processing, including honey filtration, sterilization, and temperature control," he said. Yulong also said that the honey collected by bees is full in the hive, but it is high in moisture, so it needs to be dried by a honey dryer. "China is the world's largest producer and exporter of honey. If Pakistan's beekeeping industry can develop rapidly with government support, the raw materials of Pakistani propolis will be very attractive to the Chinese market in the future," he said. Hamza Khalid, vice president PCJCCI, said Pakistan exported \$6.351 million of natural honey from July to November 2020, most of which were exported to Saudi Arabia, reaching 4.275 million tons and accounting for 67 percent of Pakistan's total honey exports. He said the Pakistani industry has been unanimous in establishing a large-scale honey laboratory with an international certification for honey testing and certification. "Once our honey is certified, it can be exported to high-end markets such as Europe," Khalid said. He added that China boasts a refined certification system and laboratory infrastructure, and Pakistan can establish joint ventures with Chinese companies to promote the implementation of Pakistani honey laboratories as soon as possible. "Our current honey production arrives at 20,000 tons and it could be even higher if the export certification is passed."

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=264926>

December 21, 2023

Business Recorder

Trade boost

5-year vision shared with China

TAHIR AMIN

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries Minister, Dr Gohar Ejaz, on Wednesday, shared an ambitious five-year vision with the Economic Counsellor of China to Pakistan, Yang Guangyuan to boost trade between the two countries, while setting a target of \$25 billion for Pakistan's exports.

The newly-appointed Economic Counsellor paid a courtesy call on Dr Ejaz which is a part of the intensified interaction between the two countries in the field of trade.

Guangyuan emphasized the positive initiatives taken to foster economic cooperation between the two nations. Dr Ejaz highlighted that the primary purpose of his recent visit to China was to witness first-hand the remarkable progress China has achieved on the one hand and to seek new market segments for Pakistani exports on the other hand. He unveiled an ambitious five-year vision to boost trade between Pakistan and China, setting a target of \$25 billion for Pakistan's exports.

Guangyuan welcomed the minister's sentiments for increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation and expressed China's commitment to stand with Pakistan, emphasizing the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries as "iron brothers." He conveyed China's goal to increase its trade volume from the current \$27 trillion to \$32 trillion in the coming years, affirming China's willingness to include Pakistan in this trade expansion.

Dr Ejaz emphasized his vision for Pakistan's economic progress through "trade not aid," resonating with Guangyuan's sentiments. Potential collaboration between the countries in setting up export processing zones was also discussed.

The Chinese side expressed its interest in relocating industry from China and thus, utilising Pakistan's export processing zones and cost-effective labour for accessing African and Central Asian markets.

The commerce minister offered access to Central Asian Republics through Pakistan, highlighting the strategic and economical route it provides to China which Yang expressed his interest in exploring this opportunity for mutual benefit.

Guangyuan invited Dr Ejaz to visit China's Guangzhou and Shandong provinces next month to further enhance bilateral trade ties.

Both leaders expressed optimism about the future of economic cooperation and pledged to work together to achieve the shared goal of increased trade and prosperity.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/21/1-page/980231-news.html>

Solangi for unity in recognising CPEC as ‘transformative force’

NUZHAT NAZAR

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday called for unity in recognising CPEC as a “transformative force that has reshaped the nation and provided hope for a brighter, more prosperous Pakistan”.

Speaking at the 8th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum in Islamabad Wednesday, he said “the CPEC Media Forum holds significant personal importance for me as well.”

In his keynote speech, Solangi emphasised the transformative impact of CPEC during the auspicious year of 2023.

He said the CPEC, launched in the year 2013, had transformed Pakistan’s socio-economic landscape, addressing a dire energy crisis and crumbling infrastructure.

He said the CPEC Media Forum was dedicated to challenging the propaganda, surrounding the CPEC, by presenting factual information.

He said before CPEC, Pakistan faced challenges in 2013 including 10 hours plus blackouts, 2,500MW electricity deficit, and \$250 billion economic loss.

The minister said CPEC came at a fortunate time for Pakistan, instilling hope, confidence and faith in the people of Pakistan.

He said CPEC was not just an infrastructure project, but it had generated over 236,000 jobs since 2013 and was set to create 1.2 million direct jobs, contributing to local workforce development, and reducing regional disparities.

He further said CPEC had significantly enhanced Pakistan’s economic growth, contributing a projected annual increase of 2 to 2.5 percentage points.

“A 2018 World Bank report suggested a potential 3.5 per cent overall economic growth boost,” he added.

Solangi said the CPEC had significantly contributed to Pakistan’s economic growth, increasing growth rate.

The minister emphasised that the media’s crucial role in shaping the perspectives of the CPEC requires objective reporting.

He also appreciated the vital role of the media in shaping public perceptions of CPEC, urging objective reporting to counter propaganda and ensure accurate dissemination of information.

Solangi highlighted CPEC’s role in addressing Pakistan’s socio-economic challenges, generating jobs, and significantly contributing to economic growth.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/21/3-page/980251-news.html>

New ‘CPEC Media Forum Balochistan Initiative’ launched

China’s Jiang reaffirms support to economic recovery efforts

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Wednesday reaffirmed China’s commitment to supporting Pakistan in safeguarding its core interests, including through economic recovery efforts and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

He was speaking at the eighth CPEC Media Forum, organised by the Pakistan-China Institute, in collaboration with China Economic Net and the Embassy of China. The forum was also virtually telecasted in Beijing and the University of Gwadar. Ambassador Zaidong expressed his appreciation for the forum as a pre-eminent platform dedicated to promoting media cooperation and dispelling misinformation concerning the CPEC, adding that “some forces deliberately spread disinformation about Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC”.

He highlighted the consistent progress of China’s economy and its notable advancements in innovation. Ambassador Zaidong reiterated China’s commitment to supporting Pakistan in safeguarding its core interests. He also referred to his recent visit to Gwadar where he inaugurated a desalination plant aimed at benefiting the local population. He also announced provision of 10,000 solar units to Gwadar, contributing to sustainable development in the region. Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi reiterated Pakistan’s steadfast commitment to the high-quality development of the CPEC during his address. He emphasised Pakistan’s readiness to strengthen cooperation with China and highlighted the enduring diplomatic and economic ties, focusing on people-to-people connectivity. In his inaugural address, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), underscored the enduring consistency of the CPEC Media Forum since its initiation in 2015 as an annual gathering alternating between China and Pakistan. Emphasising that the scope of CPEC cooperation extends beyond “brick-and-mortar” infrastructure projects to encompass people-to-people connectivity, he asserted that the people of China and Pakistan serve as the true custodians of this profound friendship.

Furthermore, he regarded President Xi Jinping’s announcement of a \$100 billion investment in the green development of BRI countries as historic. Cui Jun, president China Economic Net read the congratulatory communication from Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Sun Weidong, pertaining to the eighth CPEC Media Forum. In the conveyed message, Vice Minister Sun Weidong expressed sincere felicitations to the participants for the successful execution of the forum. Emphasising the enduring nature of the bilateral relationship, he underscored that Pakistan and China stood as all-weather strategic partners, and the successful conclusion of a decade of CPEC served as a testament to the profound friendship between the two nations. Sun Weidong highlighted significant progress achieved during the 3rd Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing in October. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defence and the Pakistan-China Institute characterized the BRI as the paramount developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st century.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/21/12-page/980318-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC transformed Pakistan's socio-economic scenario : Solangi

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), formally launched in 2013, had substantially transformed the socio-economic scenario of Pakistan by addressing the dire energy crisis and crumbling infrastructure.

“The CPEC has infused hope, trust and confidence in Pakistani people”, Solangi said while delivering a keynote address at the 8th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Media Forum.

Prior to the CPEC, Pakistan had been facing daunting challenges in 2013, that included 10-hour blackouts, a 2500 MW electricity deficit, and a \$250 billion economic loss, he said, and added later the CPEC projects had profound positive effects on the lives of local people with provision employment opportunities.

He said the CPEC eventually expedited Pakistan's economic development process and so far multiple projects had been completed in the energy sector alone. “CPEC significantly boosted Pakistan's economic growth,” he noted.

Solangi said: “The CPEC is not just an infrastructure project; it has generated 2,36,000 jobs since 2013 and is set to create 1.2 million direct jobs, contributing to local workforce development and reducing regional disparities.”

The minister said the CPEC had significantly enhanced Pakistan's economic growth, contributing a projected annual increase of 2 to 2.5 percentage points. “A 2018 World Bank report suggested a potential 3.5 per cent overall economic growth boost,” he added.

Going beyond the urban centres, he said the CPEC had addressed regional development gaps, fostering growth through various projects in the Western Alignment.

In the energy sector, he said CPEC's diverse 17,045 MW capacity, encompassing hydro, wind, solar, and coal-based power generation, had ensured a sustainable and reliable supply chain.

He said the CPEC Media Forum was launched in 2014 to create awareness among the people about the ongoing propaganda against China and Pakistan.

Highlighting the critical role of media, he said : “In a world where information bombards us constantly, shaping our thoughts and opinions, it's crucial to sift through the facts”, he added.

The CPEC Media Forum, the minister said, had significant importance for him as he had the privilege of participating in the fourth edition of the CPEC Media Forum in 2018 in Beijing, alongside Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

During that period, he said the positive impacts of CPEC did not fully reach local communities at the initial stage, so there was widespread propaganda against CPEC and China in Western and Indian media.

He said that media's role in shaping public perceptions of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) required objective and accurate reporting to highlight its multiple aspects.

“Propaganda really shapes how people see such projects by carefully sharing information to influence their beliefs and feelings. It uses selective facts, emotions, and sometimes misleading stories to create a specific viewpoint.”

He said that as the custodian of information, media should disseminate accurate and unbiased narratives in a responsible manner.

“In today’s information age, your role as guardians of truth is more vital than ever,” he said, and urged the media to verify, cross-check, and prioritize authenticity over sensationalism to counter the corrosive effects of fake news.

It should contribute to a constructive dialogue, conveying the true impact and potential of CPEC to the public for a prosperous future,” the minister said.

“Let’s stand united in recognizing CPEC as a transformative force that has not only reshaped our nation but has also become a beacon of hope for a brighter, more prosperous Pakistan” he said, adding “Together, let us debunk myths, celebrate achievements, and work towards a future where the promise of CPEC is fully realized”.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1153432/cpec-transformed-pakistans-socio-economic-scenario-solangi/>

Pakistan Observer

Ejaz Gohar unveils plan to increase exports to China upto \$25 billion

Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries, Dr. Ejaz Gohar on Wednesday unveiled his vision to increase Pakistan’s exports to China up to US \$25 billion to engage in trade between the two neighbours.

The newly appointed Economic Counsellor of China to Pakistan, Mr. Yang Guangyuan paid a courtesy call to the Commerce and Industries Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz, said a press release issued here.

The meeting followed two successful visits to China by Dr. Ejaz which are a part of the intensified interaction between the two countries in the field of trade.

Mr. Guangyuan extended warm congratulations to Drait to China, emphasizing the positive initiatives taken to foster economic cooperation between the two nations.

Minister Ejaz conveyed the warmth and hospitality extended by the Chinese officials during his visit to China.

Dr. Ejaz highlighted that the primary purpose of his recent visit to China was to witness first-hand the remarkable progress China has achieved on the one hand and to seek new market segments for Pakistani exports on the other hand.

He unveiled an ambitious 5-year vision to boost trade between Pakistan and China, setting a target of \$ 25 billion for Pakistan’s exports.

Mr. Guangyuan welcomed the Minister’s sentiments for increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation and expressed China’s commitment to stand with Pakistan, emphasizing the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries as “iron brothers.” He

conveyed China's goal to increase its trade volume from the current \$27 trillion to \$32 trillion in the coming years, affirming China's willingness to include Pakistan in this trade expansion.

Dr. Ejaz emphasized his vision for Pakistan's economic progress through "trade not aid," resonating with Mr. Guangyuan's sentiments. Potential collaboration between the countries in setting up export processing zones was also discussed.

The Chinese side expressed its interest in relocating industry from China and thus utilising Pakistan's export processing zones and cost-effective labour for accessing African and Central Asian markets.

The Commerce Minister offered access to Central Asian Republics through Pakistan, highlighting the strategic and economical route it provides to China. Mr. Yang expressed his interest in exploring this opportunity for mutual benefit.

Mr. Guangyuan welcomed Minister's sentiments and invited him to visit China's Guangzhou and Shandong provinces next month to further enhance bilateral trade ties. Both leaders expressed optimism about the future of economic cooperation and pledged to work together to achieve the shared goal of increased trade and prosperity.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/ejaz-gohar-unveils-plan-to-increase-exports-to-china-upto-25-billion/>

CPEC renovated Pakistan's socio-economic landscape: Solangi

'Best of CPEC is yet to come as CPEC is back on track now, Mushahid; Some forces spreading misinformation on BRI & CPEC, says Zaidong

Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Wednesday said that launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has renovated the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, addressing a dire energy crisis and crumbling infrastructure. While speaking at 8th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Media Forum in Islamabad, he said CPEC Media Forum holds significant personal importance for him as well.

In his keynote speech, Murtaza Solangi emphasised the transformative impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor during the auspicious year of 2023.

He appreciated the vital role of the media in shaping public perceptions of CPEC, urging objective reporting to counter propaganda and ensure accurate dissemination of information. Solangi highlighted CPEC's role in addressing Pakistan's socio economic challenges, generating jobs, and significantly contributing to economic growth.

He emphasised the need for accurate journalism to counter the fake news and called for unity in recognizing CPEC as a 'transformative force that has reshaped the nation and provided hope for a brighter, more prosperous Pakistan'.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defence and the Pakistan-China Institute characterised the Belt & Road Initiative as the paramount developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st century. Drawing attention to the substantial investment made by China, exceeding \$1 trillion, across 3000 BRI projects globally, which has positively impacted over 40 million people by lifting them from poverty.

Senator Mushahid expressed optimism by asserting that the ‘best of CPEC is yet to come as CPEC is back on track now’ with focus Gwadar Port development, ML1 Railway project, revival of Special Economic Zones and major developments on Agriculture.

Notably, Senator Sayed drew an interesting comparison between the narratives & approaches of China and the United States, highlighting China’s commitment to modernization in contrast to the U.S.’s emphasis on militarization, marked by an expenditure of over \$6.5 trillion in the so-called war on terror.

Emphasising China’s redirection of funds toward green development with a monumental \$100 billion investment, he juxtaposed this with the U.S administration seeking military aid, totaling \$104 billion for wars in Ukraine and Occupied Palestine.

He said both China and Pakistan stand fully with each other in solidarity with each other’s core interests.

Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Pakistan, expressed his appreciation for the forum as a preeminent platform dedicated to promoting media cooperation & dispelling misinformation concerning the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said ‘some forces deliberately spread disinformation on BRI & CPEC’.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong highlighted the consistent progress of China’s economy and its notable advancements in innovation. He reiterated China’s commitment to supporting Pakistan in safeguarding its core interests. Furthermore, Ambassador Zaidong conveyed his personal visit to Gwadar, where he inaugurated a desalination plant aimed at benefiting the local population. Additionally, he announced the forthcoming provision of 10,000 solar units to Gwadar, contributing to sustainable development in the region.

Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China, reiterated Pakistan’s steadfast commitment to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor during his address. He emphasised Pakistan’s readiness to strengthen cooperation with China and highlighted the enduring diplomatic and economic ties, focusing on people-to-people connectivity.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-renovated-pakistans-socio-economic-landscape-solangi/>

CPEC Media Forum vows to thwart propaganda

Chinese envoy says some forces spreading disinformation about project

ISLAMABAD: The participants of the 8th CPEC [China-Pakistan Economic Corridor] Media Forum on Wednesday vowed to collectively counter disinformation about the project. The event was organised in Islamabad by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI). It was held in collaboration with the China Economic Net and the country’s embassy.

The forum was also virtually telecast in Beijing and University of Gwadar. In his keynote speech, interim Federal Information Minister Murtaza Solang appreciated the vital role of the media in shaping public perceptions of CPEC.

He urged objective reporting to counter propaganda and ensure accurate dissemination of information. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, the chairman of the Senate Committee on

Defence and PCI, characterised the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as the paramount developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st century.

He added that CPEC was back on track now with focus on the Gwadar Port development, ML1 Railway project, revival of Special Economic Zones and major developments in agricultural sector. Emphasising China's redirection of funds toward green development with a monumental \$100 billion investment, he juxtaposed this with the US administration seeking military aid, totaling \$104 billion for wars in Ukraine and Occupied Palestine.

Jiang Zaidong, the ambassador of China to Pakistan, expressed his appreciation for the forum as a preeminent platform dedicated to promoting media cooperation and dispelling misinformation about CPEC. He said some forces were deliberately spread disinformation on BRI and CPEC.

The envoy highlighted the consistent progress of China's economy and its notable advancements in innovation. Furthermore, the Chinese ambassador informed the participants about his personal visit to Gwadar, where he inaugurated a desalination plant aimed at benefiting the local population.

Additionally, he announced the forthcoming provision of 10,000 solar units to Gwadar, contributing to sustainable development in the region. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, the PCI executive director, emphasised that the scope of CPEC cooperation extended beyond 'brick and mortar' infrastructure projects to encompass people-to-people connectivity. He termed Chinese President Xi Jinping's announcement of a \$100 billion investment in the green development of BRI countries as historic. Cui Jun, the president of the China Economic Net, read out the congratulatory communication from Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Sun Weidong, pertaining to the 8th CPEC Media Forum.

In the message, Vice Minister Sun Weidong expressed his sincere felicitations to the participants for the successful execution of the forum. Emphasising the enduring nature of the bilateral relationship, he underscored that Pakistan and China stood as all-weather strategic partners, and the successful conclusion of a decade of CPEC served as a testament to the profound friendship between the two nations.

During his address, senior journalist Hamid Mir emphasised the imperative requirement for proactive involvement from both China and Pakistan in Balochistan, saying that the destiny of CPEC was intricately linked to the developments in the province. The PCI executive director launched a new 'CPEC Media Forum Balochistan Initiative' and presented a joint statement of the forum. The statement expressed gratitude for the decade-long collaborative efforts in advancing CPEC, highlighting achievements in energy, infrastructure, and socioeconomic development, especially inculcating hope, confidence and faith in the future among Pakistanis. The forum underscored the importance of combating misinformation, sustaining cooperation, as well as leveraging technology, emphasising inclusive and transparent development for societal benefit. During the forum, Senator Mushahid formally unveiled the report titled 'Perception of CPEC in Pakistan'. The report showed that 93.5% of Pakistanis had a positive view of CPEC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2450701/cpec-media-forum-vows-to-thwart-propaganda>

The Nation

China committed to support Pakistan in safeguarding core interests: Envoy

ISLAMABAD - Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, has said that some forces deliberately spread disinformation on BRI & CPEC and reiterated China's commitment to supporting Pakistan in safeguarding its core interests.

The Ambassador expressed these views while addressing 8th CPEC Media Forum, jointly organised by Pakistan-China Institute, in collaboration with China Economic Net and Embassy of People's Republic of China. CPEC Media Forum vows to counter disinformation collectively. During the forum, Senator Mushahid Hussain formally unveiled the report titled "Perception of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan" which demonstrated that 93.5% of Pakistanis had a positive view of CPEC. The report encapsulates factual information pertaining to the perspectives of the Pakistani populace concerning CPEC.

In his address Ambassador Jiang Zaidong highlighted the consistent progress of China's economy and its notable advancements in innovation.

He reiterated China's commitment to supporting Pakistan in safeguarding its core interests. Furthermore, Ambassador Zaidong conveyed his personal visit to Gwadar, where he inaugurated a desalination plant aimed at benefiting the local population.

"I drink a glass of water from the desalination plant, it was very tasty and I told Premier Kakar, that it is the taste of our friendship," he said. Beside Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital was also inaugurated in Gwadar, he said. The forum was also virtually telecast in Beijing and University of Gwadar. Additionally, he announced the forthcoming provision of 10,000 solar units to Gwadar, contributing to sustainable development in the region.

In his keynote speech, Murtaza Solangi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, emphasised the transformative impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the auspicious year of 2023.

He appreciated the vital role of the media in shaping public perceptions of CPEC, urging objective reporting to counter propaganda and ensure accurate dissemination of information. Solangi highlighted CPEC's role in addressing Pakistan's socio-economic challenges, generating jobs, and significantly contributing to economic growth.

He emphasised the need for accurate journalism to counter the fake news and called for unity in recognising CPEC as a 'transformative force that has reshaped the nation and provided hope for a brighter, more prosperous Pakistan'.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defence and the Pakistan-China Institute, characterised the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) as the paramount developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st century.

Drawing attention to the substantial investment made by China, exceeding \$1 trillion, across 3000 BRI projects globally, which has positively impacted over 40 million people by lifting them from poverty, Senator Mushahid expressed optimism by asserting that the 'best of CPEC is yet to come as CPEC is back on track now' with focus Gwadar Port development,

ML1 Railway project, revival of Special Economic Zones and major developments on Agriculture. Notably, Senator Mushahid drew an interesting comparison between the narratives & approaches of China and the United States, highlighting China's commitment to modernisation in contrast to the US emphasis on militarisation, marked by an expenditure of over \$6.5 trillion in the so-called war on terror.

Emphasising China's redirection of funds toward green development with a monumental \$100 billion investment, he juxtaposed this with the US administration seeking military aid, totalling \$104 billion for wars in Ukraine and Occupied Palestine.

Senator Mushahid underscored China's pursuit of building bridges compared to the US construction of barriers, affirming that China is aligned on the right side of history with a geo-economic vision of connectivity via commerce and culture.

He said both China and Pakistan stand fully with each other in solidarity with each other's core interests.

Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, reiterated Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during his address.

He emphasised Pakistan's readiness to strengthen cooperation with China and highlighted the enduring diplomatic and economic ties, focusing on people-to-people connectivity.

Cui Jun, President China Economic Net, read the congratulatory communication from Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Sun Weidong, pertaining to the eighth China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum.

Emphasising the enduring nature of the bilateral relationship, he underscored that Pakistan and China stand as all-weather strategic partners, and the successful conclusion of a decade of CPEC serves as a testament to the profound friendship between the two nations.

Pakistani prominent journalist Hamid Mir, Zheng Qingdong, President and Editor-in-chief of Economic Daily, Wu Xu, Executive Secretary of the China Journalists Association, Yu Xiaokui, Deputy Director, International Department, Guangming Daily, Du Jianing, Director of China Media Group Islamabad Studio, also addressed the forum

During the forum, 8 prominent journalists were also awarded '5th CPEC Communication Award'.

They included Imran Khalid, freelance journalist; Nasir Jamal, Bureau Chief of Dawn Newspaper; Yasir Habib Khan, freelance journalist; Usman Mujib Shami, Executive Director of Daily Pakistan; Zia-ul-Amin, journalist at APP Urdu; Tanveer Hashmi, Fawad Yousafzai, Staff Reporter at The Nation, Senior Reporter Daily Jang, and Muhammad Zamir Assadi, Editor INP.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Dec-2023/china-committed-to-support-pakistan-in-safeguarding-core-interests-envoy>

Pakistan explores cooperation with China in field of AI

ISLAMABAD - Dr Yasar Ayaz, the Director of Pakistan National Centre for Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), had a two-week visit to China for exploring cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). He visited prominent academic institutions and attended conferences to explore opportunities for Pak-China collaboration in AI. During the visit to Shanghai, Dr Yasar Ayaz delivered an academic presentation titled Transforming the Future with Artificial Intelligence at Tongji University's Shanghai Autonomous Intelligent Unmanned Systems Science Center and signed a cooperation agreement on industry-academia integration between the centre and NCAI. Further cooperation in joint technological research and talent training was established, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. At China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing), Yasar Ayaz introduced significant research advancement of NCAI, including the applications of AI in healthcare, disaster management, crowd monitoring, vehicle recognition systems, and firearm detection systems. During the interactive session, hot topics in the AI field were discussed, such as AI large-scale models, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), and innovative applications of AI in the energy and mining sectors. He also witnessed the official launch of a sensor-based integrated mining safety monitoring product by China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing) during the participation in the World 5G Conference and the 5G and Intelligent Mining Forum. When attending the 2023 Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Higher Education in Xiamen, Dr Yasar Ayaz and Du Yubo, the President of the China Higher Education Society, engaged in in-depth discussions on various topics, including the sustainable development of higher education in the digital age, the integration of AI into industry and academia, and science and technology cooperation among the Belt and Road countries. "The visit to China aimed at strengthening collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field of artificial intelligence between China and Pakistan," said Dr Yasar Ayaz. The signed agreements and fruitful discussions are poised to drive innovation and propel the development of AI solutions that will shape the future of both countries and contribute to global technological advancements.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Dec-2023/pakistan-explores-cooperation-with-china-in-field-of-ai>

Gohar invited to visit China's Guangzhou, Shandong provinces next month

ISLAMABAD-The newly appointed Economic Counsellor of China to Pakistan, Yang Guangyuan paid a courtesy call on Caretaker Commerce and Industries Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz. The meeting followed two successful visits to China by Dr Ejaz which are a part of the intensified interaction between the two countries in the field of trade. Guangyuan extended warm congratulations to Dr Ejaz for his successful visit to China, emphasizing the positive initiatives taken to foster economic cooperation between the two nations. Minister Ejaz conveyed the warmth and hospitality extended by the Chinese officials during his visit to China. Dr. Ejaz highlighted that the primary purpose of his recent visit to China was to witness first-hand the remarkable progress China has achieved on one hand and to seek new market segments for Pakistani exports on the other hand. He unveiled an ambitious 5-year vision to boost trade between Pakistan and China, setting a target of \$25 billion for Pakistan's

exports. Guangyuan welcomed the minister's sentiments for increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation and expressed China's commitment to stand with Pakistan, emphasizing the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries as "iron brothers." He conveyed China's goal to increase their trade volume from the current \$27 trillion to \$32 trillion in the coming years, affirming China's willingness to include Pakistan in this trade expansion. Dr Ejaz emphasized his vision for Pakistan's economic progress through "trade not aid," resonating with Guangyuan's sentiments. Potential collaboration between the countries in setting up export processing zones was also discussed. The Chinese side expressed its interest in relocating industry from China and thus utilize Pakistan's export processing zones and cost-effective labour for accessing African and Central Asian markets. The commerce minister offered access to Central Asian Republics through Pakistan, highlighting the strategic and economical route it provides to China which Yang expressed his interest in exploring this opportunity for mutual benefit.

Guangyuan welcomed minister's sentiments and invited him to visit China's Guangzhou and Shandong provinces next month to further enhance bilateral trade ties. Both leaders expressed optimism about the future of economic cooperation and pledged to work together to achieve the shared goal of increased trade and prosperity.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Dec-2023/gohar-invited-to-visit-china-s-guangzhou-shandong-provinces-next-month>

December 22, 2023

Daily Times

China's Global South Strategy

Dr Hasnain Javed

China is a land of immense capacity and with it comes great lessons for developing countries to learn. China's Global South Strategy has been in discussion for years and I believe there is a great deal that developing countries like Pakistan and developed nations can learn from it.

China's Global South Strategy took a stronghold in the 1990s. This was when China was seriously struggling with an "industrial overcapacity" challenge. Simply put, the country was in a struggle where it had invested money in inefficient state-owned enterprises (SEOs), but the domestic demand continued to take a hit from the imported products. The Chinese economic thinktank knew that if the cycle continued it would lead to several challenges. First of which would be the ballooning domestic debt due to the nature of investment in SOEs that is backed by implicit government guarantees. Secondly, the high saving rates would increase further pushing household inequality in an upward trajectory. Thirdly, the domestic industry would not gain momentum to become an effective part of the economic cycle or improve product quality. The solution was simple, the Chinese think tank resolved to "go global" for its local production. Hence, the country engaged in exports for its domestic production with the developing or underdeveloped countries in the global south.

This brings me to the first lesson from China's Global South Strategy: diversify and expand markets. In this instance, China did not diversify to a great extent, but it looked for new markets outside of its domestic market. Criticise their product quality all you can, but their solution led to great advantages. The state-owned enterprises were able to gain economic momentum and gradually improve their product quality by tapping into new markets in the global south. This also allowed Chinese producers to not only increase their export revenue but also gain valuable experience and knowledge about different markets and consumer preferences. Pakistan can also achieve similar if not the same results by finding export markets for its products amongst the developing or underdeveloped nations across the globe.

Economists who are closely watching the Chinese economy will tell their readers a great deal about the country's excessive investment in real estate and manufacturing. This was also exposed during the pandemic during which the manufacturing industries were impacted greatly and accumulated inventory while the domestic demand remained slow in gaining pace with the supply. As the Chinese economists believed that the fiscal stimulus alone would not be sufficient to revive the economy, they turned once again to the Global South Strategy.

The big idea was China's Global Development Initiative which includes green and clean technology. Now all of this taking place at a time when Chinese green tech firms are experiencing overcapacity and high domestic labour costs. Chinese think tanks have begun to smartly integrate the global south countries into the global value chain and invest in the infrastructure to enable these countries. This is leading to several global benefits including the transfer of technology, global knowledge sharing and the rise of global green or sustainable entrepreneurial practices. Also, China's emphasis on green entrepreneurship and sustainable practices helped them position themselves as a leader in the global south. They prioritized environmental protection and implemented policies and practices that promoted sustainable development, such as the adoption of clean technologies and the reduction of carbon emissions. This approach not only helped China improve its global reputation and attract environmentally conscious consumers, but it also contributed to the overall well-being of the planet.

This is the second most important lesson, today the global powers can criticise China as an expansionist country. The truth is China has been extremely intelligently resolving domestic challenges which creating global opportunities. This would in the future reap great benefits for the country in the shape of reduced costs and highly competitive products. Some may even believe that this is part of China's ambition to challenge US dominance in the global south and establish itself as a new leader in the region. However, I truly believe that it is an incredibly strategic move by China to address its own economic and environmental concerns while also contributing to global sustainability. Therefore, the developed nations have a lot to learn from China's approach to integrating the global south into their green development strategy. The United States is following in Chinese footsteps through its Indo-Pacific pivot and initiatives like the Green New Deal. The truth be told, China does have the first movers' advantage here.

The final lesson we learn is from China's brilliance in its management of foreign relations and diplomacy. Yes, indeed China winning at diplomatic fronts. For convenience, we will try

to see it in light of the current scenario of the Ukraine-Russia war and the US-China Cold rivalry. The countries in the global south region at this time are experiencing severe financial, food, energy, and climate challenges.

These countries envision a multipolar global arena where there are multiple options for economic and political partnerships without the condition of subjugating to global power. Therefore, the countries in the global south are currently looking at multilateral institutions such as BRICS to gain economic and development advantages while maintaining their autonomy and sovereignty. As these countries avail this period to augment their weight, they see it in the light of diminishing US influence and freeing themselves of the Western values that being part of the US brings with it. Also, as I mentioned the global south has been long ignored by the US and its allies, these countries do find themselves more closely aligned with China in developing an alternative network of diplomatic, economic, cultural, and security partnerships.

President Xi's humble approach during his US visit was seen as a submission to the mighty West. However, I believe that the world was served a humble pie instead. To me it was clear as day that China was strategically positioning itself as a global leader, showcasing its willingness to engage with the West while also ensuring it maintains its interests and alliances in the Global South. China's Global South Strategy has allowed it to build strong relationships and partnerships with countries in the region, offering financial assistance, infrastructure development, and technological cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative and other collaborative projects.

As the global economies and political landscapes continue to interplay, there will be many more lessons from this deeply inspiring nation and its enigmatic leadership.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1153807/chinas-global-south-strategy/>

Pakistan classic translation book gains popularity in China

Pakistani Literature (Year 1994, Vol.2-3), one of five books in a project focused on mutual translation and publication of classic books between China and Pakistan, has gained popularity in China and is listed good book of Tencent in 2023.

The book contains over 30 short stories chosen by the Pakistan Academy of Letters and translated and published by Yilin Publishing House. It is the most comprehensive representation of contemporary Pakistani literature.

As the initial set of results from the China-Pakistan Classic Translation and Publication Project led by the Import and Export Administration of Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, the publication of this book helps promote exchanges between China and Pakistan and satisfies the desire of Chinese readers to understand Pakistani literature.

The thirty or so original novels cover ten local languages, including Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, and Pashto.

The selection offers a diverse range of styles and rich themes, providing insights into Pakistan's history, economy, art and cultural traditions. It gives readers a glimpse of a cross-section of modern Pakistani society and its future, CEN reported.

Most of the works focus on the daily lives of ordinary Pakistanis. The novels feature various protagonists, including a bride who brings good luck to her family, a gypsy girl who awaits the blossoming of flowers under a fig tree, an artist who breathes life into puppets but becomes one himself, and a painter consumed by an obsession with nature.

The book is written in a subtle and witty style, expressing the observations and thoughts of contemporary Pakistani writers, thereby greatly enriching the content of Pakistani literature.

Liu Guohui, Deputy Secretary General of the Taofen Foundation, remarked that the book is well-written and authentic, particularly in its precise details and profound portrayal of the protagonists' psychological states.

“The dialogues in the book are simple, animate and engaging. The novels are short and concise, yet sharp and profoundly reflect the richness and colorfulness of Pakistani life, the people's desire for happiness, and the complex ideas and deep insights of Pakistani society. It is a successful collection of translated novels,” said Liu.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1153709/pakistan-classic-translation-book-gains-popularity-in-china/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC Balochistan Forum to equip journalists in under-developed areas

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum Balochistan Initiative was launched on to equip the journalists in underdeveloped areas of Balochistan with information of the Chinese investment in the region and its positive impacts.

In an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said that the CPEC Media Forum Balochistan Initiative will equip the local journalists of Balochistan with the right information about CPEC projects.

He said, “CPEC starts from Gilgit-Baltistan to Gwadar, and it cannot be completed without the development of Balochistan, especially Gwadar.

We should encourage more journalists to join the media industry especially focusing on the region's developmental projects and will give them the right information to encounter the negative propaganda against the corridor.”

On asking about the availability of media education at the University of Gwadar one of the University students Samaa who was present at the forum told the correspondent that journalism has not been introduced at Gwadar University as yet, and introducing media education at the university level will help youth play their role in this field.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-balochistan-forum-to-equip-journalists-in-under-developed-areas/>

The Nation

Pakistanis perceive CPEC positive for national economy

ISLAMABAD - As 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a report titled “Perceptions on CPEC in Pakistan” was launched at the 8th CPEC Media Forum hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and organized by China Economic Net and Pakistan-China Institute.

The data from the report indicates that there is widespread agreement among Pakistanis that CPEC will help revive economic activity in Pakistan.

The report draws its insight from 350 individuals encompassing key stakeholders including 62 government employees, 22 parliamentarians, civil sector representatives, private sector professionals, journalists, members of academia and students from Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Paktunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit.

Based on the report, 65% of the respondents view Chinese professionals as friends of Pakistan who will help revive the country’s economy and socio-economic well-being.

This means a majority of Pakistani people strongly believe that CPEC will prove to be beneficial for the country and its people.

About how CPEC will help Pakistan, 93.5% of the respondents view CPEC as a project that will significantly help Pakistan through investment in various sectors while also opening avenues for businessmen. And, 75.1% of the respondents agree that through CPEC, local businessmen will get access to international markets.

Moreover, 61.1% of the respondents believe that CPEC will help economically vulnerable groups such as women, which signals positive segments among the Pakistanis with regards to how CPEC is slowly revolutionizing the economy by improving the socio-economic well-being of the people. Additionally, 66.9% of the respondents think that investment under CPEC can significantly improve the agricultural industry of Pakistan, and 72.7% of the respondents believe that CPEC has helped develop state-of-the-art infrastructure in the country.

Looking into the future, 54.2% of the respondents think CPEC should focus on business opportunities more, followed by education (13%), health (5.9%), IT (2.3%), etc. Overall, the majority of the respondents perceive CPEC positively as a game-changer for Pakistan’s economy.

Furthermore, the second highest responses for the questions were ‘neutral’ which stems from the idea that while CPEC is fast progressing and its fruit is visible some people lack a good understanding of this corridor and its influence regarding different development phases.

Statistics from the Embassy of China in Pakistan exhibit that by the end of 2022, CPEC had brought direct investment of \$25.4 billion to Pakistan, creating 236,000 jobs, building 510 kilometers of expressways and 886 kilometers of national grid, and adding 8,000 MW of electricity.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/22-Dec-2023/pakistanis-perceive-cpec-positive-for-national-economy>

China, Pakistan sign MoU on biodiversity conservation

ISLAMABAD - China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) and Raptor Centre for Conservation and Rehabilitation Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on biodiversity conservation.

The two parties have agreed to enhance their cooperation in building community-level biodiversity conservation networks and raising awareness about the conservation of raptor biodiversity.

They also aim to improve in-service training and specialty courses on raptor identification, conservation, and habitat assessment, as well as to assist in the capacity building of professionals.

In accordance with the guiding principles of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the parties will formulate a multi-species action plan for raptors.

They will also establish essential facilities for the rescue, rehabilitation, and breeding of raptors, and devise a plan to raise awareness about raptor conservation.

These efforts will significantly contribute to preventing the extinction of raptors.

China and Pakistan have long shared prosperity and adversity, supporting each other in coping with major challenges such as natural disasters.

CBCGDF responded promptly and initiated cooperation with Pakistan and its scientific community.

It has participated in the “Monitoring and Assessment of Desert Locust Plagues in Asia and Africa” project of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, conducted remote sensing monitoring of biodiversity in Pakistan, and offered early warning of invasive species to assist Pakistan in safeguarding food security.

Under the Memorandum, the two parties will collaborate to initiate a new approach to global biodiversity governance that is fairer and more equitable.

Each party will strive to achieve the inspiring vision of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, and to further strengthen the China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/22-Dec-2023/china-pakistan-sign-mou-on-biodiversity-conservation>

K2 Daily News



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-22

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-12-22

December 23, 2023

Pakistan Observer

China Town Lahore organizes the dealers convention

China Town Lahore organized the Dealers convention which took place on yesterday at Event Center Defence Raya which was hosted by Juggun Kazim. During this event, Mr. Tanveer Ahmed Bajwa (Chairman, China Town Lahore) delivered a comprehensive speech about the advanced development and environment friendly aspects of the Society.

Mr. Tanveer Ahmed Bajwa also revealed that the foundation had been laid for development before dealer's convention. It brought the sense of security and trust in the minds of dealers for China Town Lahore.

All the platinum partners and other dealers around the city were present at this event. Mr. Irfan Rafique (CEO, China Town Lahore) gave a brief overview of the advanced features of the society. Like serenity, peaceful living with advanced security, established institutes, advanced-equipped mosques, and much more to balance customers modern way of living. He also described that it will make life even easier, more comfortable, and more affordable for common people.

So, having their own home can be a dream come true.

To conclude the convention, there was a musical night to mesmerize this special event.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-town-lahore-organizes-the-dealers-convention/>

The Express Tribune

AITeC explores collaboration with Chinese AiMall Tech

Future business cooperation and training courses also explored

A high-profile delegation from Pakistan's Artificial Intelligence Technology Centre (AITeC) embarked on a visit to Shenzhen AiMall Technology Company, Limited, a prominent Chinese AI company, on December 16. The visit aimed to foster bilateral cooperation and delve into future collaboration plans within the realm of AI technology. The delegation included Director General Nadeem Ahmed, Technical Director Dr Aminuddin Qureshi, Director Dr Syed Khursheed Hasnain, and Mr Kamran Qureshi.

During the visit, Nadeem Ahmed provided insights into the global and Pakistani AI development landscape. Through a comprehensive video presentation, he detailed AITeC's research progress in AI, emphasising the establishment of core AI laboratories focusing on computer vision, natural language processing, machine learning, and deep learning. AITeC is dedicated to conducting high-quality research and development in various AI fields.

Dr Yang Heng, Chairman of AiMall, along with Chen Zai, Strategic Planning Director, and Ji Chuande, Technical Expert, accompanied the delegation. Discussions between the two parties covered a spectrum of AI technology topics, including large models, computer vision, and embodied intelligence. Future business cooperation and training courses were also explored.

The delegation visited AiMall's AI product area, where Heng showcased the application of AI technology in diverse Chinese industries.

THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2450865/aitec-explores-collaboration-with-chinese-aimall-tech>

The Nation

Chinese Counsel General awards 'Friendship Award 2023' to The Nation

LAHORE - Mr Zhao Shiren Chinese Counsel General in Lahore awarded "Friendship Award 2023" to daily The Nation in recognition of its excellent reporting on promotion of Pakistan-China friendship, CPEC and Belt & Road Initiative. Col (Retd) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri, Chief Operating Officer of Nawa-i-Waqt Media Group, representing MD of Nawa-i-Waqt Group, Rameeza Majid Nizami, received this award from Mr. Zhao Shiren. The award ceremony was held at a local hotel in Lahore, where friendship awards 2023 were distributed among various institutions and personalities. Provincial Minister S.M. Tanveer, Home Secretary Punjab Shakeel Ahmad, DIG SPU Tayyab Hafeez Cheema, President LCCI Kashif Anwar, President Lahore Press Club Azam Ch and other distinguished personalities, media persons and families were present at the occasion.

"President Xi Jinping's special representative and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng's July visit to Islamabad, coupled with Prime Minister Anwar Kakar's successful visit to China in October, have produced fruitful outcomes. The state of China-Pakistan relations is strong,

shimmering in sunlight and will grow ever stronger with each passing day,” the Consul General said.

“I’m happy to share with you that the Chinese Consulate General in Lahore, in partnership with the key stakeholders in the province, has also achieved some accomplishments.

We have made corresponding efforts to enhance mutual confidence, business cooperation, cultural, educational and people-to-people exchanges between the concerned Chinese regions and provinces and the Punjab.

Our joint celebration of the 72rd anniversary of the diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan was quite a success.

We held a gala event commemorating the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, with both Honorable Governor and the Chief Minister in attendance.....This year, we organized and facilitated three delegations from Punjab to visit Ningxia Autonomous Region, Jiangsu province and Beijing and Shenzhen respectively, yielding productive results.

We helped receive two Chinese delegations to Lahore in pursuit of cooperation on agriculture and law enforcement capacity-building.....For the first time, we helped secure visa facilitation authorizations to 13 chambers of commerce and industry in Punjab, including the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade. It has been in effect since December 18th. We continued the CCG Scholarship programs in Okara and Sheikhpura districts, and established more in local Universities.

This initiative remains open to the qualified colleges and universities in Punjab.We stepped up security awareness campaigns and provided more proactive consular service to the Chinese community, asking them to strictly follow the SOP to ensure maximum safety.” CG added. The attendees were briefed more outcomes on the occasion.

Col Nadeem Qadri (Retd) said in his speech that we profoundly thank His Excellency Mr. Zhao Shiren for conferring this prestigious Friendship Award to “The Nation”.

Pakistan’s one of the oldest Media Group Nawa-i-Waqt has been conducting programmes “Nawa-i-Chin” in its electric as well as print media. Now for almost last five years myself and my colleague Mr. Khawar Abbas Sandhu are writing regularly on Belt and Road Initiative to CPEC to develop understanding of this gigantic programme to our Urdu readers, the language which is understood in all parts of country.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Dec-2023/chinese-counsel-general-awards-friendship-award-2023-to-the-nation#:~:text=Chinese%20Counsel%20General%20awards%20Friendship%20Award%202023%20to%20The%20Nation,-Khawar%20Abbas%20Sandhu&text=LAHORE%20%2D%20Mr%20Zhao%20Shiren%20Chinese,CPEC%20and%20Belt%20%26%20Road%20Initiative.>

Chinese Consulate honors LCCI president with Friendship Award

LAHORE-Kashif Anwar became the first president of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce who was honored by the Chinese Consulate with a special award given at a prestigious ceremony chaired by the Chinese Consul General Zhao Shireen in Lahore.

This recognition was granted in acknowledgment of LCCI president's invaluable contributions to the advancement of trade and industry, as well as his dedicated efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties with the Chinese Consulate.

The Chinese Consulate General in Lahore bestowed the prestigious Chinese Consul General Friendship Award upon the president of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Kashif Anwar.

During the award ceremony, Zhao Shireen, the Chinese Consul General, expressed pride in the collective progress and achievements made in building a shared future between China and Pakistan.

He highlighted the collaborative efforts in various areas, including trade, education, health initiatives, entrepreneurship programs, and fostering connections within the business communities of both countries.

Additionally, he emphasized the significant work carried out in the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) over the preceding year.

Zhao Shireen underscored the Chinese Consulate's commitment to supporting diverse sectors, ranging from education and healthcare to entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to the overall development and prosperity of the region.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed his deep gratitude for being selected to receive the Consulate General Friendship Award.

He regarded the award as a great honor and privilege, emphasizing that China has consistently been Pakistan's steadfast friend, demonstrating unwavering support under all circumstances.

The award ceremony served as an occasion to celebrate the strong bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, acknowledging the collaborative efforts that have furthered mutual interests and strengthened diplomatic ties. The recognition of Kashif Anwar reflects not only his individual accomplishments but also the fruitful partnership between the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Chinese Consulate General in Lahore. This event marks a significant milestone in fostering enduring friendships and promoting economic and diplomatic cooperation between the two nations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Dec-2023/chinese-consulate-honors-lcci-president-with-friendship-award>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین دوستی، سی پیک پر بہترین رپورٹنگ: دی نیشن کیلئے فرینڈ شپ ایوارڈ

لاہور (سپیشل کارپانڈنٹ) چین کی طرف سے نوائے وقت گروپ کے انگریزی اخبار "دی نیشن" کو پاکستان چین دوستی کے فروغ، سی پیک اور بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو سے متعلق بہترین رپورٹنگ کے اعتراف میں فرینڈ شپ ایوارڈ 2023 سے نوازا گیا۔ نوائے وقت گروپ کے چیف آپریٹنگ آفیسر کرنل (ریٹائرڈ) سید احمد ندیم قادری نے نوائے وقت گروپ کی ایم ڈی رمیزہ مجید نظامی کی نمائندگی کرتے ہوئے یہ ایوارڈ قونصل جنرل مسٹر ژاؤ شیرین سے وصول کیا۔ ایوارڈ تقریب لاہور کے مقامی ہوٹل میں منعقد ہوئی جس میں صوبائی وزیر ایس ایم تنویر، سیکرٹری داخلہ شکیل، صدر لاہور چیئرمین آف کامرس کاشف انور سمیت مختلف اداروں اور شخصیات کو بھی ایوارڈ دے دیئے گئے۔ قونصل جنرل ژاؤ شیرین نے تمام شرکاء کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور کہا کہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے خصوصی نمائندے اور چین کے نائب وزیر اعظم ہی لی فنگ کے MOUs جولائی میں اسلام آباد کے دورے اور اکتوبر میں وزیر اعظم انوار الحق کا کڑکے کامیاب دورہ چین کے نتیجے میں خیز نتانج برآمد ہوئے ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کے مابین کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کو نئی رفتار ملے گی۔ چین اور پاکستان کے تعلقات مضبوط ہیں، CPEC اور طے پانے والے معاہدوں سے دوطرفہ تعلقات کو مزید تقویت ملے گی اور سورج کی روشنی میں چمکتے ہیں اور یہ ہرگز رتے دن کے ساتھ مزید مضبوط ہوتے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ بتاتے ہوئے خوشی ہو رہی ہے کہ لاہور میں چینی قونصلیٹ جنرل نے صوبے کے اہم سٹیک ہولڈرز کے ساتھ شراکت داری میں کامیابیاں حاصل کی ہیں۔ ہم نے متعلقہ چینی علاقوں، صوبوں اور پنجاب کے درمیان باہمی اعتماد، کاروباری تعاون، ثقافتی، تعلیمی اور عوام کے درمیان تبادلوں کو بڑھانے کے لیے یکساں کوششیں کی ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات کی 72 ویں سالگرہ کی مشترکہ تقریب بہت کامیاب رہی۔ ہم نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے قیام کی 74 ویں سالگرہ کی یاد میں ایک پروکار تقریب کا انعقاد کیا۔ پنجاب حکومت کی درخواست پر دونوں اطراف کے ماحولیاتی ماہرین کے لئے ایک آن لائن سیشن کا اہتمام کرنے میں مدد کی تاکہ سموگ سے لڑنے کے بارے میں مہارت کا تبادلہ کیا جاسکے۔ انچا کو مزید تعاون کے لیے آل چائنا کائونسل ایسوسی ایشن کے ساتھ منسلک کرنے میں مدد کی۔ چین کے قومی دن پر مقامی اداروں کے ساتھ خصوصی دوستی کرکٹ میچ اور پیٹنگ مقابلے کی مشترکہ میزبانی کی۔ اس سال ہم نے پنجاب سے تین وفد کو چین کے مختلف شہروں کا دورہ کرنے کے لیے منظم سہولیات فراہم کیں، جس کے نتیجے میں خیز نتانج برآمد ہوئے۔ مال روڈ پر بزنس سہولت سنٹر اور اسپیشل انیشی ایٹو ماڈل پولیس سٹیشن اور سروس سنٹر کی تعمیر اور اپ گریڈیشن اس بات کی واضح مثالیں ہیں کہ ہم ایک دوسرے سے سیکھ کر کس حد تک آگے بڑھ سکتے ہیں۔ سفارتخانے نے زراعت اور قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی استعداد کار میں اضافے کے حوالے سے تعاون کے حصول منصوبوں کے لیے ایک خصوصی میڈیا ٹور کا CPEC کے لیے دو چینی وفد کو لاہور آنے میں مدد کی۔ ہم نے میڈیا ہائوسز اور تھک ٹینکس کو مزید مشغول کیا اور پنجاب میں کی اعلیٰ معیار کی CPEC کی دس سالہ ترقی کو اجاگر کیا گیا۔ قونصل خانے نے مقامی شراکت داروں کے ساتھ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو اور CPEC اہتمام کیا، جس میں ترقی کے موضوع پر ایک سیمینار اور گول میز کانفرنس کے انعقاد میں بھی کام کیا۔ پہلی بار پنجاب میں 13 چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کو بوزاکی سہولت فراہم کرنے میں مدد کی، بشمول پنجاب بورڈ آف انوسٹمنٹ اینڈ ٹریڈ۔ یہ 18 سمبر سے نافذ العمل ہے۔ ہم نے اوکاڑہ اور شیخوپورہ اضلاع میں سی سی جی سکالر شپ پروگراموں کو جاری پنجاب کے ساتھ شراکت داری سے قونصلیٹ نے بہادپور میں کمپیوٹر لیبل کے قیام کو سپورٹ کیا۔ ہم نے TEVTA رکھا۔ گورنر پنجاب محمد بلوچ الرحمن کی معاونت اور مقامی تدریسی ہسپتال سے 2 ڈاکٹروں کو پیشہ ورانہ تربیت کے لیے تیانجن روانہ کیا اور جناح ہسپتال اور گلاب دیوی ہسپتال کو بالترتیب ڈائلاز مشینیں اور آئی سی یو بیڈ فراہم کیے، جس سے صوبے میں تعلیمی اور طبی خدمات کو بااختیار بنانے میں مدد ملی۔ ہم نے سکیورٹی سے متعلق آگاہی ہم کو تیز کیا اور چینی کمیونٹی کو زیادہ فعال قونصلر سروس پر سختی سے عمل کریں۔ اس موقع پر کرنل (ریٹائرڈ) سید احمد ندیم قادری نے اپنی تقریر SOP فراہم کی، ان سے کہا کہ وہ زیادہ سے زیادہ حفاظت کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے میں کہا کہ ہم دی نیشن، نوائے وقت میڈیا گروپ اور ایم ڈی محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی کی طرف سے چینی قونصل جنرل ژاؤ شیرین کا تہ دل سے شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے "دی نیشن" کو یہ باوقار فرینڈ شپ ایوارڈ دیا۔ پاکستان کا سب سے پرانا میڈیا گروپ نوائے وقت اپنے الیکٹرانک اور پرنٹ میڈیا میں "نوائے چین" کے نام سے اور بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو پر باقاعدگی سے لکھ رہے ہیں۔ سابق CPEC پروگرام اور اشاعت کرتا رہا ہے۔ گذشتہ پانچ سال سے میں اور میرے ساتھی خاور عباس سندھو

چینی سفیر محترم لونگ لونگ نے نوائے وقت اور دی نیشن کو انٹرویو میں کہا تھا کہ ہمارا میڈیا گروپ پاکستان چین دوستی کا وارث ہے۔ یقیناً ہماری دوستی کی جڑیں بہت گہری ہیں۔ چین اور اس جغرافیائی وجود کے درمیان اس دوستی کی کہانی، جو اب پاکستان کہلاتا ہے 2000 سال پرانی ہے جب شاہراہ ریشم نے چینی اور وادی سندھ کی تہذیب کو جوڑ دیا تھا۔ ہر گزرتے دن کے ساتھ ہماری پیپلز ٹو پیپلز دوستی مضبوط اور پروان چڑھ رہی ہے۔ ہم دور میں ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ کھڑے رہے ہیں۔ یہ ایوارڈ حاصل کرنا ہمارے ادارے کے لئے بڑے اعزاز کی بات ہے۔ اپنے ادارے کے نمائندے کے طور پر میں اپنے چینی دوستوں کو یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ ہم پاک چین دوستی کے محافظ ہیں اور ہم اس کی حفاظت کا عہد کرتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-12-23/page-1/detail-7>

چینی قونصل خانے کا پنجاب پولیس کے سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کیلئے فرینڈشپ ایوارڈ

لاہور (نامہ نگار) پنجاب پولیس نے فرانس کی شاندار اداکاری پر ایک اور اعزاز اپنے نام کر لیا۔ چینی قونصل خانے نے پنجاب پولیس کے سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کو فرینڈشپ ایوارڈ سے نوازا ہے۔ لاہور میں چینی قونصلیٹ کی جانب سے میں فرینڈشپ ایوارڈ دینے کی تقریب منعقد ہوئی۔ چینی قونصل جنرل نے ڈی آئی جی سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ طیب حفیظ چیمہ کو فرینڈشپ ایوارڈ سے نوازا۔ طیب حفیظ چیمہ نے کہا کہ سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ چینی شہریوں سمیت تمام غیر ملکی باشندوں کی فول پروف سیورٹی یقینی بنا رہی ہے۔ ترجمان پنجاب پولیس نے کہا کہ چینی قونصل جنرل نے چینی قونصلیٹ کیساتھ بہترین تعاون یقینی بنانے والے اداروں اور افسران کو فرینڈشپ ایوارڈ دینے کا اعلان کیا تھا اور اس سلسلے میں چینی قونصل جنرل نے سپیشل پروٹیکشن یونٹ کی خدمات کو سراہتے ہوئے ایوارڈ سے نوازا ہے۔ چینی قونصلیٹ نے رواں سال بہترین کوارڈینیشن کے فروغ پر مختلف اداروں کو ایوارڈ دیئے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-12-23/page-4/detail-16>

پاکستان میں چینی انٹر کرپٹنگ ٹیکنالوجی کی منظوری

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) ایف اے او کے زیر اہتمام پاکستان میں سویاٹین کی پیداوار سے متعلق قومی ورکشاپ میں چین کی انٹر کرپٹنگ ٹیکنالوجی کو محققین، عہدیداروں، صنعتکاروں اور ترقی پسند کسانوں نے منظور کیا۔ سویاٹین کے درآمدی بل کو ایک ارب ڈالر تک کم کرنے کے لئے ممکنہ حل تلاش کرنا تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-12-23/page-10/detail-35>

December 24, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Pak delegation visits AiMall Tech, Shenzhen

A delegation of Pakistan's Artificial Intelligence Technology Center (AITC) comprised of Director General Nadeem Ahmed, Technical Director Dr. Aminuddin Qureshi, Directors Dr. Syed Khursheed Hasnain and Kamran Qureshi had a visit to Chinese AI company, Shenzhen AiMall Tech. Co., Ltd. to discuss bilateral cooperation.

Both parties conducted in-depth discussions on various issues and future cooperation plans in the field of AI technology. Dr. Yang Heng, Chairman of AiMall, Chen Zai, Strategic Planning Director, and Ji Chuande, Technical Expert accompanied the visit.

Nadeem Ahmed analyzed the current development status of AI globally and in Pakistan, and introduced in detail the scientific research progress made by AITeC in the field of AI through a video.

“So far, AITC has established multiple core artificial intelligence laboratories such as computer vision, natural language processing, machine learning and deep learning, and is committed to conducting high-quality AI technology research and development in various fields.”

Dr. Yang briefly introduced the overall development, technology application, industrial layout and strategic planning of AiMall. Subsequently, the two parties had specific discussions on topics such as AI large models, computer vision, embodied intelligence and other AI technology hotspots and industrial application development, and exchanged views on future business cooperation as well as training courses, CEN reported.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-delegation-visits-aimall-tech-shenzhen/>

The Nation

CPEC: A revolution, indeed

MUHAMMAD NASIR IQBAL KHAN

reforms and glorious victories for the welfare and improvement in the life of all human beings. Because according to Hazrat Farooq-e-Azam, setting the right direction and creating ease for people was also considered worship. A person who makes his place in the society due to his leadership traits and constructive work is always remembered and appreciated by the future generations. Even today, generations are getting benefits from the roads constructed by Sher Shah Suri, in different parts of the sub-continent and remembering his vision and personality. In the current century, the Belt & Road Initiative of People’s Republic of China would have a long-lasting effect on the economic, commercial, trading and social developments of the partner countries. Pakistan has proud and strong ties with its great neighbor and trusted friend, China which has taken this initiative. All the projects, including Silk Road and other joint ventures have resulted in deep positive effects on the economy, commerce and trade of both the friendly and trustworthy countries. Both the countries are proud of their friendship and trust which has been tested on various occasions, at different times.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a strategy initiated by the People’s Republic of China that seeks to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks with the aim of improving regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth. With the completion of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, the monopoly of the dollar on the global economy will become a thing of the past. China’s dream of becoming the world’s economic superpower will soon come true under the benevolent leadership of a sincere, dedicated and relentless Chinese leadership. China has the full potential to lead the world community by all means. Unlike America, China does not get involved in various regional and global conflicts. According to the Chinese leadership, any country which wastes precious time and national resources is a criminal. Therefore, compared to America and India, China, as a country, likes to stay at ease in the world and focuses only on economic policies, development and activities. Construction and development projects are on the top priority of Chinese leadership, for economic development. The completion of the seven

corridors of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project is a breath of fresh air for our fragile and weak national economy. China leaves no work undone.

China has a track record that it puts its hands in every work only when it has 100% surety and firm belief about its brilliant success. Pakistan and China, under the banner of Belt and Road Initiative, have taken up the construction and completion of CPEC by holding each other's hand so firmly that no power, on earth, can create any obstacle in its way. Since its inception, a "decade" of CPEC has been a multiplication of success and efficiency.

CPEC has a promising future and would also meet Pakistan's energy needs to a large extent.

Allah's willing, in the form of CPEC, a new era has begun for Pakistan and China. This joint adventure of two friendly countries is passing through various stages of its construction and completion, while surpassing the conspiracies and hurdles posed by several enemy countries. For Pakistan and China, the quality and standard of work in CPEC's projects is more important than its speed of construction.

CPEC is no longer a dream or a mirage, but a harbinger of revolution for China and its trustful and faithful friend, Pakistan. Both the friendly countries have shared all the successes and achievements achieved so far.

CPEC is such a unique revolution that will certainly irrigate the places where it has passed. With its fruits, our future "generations" and "crops" will continue to grow. This profitable highway is a precious boon to the citizens on both sides. Alhamdulillah! Pakistan became a nuclear power by destroying the coffins of various threats. Now, Allah's willing, it will become an economic power on the bill of CPEC.

CPEC is a unique project and a gigantic wonder of our time. Its completion will pave the way for the economic prosperity and strength of our motherland, Pakistan, and our friend China. The successes and achievements of both the countries are common fruit for them.

CPEC is such a marvelous project that our future generations shall continually be benefited with its strategic results in terms of trade, industry, energy, transportation, natural resources and economic development.

Pakistan bulldozed all the restrictions and hurdles when it decided to become a nuclear power, so with the same zeal and zest it would also become a strong economic power. In my view, the "artists" who presented the "concept" of CPEC and painted it into reality are the unknown and unsung heroes for the people of both the countries. We can speculate the importance and value of CPEC for the economy of our country from the volume of ongoing campaigns against it.

Many countries, including India, are active in bulldozing the CPEC, through their dirty tactics, but the masterpiece of Pakistan-China friendship, this magnificent project, is moving fast on its construction and completion journey with a considerable speed while ensuring its quality and standard. Pakistan and China have been generously making serious offers to other countries to benefit from CPEC, by partnering in this Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) but the short-sighted and shallow-minded nations have been 'deferring' this offer.

These ignorant people have neither vision nor in-depth knowledge. If India and its allies were not far-sighted, they would not have shown hypocrisy and attacked CPEC, on various fronts and would not have wasted their money to bulldoze this historic mega project. India and its allies under-estimated the vigilance and strength of Pakistan and China, to protect the CPEC, when they wasted their valuable capital to obstruct the success of this project. The economic future of two nuclear powers is associated with CPEC, so this project can neither be treated as a breakable glass nor will the two friendly countries allow it.

Professional engineers, and skilled workmen from Pakistan and China are working, using their professional skills and hard work for timely completion of CPEC and making it operational in the shortest possible time. The areas, through which CPEC will pass, industrial and commercial activities will be promoted and thousands of people will get decent employment or chances of running their own businesses. Two friendly nuclear countries will benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its CPEC project while, as a fringe benefit, talented technical, and economic manpower will be grown; on the contrary, nothing will come in the hands of the hate-mongers and critics.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Dec-2023/cpec-a-revolution-indeed>

December 25, 2023

The News

China and Middle East security

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Modern Middle Eastern Muslim countries have a history of relationship with China which can be traced back before the emergence of Islam. China and Arab countries have developed a relationship for over 2000 years when both the civilisations were linked through the Silk Route.

Since then, China and the Arab countries have been trading and developing strong cultural linkages. The Silk Route helped them benefit from each other's civilisation.

The relationship was further strengthened after emergence of Islam, as both the civilisations have many common points. Both focused on people-centric governance, values, character, integrity, honesty and meritocracy for selecting rulers and officials. China is continuing the tradition.

The relationship went through disturbances during the century of humiliation of China. The Middle Eastern countries, especially the Gulf Cooperation Council states, took time to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Egypt was the first from the Arabic world and Syria from Middle Eastern countries to recognise China. They established relations with China in 1956, followed by Iraq in 1958.

GCC and some prominent non-Arabic countries established diplomatic relations in 1970, '80s and '90s.

Why did GCC and Middle Eastern countries take so long time to establish diplomatic relations with China, especially against the backdrop of pro-Palestine policy of China? It is pertinent to highlight here Israel was the first country from the Middle East to approach China in 1950. China did not respond. The two countries established a diplomatic relationship in the early 1990s. One plausible answer is Western influence played a role.

However, things started to change in the early 1970s. Kuwait was the first country from the GCC to establish diplomatic relations in 1971, followed by Turkiye and Iran. Oman was next on the list in 1978, followed by UAE in 1984, Qatar in 1988, Bahrain in 1989 and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1990.

The attack on Iraqi nuclear installments by Israeli forces in 1981 further accelerated the change. The attack created unrest among the rulers of Middle East. They feared Israel could attack other countries, so they needed protection. Saudi Arabia contacted the US government and asked for long-range missiles and security shields. The US rejected the request. Saudis then contacted China for help. China provided Saudi Arabia with the required assistance. It shows China, unlike Western countries led by the US, came forward to assist Saudi Arabia in times of need. The incident encouraged other countries from the region and GCC to establish diplomatic relations with China.

Since then, the relationship between Saudi Arabia, other GCC countries, and China has been improving. Both (China-Middle East) have deep links in multiple fields. Now, the Middle East has become top oil exporter. The countries which export oil to China are Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Iran. Saudi Arabia is the leading exporter with 19pc followed by Iraq 11pc, Oman 8pc, Kuwait 7pc, UAE 7pc and Iran 6pc. It shows almost 50pc of China's oil imports come from these six countries. China is also enhancing its investment linkages with all the countries of the region. After the launch of BRI, these efforts have accelerated.

China is convinced without permanent peace, the region cannot achieve sustainable development goals. Insecurity is impacting development and lack of development affecting security. In the words of President Xi Jinping, the region is facing a dual dilemma of security and development deficits. Thus, China is playing its role in restoring sustainable peace to the Middle East region. It is the primary reason for extremism and terrorism in the region. China considers it is important to talk about development needs and peace simultaneously.

China has deployed traditional Chinese wisdom to solve the security and development concerns of the region. It has presented a five-point proposal to bring back sustainable development and peace in the region.

First, it is advocating mutual respect to foster process of peace and development. China is urging world players to come out of the mentality of geo-politics and self-centered policies.

There is a need to work closely with regional countries to build strong cooperation and partnerships for peace and development in the region. There is a need to stop meddling in regional issues, as countries in the region have the wisdom and capacity to solve them.

Second, equity and justice should be guiding principles to solve the problems, especially the Palestine issue. China urges all countries to play a positive role in ensuring the sovereign

rights of the Palestinian people. Palestine issue must be solved and the UN should play its role here. Third is achieving non-proliferation in the region. The US and Iran should engage and resume compliance with the JCPOA; international community should support efforts by regional countries to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Fourth is jointly fostering collective security. The dialogue, talks and solutions must focus on the legitimate concerns of all parties. Countries should respect each other and devise mechanisms to help lower conflict and enhance trust. The starting points can be ensuring the safety of oil facilities and shipping lanes; building a framework for collective, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in the Middle East.

Fifth is accelerating development cooperation. President Xi Jinping once said development is the master-key for solving the issues and ensuring sustainable peace. China is urging all the players to work jointly to improve economic and development conditions of the region. It is important to help post-conflict countries rebuild, support greater diversity in the economic growth of oil-producing countries and assist other Middle Eastern nations in achieving development and revitalisation in light of the resource endowments of different countries in the region. President Xi has proposed three actions to resolve the Palestine issue; people of Palestine have the right to enjoy freedom. There should be a sovereign and independent State of Palestine according to the borders of 1967, and East Jerusalem should be the capital of the independent State of Palestine; the world community must give due attention to the needs of the people of Palestine and scale up their assistance and aid to Palestinians; the historical status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem should be respected, and excessive and provocative words and actions should be avoided.

A large-scale, more authoritative and more influential international peace conference should be convened so as to create conditions for the resumption of peace talks and contribute tangible efforts to help Palestine and Israel live in peace. It will help find a sustainable solution that can ensure peace between Palestine and Israel and in the region.

On the issue of Syria, China proposed four actions to resolve the conflict there. First, China urges the international community to respect Syria's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. There should be no efforts of regime change and let the people of Syria decide their future. Second, China considers the sanctions to be lifted to secure development. Third, terrorists and UN-designated terrorist organisations must be uprooted. Syria has the right to fight and uproot terrorism from their country. Fourth, China supports the approach of inclusive and reconciliatory political solutions. The people of Syria should lead the process. On the basis of above discussion, we can infer China is serious about peace and development in the region. China does not believe in talking only, but taking practical steps. The most prominent example from the region is the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. It is a huge success considering the history of the two countries and the region. It is hoped Chinese efforts will bear fruit and the regional countries will be able to devise special mechanisms for achieving sustainable peace and development goals.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=266579>

December 26, 2023

Daily Times

Pak-China building materials collaboration flourish

The Linqu Building Materials Special Session, as part of the 2023 Weifang International Procurement Festival, was held in Linqu, Shandong, which provided a platform for international representatives to connect. Tahir Zaman Muhammad, the CEO of Eagle Star Supply Chain and a prominent Pakistani business representative, received significant attention during his participation in the event. “I am honored to have been invited to participate in this prestigious event. The organization of procurement festivals within industrial clusters provides an excellent opportunity for me to connect with outstanding and reliable suppliers,” said Tahir. He also highlighted the increasing interest and potential for collaboration between the building materials industries of China and Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. Linqu City is renowned for its abundant resource base, advanced manufacturing capabilities, and comprehensive supply chain. Its products, including ceramics, glass, cement, and steel, enjoy high demand both domestically and internationally. “This event has given me valuable insights into the significant influence of Linqu and has introduced me to several high-quality building material enterprises,” expressed Tahir, impressed by the thriving building materials industry in Linqu.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1154827/pak-china-building-materials-collaboration-flourish/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China building materials collaboration opportunities flourish in Linqu

The Linqu Building Materials Special Session, as part of the 2023 Weifang International Procurement Festival, was held in Linqu, Shandong, which provided a platform for international representatives to connect. Tahir Zaman Muhammad, the CEO of Eagle Star Supply Chain and a prominent Pakistani business representative, received significant attention during his participation in the event. “I am honored to have been invited to participate in this prestigious event. The organization of procurement festivals within industrial clusters provides an excellent opportunity for me to connect with outstanding and reliable suppliers,” said Tahir. He also highlighted the increasing interest and potential for collaboration between the building materials industries of China and Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. Linqu City is renowned for its abundant resource base, advanced manufacturing capabilities, and comprehensive supply chain. Its products, including ceramics, glass, cement, and steel, enjoy high demand both domestically and internationally. “This event has given me valuable insights into the significant influence of Linqu and has introduced me to several high-quality building material enterprises,” expressed Tahir, impressed by the thriving building materials industry in Linqu. Pakistan is currently witnessing a growing demand for building materials due to rapid urbanization and infrastructure development initiatives.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-building-materials-collaboration-opportunities-flourish-in-linqu/>

Pakistan’s agricultural experts participate in training program in China

As many as 20 agricultural experts from Pakistan, Egypt and other Belt and Road countries participated in the international training program on kiwifruit industry technology in Chengdu and Deyang, Sichuan province of China.

Ministry of Science and Technology of China, in collaboration with the Sichuan Provincial Academy of Natural Resources Sciences, organized the 15-day training program. The experts exchanged knowledge on kiwifruit breeding, cultivation, pest control, post-harvest storage and preservation techniques, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

China is the birthplace of kiwifruit, and Sichuan is the second-largest kiwifruit producing region in China. With over 40 years of development, Sichuan has cultivated kiwifruit on an area of 750,000 acres, with an annual production of 440,000 tons.

During the training period, the members visited numerous local kiwifruit farms, where they had the opportunity to taste the distinctive red-fleshed and yellow-fleshed kiwifruit varieties. They also had the chance to visit the China-New Zealand Kiwifruit Joint Laboratory.

Wang Yongzhi, Deputy Director of the Sichuan Provincial Academy of Natural Resources Sciences, emphasized the importance of international scientific and technological cooperation.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-agricultural-experts-participate-in-training-program-in-china/>

The Express Tribune

Pak-China eye potential of building materials sector

Demand growing in Pakistan due to rapid urbanization

BEIJING: The Linqu Building Materials Special Session, as part of the 2023 Weifang International Procurement Festival, was held in Linqu, Shandong on December 23, which provided a platform for international representatives to connect.

Eagle Star Supply Chain CEO Tahir Zaman Muhammad, who is also a prominent Pakistani business representative, received significant attention during his participation in the event.

“I am honoured to have been invited to participate in this event. The organisation of procurement festivals within industrial clusters provides an excellent opportunity to connect with outstanding and reliable suppliers,” said Muhammad.

He also highlighted the increasing interest and potential for collaboration between the building material industries of China and Pakistan. Linqu city is renowned for its abundant resource base, advanced manufacturing capabilities and comprehensive supply chain. Its products, including ceramics, glass, cement and steel, enjoy high demand both domestically and internationally.

“This event has given me valuable insights into the significant influence of Linqu and has introduced me to several high-quality building material enterprises,” said Muhammad, who was impressed by the thriving building materials industry in Linqu.

Pakistan is currently witnessing a growing demand for building materials due to rapid urbanisation and infrastructure development initiatives. The country's expertise in areas such as marble, granite and textiles presents promising opportunities for collaboration with Linqu's building materials sector.

"I am determined to engage in further negotiations for future collaboration. I aim to introduce more potential partners to Linqu, fostering increased cooperation and contributing to the strong friendship between China and Pakistan," he stated.

Earlier, a Pakistani delegation, led by Faisal Saleem, PTI Senator and Muhammad Imran Masood, member of the Board of Investment, visited Anlu International Technology Company in Beijing. The delegation held in-depth discussion with the company's chairman on smart city construction in Pakistan.

The company has also participated in the construction of Peshawar BRT Project and Lahore Safe City Project.

The article originally appeared on the China Economic Net

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2451160/pak-china-eye-potential-of-building-materials-sector>

December 27, 2023

Daily Times

Gwadar University delegation visits Pakistan-China Institute

An eleven-member delegation of students from the University of Gwadar visited the Pakistan-China Institute (CPI) under the Balochistan Youth Engagement Programme.

"This multifaceted endeavour, strategically crafted to deepen bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, unveiled a comprehensive agenda aimed at enriching the understanding and collaboration between Pakistan and China," a news release said on Tuesday.

The initiative's primary focus is to empower the vibrant youth of the Balochistan region, recognizing their pivotal role in shaping the future landscape of both nations.

At the core of this enlightening experience was the 8th CPEC Media Forum, providing an immersive platform for the delegation to gain profound insights into the far-reaching impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Balochistan.

Beyond a conventional information-sharing session, this forum facilitated dynamic and thought-provoking discussions, fostering a nuanced and more profound comprehension of this transformative strategic initiative.

The students had an exclusive session with Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute, which provided a unique space for a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives, amplifying the depth of understanding for both the delegation and the hosting institute.

The delegation further enriched their experience with a guided visit to Pakistan's Parliament House and Senate. Engaging with Muhammad Mushtaq, Special Secretary/Advisor

(Legislation), National Assembly Secretariat, provided valuable insights into the intricate legislative processes shaping the nation's policies.

Renowned communication strategist at the Institute of Regional Studies, Reema Shokat, brought her expertise to the forefront, emphasizing the paramount role of effective communication between Pakistan and China in academic and diplomatic spheres.

In another session, Moin ul Haque, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, shared experiences and perspectives, offering a historical lens on the evolution of diplomatic relations. Beyond the confines of formal engagements, the delegation actively cemented diplomatic ties with a visit to the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.

The delegation had a chance to meet with Bao Zhong, Counsellor of the Political and Media Section at the China Embassy in Pakistan.

This diplomatic rendezvous symbolized the ongoing collaboration and laid the groundwork for potential future partnerships in the academic realm.

It served as a testament to the commitment to fostering enduring connections beyond the boundaries of structured events.

The Balochistan Youth Engagement Programme, meticulously organized by the Pakistan-China Institute, stands not only as a beacon in orchestrating events but as a cornerstone in nurturing lasting connections and fostering mutual understanding between the youth of Balochistan and China.

The echoes of this transformative visit resonate far beyond the events themselves, leaving an indelible mark on the participants and the broader landscape of Pakistan-China relations.

The event is a testament to the enduring commitment to building a stronger, more interconnected future for Pakistan and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1155204/gwadar-university-delegation-visits-pakistan-china-institute/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan committed to strengthening ties with China: PM

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said Pakistan was committed to taking its relationship with China to new heights of cooperation and solidarity.

PM Kakar expressed these views as the country's ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi called on him here at the PM's Office.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-committed-to-strengthening-ties-with-china-pm/>

The News

Gwadar University delegation visits PCI

Islamabad: An eleven-member delegation of students of the University of Gwadar has visited the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) under the Balochistan Youth Engagement Programme.

‘This multifaceted endeavour, strategically crafted to deepen bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, unveiled a comprehensive agenda, aimed at enriching the understanding and collaboration between Pakistan and China,’ a news release said on Tuesday. The initiative’s primary focus is to empower the vibrant youth of the Balochistan region, recognising their pivotal role in shaping the future landscape of both nations. At the core of this enlightening experience was the 8th CPEC Media Forum, providing an immersive platform for the delegation to gain profound insights into the far-reaching impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Balochistan. Beyond a conventional information-sharing session, this forum facilitated dynamic and thought-provoking discussions, fostering a nuanced and deeper comprehension of this transformative strategic initiative. The students had an exclusive session with Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute, which provided a unique space for a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives, amplifying the depth of understanding for both the delegation and the hosting institute. The delegation further enriched their experience with a guided visit to the Parliament House and Senate of Pakistan. Engaging with Muhammad Mushtaq, Special Secretary/Adviser (Legislation), National Assembly Secretariat, provided valuable insights into the intricate legislative processes shaping the nation’s policies. Renowned communication strategist at Institute of Regional Studies Reema Shokat brought her expertise to the forefront, emphasizing the paramount role of effective communication in both academic and diplomatic spheres between Pakistan and China.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=266964>

China dealing with terrorism in line with law

Faizan Bangash

URUMQI (China): China has been dealing with the issue of terrorism in the autonomous region of Xinjiang in accordance with law and the untoward incidents here have witnessed a decline since 2016.

This was stated by the Principal of the ‘Theme Exhibition’, while briefing Pakistani media during its visit to the institute.

‘Theme Exhibition’ is an institute established in the Chinese city of Urumqi where all the efforts made by the Chinese government to counter terrorism in Xinjiang have been put on display. The Muslim dominated region of Xinjiang remained under the terrorist and extremist attacks mainly between the year 1996 to 2016. The Pakistan media delegation was also shown sharp edged weapons, explosives and guns recovered in large quantity from the extremists. Besides, media was also told about the ongoing efforts made by China under its head Xi Jinping to protect the population of Xinjiang from the attack of militants.

The Pakistani media was told that Akmusjid Aji, the Vice President of Islamic Association of the Xinhe County, Aksu Prefecture and an assistant Imam of Mosque was killed by two armed assailants on March 22, 1996 at his home. According to Chinese officials, the Muslim religious figure was targeted by the terrorists for his upright behaviour.

In another incident occurring on November 6, 1997, senior Mullah Yunus Sdk, a member of China Islamic Association and President of Aksu Islamic Association was killed by a terrorist group, which received instructions from 'East Turkestan' forces based abroad.

It was also revealed during the visit to Theme Exhibition that from January 15 to February 19, 1998, under the instructions of a foreign based terrorist organization, Abdushkur Jelili committed 23 poisonings in Kashgar with 'Temic' a deadly pesticide, causing 1 civilian dead, three poisoned and thousands of livestock either killed or poisoned. The 'Theme Exhibition' showed China's concern over the involvement of foreign forces behind terrorism on its territory. It was also told that material used in terrorist activities had been recovered on multiple times. In one such occurrence, on April 6, 1998, Yili Prefectural Public Security Bureau in collaboration with customs and borders control authority, investigated an inbound truck shipping sheep wool and seized six pistols, 15,120 pistol bullets in 14 boxes, one soviet made folding sub machine gun and 2,440 bullets, 12 military hand grenades, 90 grenades, 85 grenade fuses, 2 tubular mines, 4 boxes of explosives and 100 detonators in one package.

The material put on display in the 'Theme Exhibition' stated that 'Xinjiang has implemented General Secretary XI Jinping's important instruction on Xinjiang related work and fully, faithfully applied the party's policies on governing the region in the new era. 'We have effectively responded to various risks and challenges and resolved tough issues concerning reform, development and stability' it states. 'As a result, the region enjoys stable and sound economic growth and over all social stability' it added. Located in Northwest China and the hinterland of Eurasian continent, the autonomous region of Xinjiang has an area of 1.66 million square kilometers. The region borders eight countries including Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, with a land boundary of over 5,700 kilometers. Xinjiang is the provincial administrative region with the largest land area, the largest number of bordering countries and the longest land border in China. Xinjiang has been a multiethnic and multi religious region since ancient times. It is currently inhabited by 56 ethnic groups including Uyghur, Han, Kazakh, Mongol, Hui, Kirghiz, Manchu, Xibe, Tajik, Daur, Uzbek, Tatar and Russian. Multiple religions have existed in Xinjiang for centuries and at present, it has Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Orthodox and other religions. According to the official data, there are 24,800 places for religious activities in Xinjiang such as mosques, churches, monasteries and Taoist temples with 29300 religious faculty members. Among them, there are 24,400 mosques, 59 Buddhist temples, 1 Taoist temple, 227 Christian churches (meeting point), 26 Catholic churches and 3 Orthodox churches. The government claims that it is important to stick to the principles of rule of law based approach in combating terrorism and extremism in Xinjiang. 'Counter terrorism and de radicalization in Xinjiang has always been conducted in accordance with law' it was told.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=267019>

China to open Khunjerab border from Jan 3

Nisar Abbas Sadpara

SKARDU: The People's Republic of China will open its border for trade activities for a week from January 3.

The offices of Pakistani institutions on the Khunjarab border have opened from today (Wednesday). Pakistan requested China to open the border for 10 days from 26th December.

According to official sources of Pakistani custom department, the Chinese side has agreed to open Khunjerab border from 3rd January, 2024 till 10th, January, 2024 as a trial run.

During this temporary opening of Khunjerab border, around 25 empty containers along with Chinese drivers will cross Khunjerab border into China who were stuck on Pakistani side due to closure of broader on 1st December. Moreover, it is expected that around 22 transit consignments under TIR will move from Pakistan to China & Central Asian Republics (CARs). Furthermore, it is expected that 03 export consignments will enter China from Pakistan. As per the initial information, around 8 project consignments meant for Daimer Basha Dam will also enter Pakistan from China during these 10 days opening of border.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=267084>

K2 Daily News



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-27

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-12-27

December 28, 2023

Business Recorder

President sees China as largest trading partner, FDI source

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said China was the largest trading partner of Pakistan and was an important Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) source in the country.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had helped further expand and strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries,” the president expressed these views while talking to Pakistan’s Ambassador to China, Khalilur Rahman Hashmi who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.

He said under CPEC, a network of roads had been laid across the country, whereas, infrastructure projects of strategic importance were also included in the mega project.

Terming China as Pakistan’s brotherly country and a permanent strategic partner, he said the bilateral ties between Pakistan and China were of special importance.

Further, he pointed out that the cultural and educational exchanges were important for the strong friendship of the two countries.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/12/28/2-page/980892-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Gaining insights into Chinese modernization’s global vision

The 2024 Global Times Annual Conference, themed “Following the Path of Chinese Modernization, Coping with Changes Unseen in a Century” was held in Beijing on Saturday. To understand the implications of Chinese modernization in this turbulent world and analyze what China can do to stay on this path and overcome various challenges in 2024, the Conference invited over 100 representatives from all walks of life as well as experts and scholars to share their views on four major themes. The following contains excerpts from the second theme – “Development, security and civilization: the global vision of Chinese modernization.”

Chinese modernization carries global significance

Jin Canrong, professor of the School of International Studies at the Renmin University of China:

Modernization began in the West; however, after centuries of industrialization, the success rate of modernization for non-Western countries remains low. Given this background, Chinese modernization carries global significance. When studying development economics, I had a feeling that the development theories of developed Western countries, which became the first to climb the ladder of industrialization and achieve modernization, actually played a role in hindering other countries’ development. From this perspective, it is even more important for us to promote and achieve Chinese modernization. Only by successfully

achieving this goal can we create a new path for modernization exploration for non-Western countries and regions.

Huang Jing, professor at Shanghai International Studies University:

Development, security, and civilization – these perspectives themselves reflect the global vision of Chinese modernization.

From China's perspective, the international order is supported by three pillars: the international political order centered around the UN, the world economic and trade order centered around the World Trade Organization and other international economic and trade organizations, as well as the world financial order centered around the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The foundation of these three orders is multilateral mechanisms rather than unilateral mechanisms. Therefore, China firmly adheres to multilateralism in diplomacy, which is promoting the improvement of the international order based on multilateral mechanisms.

Chinese modernization is embedded with a peaceful gene

Zhao Xiaozhuo, deputy director of the Beijing Xiangshan Forum Secretariat:

One of the characteristics of Chinese modernization is to walk on the path of peaceful development.

China's culture emphasizes that peace is precious and that harmony brings wealth.

Peace is also in line with the best interest of China, and one of the reasons for the great development achievements since the reform and opening-up is that we have seized the opportunity of such a long period of peace.

Regarding the relationship between Chinese modernization and peace, first, China is a defender and builder of peace in the region and the world.

At present, wars are raging from Europe to the Middle East and Africa, but the Asia-Pacific region has enjoyed decades of peaceful and prosperous development, in which China has undoubtedly played a significant role.

Second, China is a provider of international public security products.

China has always been an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping and escort operations and is the second-largest contributor to the UN's regular budget and peacekeeping assessments.

In the event of natural disasters in its neighborhood, China has always tried its best to deliver aid and rescue.

The activities of the Chinese military, especially overseas, have never overridden the UN framework, but have always been based on UN mandates or resolutions.

<https://pakobserver.net/gaining-insights-into-chinese-modernizations-global-vision/>

The Express Tribune

Symposium bolsters Pak-China cooperation

More than 160 scholars, researchers, entrepreneurs from six countries participated in symposium

The 2023 International Symposium of Silk Road Wheat Innovation Alliance was held at Northwest A&F University in Yangling, China. The conference holds significant importance in deepening cooperation between China and Pakistan in the wheat industry. More than 160 scholars, researchers and entrepreneurs from six countries, including China, Pakistan and Turkey, participated in the symposium, engaging in academic exchanges on key issues such as innovations in wheat germplasm resources, genetic breeding research, agricultural digitalisation and mechanisation, crop management in climate change and trend of international wheat trade. Multiple Pakistani experts shared their research findings during the event. Professor Zahid Akram from Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, who is also the vice chairman of the first council of Silk Road Wheat Innovation Alliance, delivered a speech titled “Status of Wheat in Pakistan”. “Approximately 80% of farmers in Pakistan are involved in wheat production, occupying nearly 40% of the country’s agricultural land. The significance of wheat production cannot be overstated,” he said.

The article originally appeared on the China Economic Net

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2451360/symposium-bolsters-pak-china-cooperation>

The Nation

PCJCCI for collaborating with China in chemical industry

LAHORE-Moazzam Ghurki, president of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), said during a think tank session held at PCJCCI Secretariat yesterday that Pakistan does not have mature technology to produce petrochemical complex facilities or cracking units, which is a very big constraint to the development of its chemical industry. He stressed that Pakistan can collaborate with China and learn from China’s experience to promote the sustainable development of the chemical industry and give full play to the industry in the national economic construction. President PCJCCI also highlighted that there is a vast potential of Pakistan in chemical manufacturing and processing. Our vision was to transform the chemical industry of Pakistan from an import-oriented to an export-oriented industry. Fang Yulong, senior vice president PCJCCI, further added that with the rapid development of biotechnology, the biochemical industry has injected new vitality into the traditional chemical industry and opened up new development directions and insights. He further explained that China has a growing influence in the field of biochemical industry globally. Both approaches will be of great benefit to Pakistan. Zafar Iqbal, chairman Standing Committee on Chemical Industry (PCJCCI), said that with the continuous growth of economy and population base, the demand of Pakistani citizens for chemical products is increasing day by day. The country is highly dependent on imported oil products, and the shortage of oil products has even affected national security. He added that China’s successful chemical park model can provide Pakistan’s small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

December 29, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China reaffirm commitment to CPEC

The Foreign Office on Thursday reiterated Pakistan continues efforts to reinforce our traditional partnerships with China, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and the wider Islamic world.

These relationships are based on mutual trust and friendship and characterized by a tradition of robust dialogue and exchange of bilateral visits.

Pakistan and China reaffirmed commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which completed ten years in 2023.

Bilateral engagement and cooperation remained robust. The two countries held bilateral consultation mechanisms on consular, maritime affairs, counter-terrorism, arms control and nuclear proliferation.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at a weekly press briefing regretted the “interference” by some foreign missions in Pakistan for commenting on the Baloch protesters, saying the country was fully capable of handling its internal matters.

Foreign Office spokesperson said the Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed freedom of expression to its citizens and the laws were in place to deal with such cases internally.

The spokesperson’s statement came in response to a question over the recent tweets by Norway’s embassy and the European Union Ambassador in Pakistan who expressed “concerns” over the alleged mistreatment of the Baloch protesters in Islamabad.

“The interference of foreign embassies in Pakistan is regrettable,” she said, adding that the country was committed to protecting the rights of its people. She said the country’s courts were independent and had taken decisions in this regard on several occasions.

Asked if the coming year held any prospects of resumption of ties with India, the spokesperson said India needed to take steps to create an environment for a dialogue.

She, however, categorically pointed out that the dialogue with India could only take place based on “equality, respect and with discussion on Jammu and Kashmir as the priority issue”.

On relations with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, she said Pakistan and GCC were on the verge of concluding a Free Trade Agreement soon, the first of such kind by the GCC with any country.

She said negotiations in this regard were taking place, which would culminate in the signing of agreements “shortly”.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-reaffirm-commitment-to-cpec/#:~:text=Pakistan%20and%20China%20reaffirmed%20commitment,arms%20control%20and%20nuclear%20proliferation.>

CPEC promotes economic transformation and regional integration

The speakers during a webinar on Thursday highlighted a pivotal role played by the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in fostering a community for a shared future between China and Pakistan. The Webinar on “A Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor” was organized by the Centre for BRI and China Studies, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) and Pakistan Research Center, Inner Mongolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, China, in collaboration with the Alliance of China Pakistan Research Centres. The mega initiative had significantly transformed Pakistan’s economic landscape and contributing to poverty reduction, the speakers said, adding the implementation of connectivity projects, particularly in farm-to-market initiatives, had brought revolutionary changes to agriculture and industrial development in Pakistan. While looking at the decade of CPEC’s impact, they said the global community must recognize its status as a game changer and a fate changer.

President of IPDS Dr. Farhat Asif emphasized the significance of the webinar, introducing the forthcoming book, “CPEC: A Decade of Transformation across Pakistan – Regional Impacts and Progress,” a collaborative effort of both institutes. Director of the Pakistan Research Center Richer Tang Jun offered insights into the book, focusing on the developmental strides made over the decade. Director of the CPEC Research Centre Dr. Xiaqing Xie highlighted the poverty reduction impacts of CPEC in Pakistan through energy projects. Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah, Head of Policy, Centre of Excellence for CPEC, emphasized the role of academia and think tanks in formulating actionable policies. Prof. Dr. Sun Hongqi, Director of the Pakistan Center for Educational and Cultural Studies, Jiangsu Normal University, emphasized the close ties between China and Pakistan, drawing global attention to CPEC. Dr. Tahir Mumtaz, Director of the China Study Centre, stressed the importance of people-to-people exchange and scientific innovation.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-promotes-economic-transformation-and-regional-integration/>

The Nation

China Ice & Snow tourism promotion season launched in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The 2024 China Ice & Snow Tourism Overseas Promotion Season has been launched in Pakistan by the China Cultural Center in collaboration with the Culture Office of the Embassy of China in Pakistan.

The event was launched in Pakistan in December 2023 and will go through the end of January 2024. Numerous promotional videos, documentaries, and exhibitions will be aired on the China Cultural Center in Pakistan’s official Facebook page, as well as Official WeChat Account, Twitter Account of Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counsellor at the Chinese embassy in Islamabad and the Center’s Director, and other platforms, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

It aims to help Pakistani audiences and netizens worldwide have a deeper appreciation for China’s ice and snow culture and tourism, which will encourage them to visit China and experience this beauty by themselves.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/29-Dec-2023/china-ice-snow-tourism-promotion-season-launched-in-pakistan>

December 30, 2023

Daily Times

Pak-China Gandhara exhibition commences in Shenzhen

A three-month-long Pakistan-China joint exhibition showcasing Gandhara cultural relics commenced at the Shenzhen Museum of History and Folk Culture in Shenzhen, China.

The exhibition themed Gandhara Heritage Along the Silk Road, jointly organized by the Shenzhen Museum, the Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan and the Palace Museum, will be open to the public until March 24, 2024. A total of 203 cultural relics, including 173 artefacts from seven museums in Pakistan and 30 artefacts from the Palace Museum, are showcased at the exhibition, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The artefacts from Pakistan primarily stem from archaeological excavations, consisting of Buddhist sculptures, architectural components of Gandhara stonework and various gold and silver objects, fully demonstrating the diversity of the Gandhara art style.

The Buddhist sculptures from the Palace Museum were mainly sourced from the ancient Gandhara region.

They made their way into Tibetan palaces through the old Silk Road, highlighting the long cultural and artistic exchange history between China and Pakistan.

The exhibition employs three different colour schemes for three thematic units, highlighting the developmental journey of Gandhara art from its inception and prosperity to decline.

It also uses visual images and textual outlines to showcase Gandhara artefacts worldwide, introducing the three primary schools of early Buddhist art in the Indian subcontinent, thereby emphasizing the significance of Gandhara art.

The exhibition aims to present the artistic charm of Gandhara culture and its profound influence on China and East Asia.

In the initial two days since its opening, the exhibition witnessed a vibrant atmosphere as local citizens showed genuine curiosity and appreciation for the richness of Gandhara culture.

A Chinese visitor shared his thoughts on the exhibition's significance in strengthening Pak-China relations, stating, "The intricate stone carvings and breathtaking gold and silver artefacts on display each have a unique story.

Witnessing the artistic exchange along the ancient Silk Road and the lasting friendships it has fostered is truly remarkable. It is a beautiful reminder of our shared history and the enduring bonds that continue to unite our nations."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1156148/pak-china-gandhara-exhibition-commences-in-shenzhen/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese education group launches three Sino-Pak dual diploma programs

Chinese company TANG Int'l Education Group unveiled three China-Pakistan dual diploma programs at Aligarh Institute of Technology (AIT), Karachi.

The Institute will collaborate with Fujian Polytechnic of Information Technology, China for the programs and provide training under CCTE Model (Chinese + Commerce Culture + Training + Employment).

“Under the three 3-year diploma programs, 70 AIT students will have the chance to study in China on fully-funded scholarships”, Eng. Mansoorul Hassan Siddiqui, Regional Director of TANG Pakistan, told Gwadar Pro.

He said that the admission process has been completed and the program will start soon.

The newly-launched programs cover the disciplines of IoT, Mechatronics Technology and Electronics.

Earlier, TANG has launched three Sino-Pak dual diploma programs at AIT in electrical, mechanical and computer science technologies.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-education-group-launches-three-sino-pak-dual-diploma-programs/>

K2 Daily News

27 بقية

27 دسمبر کو چینی وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان نے بھارت کے بلوچستان میں بھارتی دستگیر کارروائیوں پر اظہار تشویش کا اظہار کیا۔ ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے بتایا کہ کسی بھی ملک کا دہشت گرد گروہوں کی حمایت اور ان کا استعمال انہیں بین الاقوامی اور علاقائی سلامتی کے مفادات کی قیمت پر اٹھاتا ہے۔ دستگیر گروہوں کی سرپرستی پر شدید جوابی کارروائی کی جائے گی۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا کہ بھارت کے ساتھ ساتھ چین کے ساتھ ساتھ دہشت گردی کے خلاف کو مضبوط بنانے کا خواہش ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ غیر ملکی سرزمین پر دستگیر کارروائیوں میں بھارتی حکومت اور ایجنسیوں کے ملوث ہونے کی گواہی کینیڈا اور امریکانے دی۔

بھارت نے بھارت کی خدمت کی ہے۔ ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ مانگ کی تھی سے مخالفت کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جانب سے شے ہاتھوں بلوچستان میں دستگیر کرنے والا گروہ دہشت گردی انسانیت کی مشورہ دشمن بھارت کے دستگیر گروہوں پر دہرے معیار نے اسے سرگرمیوں پر تشویش کا اظہار اور شدید الفاظ میں ہے اور بھارت دہشت گردی کے خلاف دہرے معیار عالمی سطح پر یہ نام کر دیا۔ (پاکی سٹو 7 دسمبر 27)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-30

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-12-30

بقیہ 53

صحت کے طور پر حوالہ کر سکتے ہیں، مہینوں میں اسرائیل نے لگ بھگ 70 سال سے گل و غبار کا ہزار گرام کر رکھا ہے، امریکہ برطانیہ فرانس اور جرمنی کے حکمران بیرونی حمایت میں فزٹ لائن پر ہیں مگر اسلامی ممالک کے حکمرانوں کا کردار اس معاملے میں واضح کن ہے۔ ان لٹاکات کا اظہار انہوں نے میڈیا دفتر سے سفارت خانے میں ملاقات کے دوران کیا، ایرانی سفیر رضا امیری مقدم نے کہا کہ پاکستانی اور ایرانی ایک قوم ہیں اور ہمیں اس بات کی کوشش کرنی چاہیے کہ جو ہماری مشترکہ چیزیں ہیں ان کو فروغ دیا جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے ہمیشہ ہر علاقہ پر ایران کا ساتھ دیا ہے اور ایسے ہی ایران نے پاکستان کے ساتھ ہر تعلقہ کو فروغ دیا ہے اور دونوں ممالک کا میڈیا ان تعلقہ کو مزید مضبوط کر سکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تعلقہ میں امریکہ نے جو حملہ آور بریت کا ہزار گرام کیا اس سے پاکستان اور ایران آج تک متاثر ہو رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کسی ایک منصوبے میں امریکی کی ضرورت کو ایران پوری کر سکتا ہے اور پاکستان اور ایران کے درمیان گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کی تکمیل سے کسی ایک منصوبے میں مدد لی جا سکتی ہے

سی پیک کی توانائی ضروریات پوری کرنے کی ایرانی پیشکش

پاکستان، ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبے کی تکمیل سے بھی سی پیک منصوبے میں مدد لی جا سکتی ہے

دونوں ممالک کے پارڈرا الگ لیکن تہذیب و تمدن ایک ہیں، ایرانی سفیر کی میڈیا وفد سے بات چیت

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) پاکستان میں پارڈرا الگ لیکن تہذیب و تمدن ایک ہیں مغرب کی طرز کرمانی کی ضرورت پوری کر سکتا ہے پاکستان کے تہذیب و تمدن کے سفیر رضا امیری مقدم نے کہا کہ اسلام آباد کا مشیوڈ میڈیا وفد کی اہم ضرورت مثالی ملاقات جات دینا کی جنت ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اور ایران ایک قوم ہے جس کے ہے کسی ایک منصوبے میں ایران پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر ڈرام کو دنیا میں بڑی (ہائی سٹوڈ 6 جی نمبر 53)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-12-30

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-12-30

December 31, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Jamal Shah vows fostering bilateral cultural collaboration with China

Caretaker Federal Minister for Culture and National Heritage, Syed Jamal Shah, on Saturday welcomed a distinguished delegation from China's TV/Film Industry and vowed to foster bilateral cultural collaboration. The delegation led by Mr. Zhang Yang, Director CFIC and Chairman of Chang Jiang, included key figures Mr. Hu Qiang, Chairman of Film Producer – Yihai Culture Communications, Co, Ltd, and Liang Ting, Chairman of Li Ting International, said a press release.

Other members of the delegation included Supervisor Yuan Li, Executive Director Tang Chao Song, Deputy General Manager Liu Liqiang, and Group Coordinator Zhang Linhui.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore avenues of cultural exchanges, focusing on pan-cultural exports, visiting performances, cultural products, circulation of new artworks, art exhibitions, cultural exhibitions, galleries, music, festivals, and more. Both parties stressed the pivotal role of enhancing cultural connections between Pakistan and China.

During the discussions, Minister Jamal Shah highlighted the robust bond between the two nations and unveiled plans for the second China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cultural caravan.

This initiative aimed to bolster economic ties and strengthen cultural bonds not only between Pakistan and China but also with the Central Asian States.

Minister Jamal Shah underscored the importance of cultural bridges alongside economic endeavors under CPEC. He specifically mentioned the groundbreaking film “Ba’Tie Girl,” a significant co-production between Pakistani and Chinese filmmakers, symbolizing the enduring friendship between the peoples of China and Pakistan.

In a separate meeting, Minister Jamal Shah expressed his pleasure at the collaboration between the two nations in the creation of “Batie Girl,” a film released in Pakistan in 2023. The movie, a milestone in cultural cooperation, signifies the vibrant cultural exchange between the countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/jamal-shah-vows-fostering-bilateral-cultural-collaboration-with-china/#:~:text=Jamal%20Shah%20vows%20fostering%20bilateral%20cultural%20collaboration%20with%20China,-by%20News%20desk&text=Caretaker%20Federal%20Minister%20for%20Culture,to%20foster%20bilateral%20cultural%20collaboration.>

The Nation

China 2024 – The Road Ahead

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

China’s future in 2024 appears to be encouraging in numerous aspects. With its robust economy and continuous technological advancements, China is positioned to uphold its status as a global economic powerhouse. The country’s stress on innovation and research and growth has led to advances in various fields, such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and biotechnology. In terms of infrastructure development, China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) continues to expand, connecting countries and fostering economic cooperation. This initiative has the potential to enhance trade and strengthen diplomatic ties between China and its partner nations. China is facing challenges with strength. Looking back at China’s eventful year in 2023, it’s important to recognise the country’s ability to overcome difficulties. While headlines may focus on tough times, a closer look reveals a story of China adapting, staying determined, and using smart leadership to set the stage for a strong future. China had a tough time dealing with a significant wave of COVID-19 at the start of the year. President Xi Jinping said they beat the virus in February, but concerns linger about the official number of people who died. Nevertheless, it’s crucial to understand the tremendous efforts made to control the virus and keep people safe. Like the rest of the world, China felt the economic impact of COVID-19. The problems exposed deeper issues in the country’s economy. While economic data might seem worrying, it’s important to highlight how China adjusted to these challenges. The government worked hard to fix economic problems and help the country recover. The number of young people without jobs became a

significant worry. But we should view this issue in the bigger picture of how the world's economy is changing. China took steps to help young people find work, even if the official numbers might not show it all. People often say China isn't spending enough on its people during economic problems. However, it's crucial to understand that the government made careful decisions about spending money wisely during the tough times of the pandemic. This helped keep the country's economy stable. The property market had some serious issues, but the government took steps to prevent home prices from falling too much. Understanding the complexities of this problem and the delicate balance needed for a healthy property market is essential. President Xi Jinping is focused on keeping the country safe, especially with global changes happening. Some political actions, like removing certain officials, show how serious China is about staying stable even when facing challenges. It's important to see these decisions in a careful and detailed way. The relationship between the United States and China had some tense moments. However, a successful meeting between President Xi and President Biden in November suggests a willingness to find common ground. China's way of dealing with other countries shows a commitment to positive engagement. In the grand theater of global economics, the spotlight has undeniably shifted towards the East, with China emerging as a key player in shaping the future world order. The recent trajectory of economic growth, coupled with strategic policy initiatives, positions China as a force to be reckoned with. As we navigate the evolving dynamics of the global economy, it is crucial to recognise the positive implications of China's rise. The economic journey of China over the past few decades has been nothing short of remarkable. Goldman Sachs' projections for a further shift in global GDP towards Asia by 2050 underline the sustained momentum of the region. It's not just about outperformance; it's about rewriting the narrative of economic prowess. As we project further into 2075, a new world order emerges. China stands shoulder to shoulder with similar GDPs, suggesting a balance of economic power. This parity opens doors for collaborative engagements that could redefine global cooperation. Moreover, the inclusion of Nigeria, Pakistan, and Egypt in the top 10 economies underscores the significance of rapid population growth and the potential of a massive labor force. The estimates also forecast a slip in rankings for European economies, with Germany, once a global economic powerhouse, projected to be ninth behind Brazil. This realignment signals a necessary adaptation to the changing tides of the global economy, where traditional power centers make room for emerging forces. Amidst this transformative landscape, China's proactive steps in building a unified national market cannot be overlooked. The State Council's policy measures, focus on fundamental system improvement, and reforms in fiscal policies showcase a commitment to fostering a dynamic and integrated economic landscape. Dismantling barriers and addressing issues such as market segmentation and local protectionism are vital steps towards creating a more open and accessible market, not just for domestic enterprises but also for foreign businesses. As we witness the rise of China and the broader Asian region, it is essential to recognise the potential for positive global impact. A balanced economic power play, coupled with strategic policies, can pave the way for collaborative and mutually beneficial engagements. The choices made by China in the coming years will undoubtedly shape the global landscape, and fostering an environment of cooperation and understanding should be at the forefront of these decisions.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/31-Dec-2023/china-2024-the-road-ahead>

Pak delegation visits electric appliances manufacturer in Wenzhou, China

BEIJING-A delegation led by Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science and Technology Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, visited the People Electric Appliances Group in Wenzhou, China, engaging in a comprehensive discussion regarding cooperation in electric appliances. Wu Yilin, Vice General Manager of the Import and Export Company of the Group, accompanied the delegation on an extensive tour of the Innovation Experience Center and the Smart Factory.

Through exploring immersive intelligent inspections, digital production lines, and the showcased power solutions, which included the integration of smart grids and the digital energy system, the delegation gained a comprehensive understanding of People Electric Appliances' product line, production processes, and technological capabilities. "People Electric Appliances Group has made impressive achievements in the industry, and we commend their dedication to innovation and quality," said Khan Muhammad Wazir. During the following discussion, Wazir highlighted Pakistan's electric appliance market and expressed a strong interest in fostering exchanges and collaboration with the group in the industrial sector. It is projected that Pakistan will maintain an annual growth rate of 5% in electricity consumption from 2023 to 2047.

This surge in demand will also fuel the need for electrical appliances in the market. Due to a late start in the market, there are relatively few domestic enterprises engaged in electrical appliance production in Pakistan, and their technological capabilities are comparatively outdated.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/31-Dec-2023/pak-delegation-visits-electric-appliances-manufacturer-in-wenzhou-china#:~:text=BEIJING%2DA%20delegation%20led%20by,regarding%20cooperation%20in%20electric%20appliances.>

The News

Minister vows fostering cultural collaboration with China

Islamabad : Caretaker Federal Minister for Culture and National Heritage, Syed Jamal Shah, on Saturday welcomed a distinguished delegation from China's TV/Film Industry and vowed to foster bilateral cultural collaboration.

The delegation led by Zhang Yang, Director CFIC and Chairman of Chang Jiang, included key figures Hu Qiang, Chairman of Film Producer - Yihai Culture Communications, Co, Ltd, and Liang Ting, Chairman of Li Ting International, said a press release.

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Liu Liqiang, and Group Coordinator Zhang Linhui. The purpose of the meeting was to explore avenues of cultural exchanges, focusing on pan-cultural exports, visiting performances, cultural products, circulation of new artworks, art exhibitions, cultural exhibitions, galleries, music, festivals, and more.

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This initiative aimed to bolster economic ties and strengthen cultural bonds not only between Pakistan and China but also with the Central Asian States.

Minister Jamal Shah underscored the importance of cultural bridges alongside economic endeavours under CPEC. He specifically mentioned the groundbreaking film ‘Batie Girl,’ a significant co-production between Pakistani and Chinese filmmakers, symbolising the enduring friendship between the peoples of China and Pakistan.

In a separate meeting, Minister Jamal Shah expressed his pleasure at the collaboration between the two nations in the creation of ‘Batie Girl,’ a film released in Pakistan in 2023. The movie, a milestone in cultural cooperation, signifies the vibrant cultural exchange between the countries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=268151>

Chinese Newspapers

December 16, 2023

People Daily News

COP28 enhances international collaboration, seeks green development

By Guan Kejiang, Zhang Zhiwen, Ren Haoyu

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP28, concluded in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

During the session, the Chinese delegation set up China's pavilion, and hosted over 100 side events focusing on China's policies and actions in response to climate change, international cooperation on climate change, green and low-carbon development, coordinated pollution and carbon reduction, just transition and sustainable development, energy transition, digital development, and green finance.

These events aimed to showcase China's philosophy and achievements in ecological civilization construction, and to forge consensus on jointly addressing climate change.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). At multiple side events, participants highly valued the fruitful achievements of the BRI in promoting international cooperation and peaceful development, praised China's significant role in driving global green development, and looked forward to increasing green cooperation within frameworks such as South-South cooperation.

At the 11th High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change held on Dec. 8, Dima Al-Khatib, director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation,

emphasized the significance of South-South cooperation in addressing climate change for developing countries to achieve green and low-carbon transition.

She said the BRI proposed by China has provided a favorable platform and opportunity for developing countries to strengthen cooperation on climate change, serving as a good example.

Bounkham Vorachit, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Laos, stated that China has become a global leader in utilizing green and low-carbon energy, and it has actively practiced and supported South-South cooperation.

The minister called the Vientiane Saysettha Low-Carbon Demonstration Zone, jointly built by Laos and China, a model of environmentally friendly and sustainable development. It has achieved significant results in reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions, and fossil fuel usage, she added.

At the Seminar on Belt and Road Green and Low-carbon Transition hosted by the BRI International Green Development Coalition on Dec. 8, Erik Solheim, vice president of the coalition and former United Nations under-secretary-general, noted that green development is a distinctive feature of the joint building of the BRI. He said China has made tremendous contributions to the development of global renewable energy, and it has also brought innovative driving forces to economic development, as well as the green and low-carbon transition of other developing countries.

During a side event on China's latest progress in carbon capture, utilization and storage, representatives from multiple Chinese companies and research institutions introduced China's actions and progress in the field.

During a side event on supercomputing for climate and environmental prediction, experts from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences showcased research results of numerical simulation in combining supercomputers and Earth system models, providing new perspectives and methods for predicting climate change and related disasters.

During a side event on wind, solar, and hydrogen storage, participants engaged in extensive discussions on topics such as energy transition driven by innovative wind power technologies, contributing their wisdom to the development of the new energy industry.

Tim Gould, chief energy economist of the International Energy Agency, said China possesses unique advantages in the development, manufacturing and application of clean energy technologies.

Such advantages, coupled with the support from and cooperation with international financial institutions, are of great significance in accelerating the development of clean energy in other regions, he added.

Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan, said that China actively collaborates with other developing countries within the framework of South-South cooperation, making significant contributions to the global response to climate change.

China has hosted over 100 side events, which served as an important platform for frank exchanges and sharing of experiences among all parties, he said, adding that in the face of the complex issue of climate change, all parties need more consensus and action.

The China Energy Transformation Outlook 2023 report was released at a side event hosted at China's pavilion on Dec. 9. The report said that China will embark on a new path of green and low-carbon growth that distinguishes it from developed countries.

According to the report, the development of key clean energy technologies will experience rapid and leapfrog development in China, and the country will advance high-quality social and economic development and improve people's living standards with lower per capita energy consumption and carbon emissions compared to those in developed countries, thus injecting confidence into global green growth.

Dan Jorgensen, Denmark's minister for development cooperation and minister for global climate policy, said the report is an important outcome of inter-governmental cooperation between Denmark and China. The report outlines the path for China to achieve its energy transition and provides a clear direction towards carbon neutrality.

Jorgensen emphasized that a green energy transition must be a global effort, saying China plays a crucial role in this regard and is taking active actions to realize this vision.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1215/c90000-20110904.html>

December 17, 2023

China Daily

Joint energy projects help boost Pakistan's growth

WANG QINGYUN

Energy projects constructed as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor have helped remove bottlenecks restricting Pakistan's growth, and laid a solid foundation for economic development of local communities, experts said.

Of the 22 priority projects adopted for the first phase of construction of CPEC, half are energy projects, according to Wang Shida, deputy director of the Institute of South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Energy infrastructure projects have been an important part of China-Pakistan cooperation on CPEC construction, Wang said.

"Through the joint efforts of the two countries, Pakistan's power generation capacity has been greatly improved, and the problem of insufficient power generation has basically been solved," he added.

CPEC, which was launched in 2013, is a corridor that runs from Kashgar in China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region to Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan, featuring a number of infrastructure projects along the way.

Hu Hao, senior business manager of PowerChina Resources, said a coal-fired power plant co-developed by the company in southern Pakistan has provided "affordable and reliable electricity" for local residents.

The Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Plant, located by the Arabian Sea in Karachi, has been jointly developed by PowerChina Resources and Qatar's Al Mirqab Capital. It is the first CPEC energy project in which a third country is involved, Hu said.

The power plant started commercial operations in April 2018. From 2019 to 2022, it contributed an average of about 7 percent of Pakistan's power supply annually, said Hu, who worked on the project in Pakistan for more than six years.

In October 2016, the project, which was under construction at the time, sent 100 Pakistani college graduates it had employed to China for training for six months, Hu said, adding that these people became "the backbone" of Pakistan's power sector several years later.

"These stories are happening not only on this project, but also on all CPEC projects," Hu said. The Karot hydropower plant located on Jhelum River is another CPEC energy project.

China Three Gorges Corporation, the developer of the hydropower plant, which started commercial operations in June 2022, said the facility has a total installed capacity of 720,000 kilowatts, and can meet the power requirements of more than five million people.

"During the construction of CPEC projects, the Chinese government and enterprises attached great importance to the livelihood and well-being of the local people, which has resulted in tangible benefits for the Pakistani economy and society," said Wang, from the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Eye-catching results

This year marks the 10th anniversary of CPEC, which is a flagship project of the Belt and Road cooperation. Over the past decade, the construction of CPEC has yielded eye-catching results, according to experts and officials. The corridor has brought to Pakistan \$25.4 billion of direct investment, created 236,000 jobs, built 510 kilometers of expressways, generated more than 8,000 megawatts of electric power and constructed 886 kilometers of core transmission grids, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said at a CPEC-related event in Islamabad in November. In a report released in October 2022, China's National Bureau of Statistics said the 22 priority projects for the first phase of CPEC have been completed, and the second phase of construction began in 2021. Noting that CPEC has now entered a new stage of high-quality development, Wang said that cooperation of industries will play a significant role in the second phase of CPEC's construction. Such cooperation should cover a series of sectors, including photovoltaic industry, mobile phone manufacturing, next-generation communications technologies and food processing, Wang said. He also said there is "huge potential" for agricultural cooperation under CPEC. "CPEC has laid a good foundation for Pakistan's industrialization, modernization as well as interconnection with other countries," Wang said. The corridor "is bound to become a key carrier" for China-Pakistan cooperation, where the two countries support each other in a "changing, and sometimes chaotic" world, he said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/17/WS657f11c9a31040ac301a8257.html>

Xinhuanet News

Roundup: CPEC helps advance goals of economic development, regional connectivity, say Pakistani experts

by Raheela Nazir

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 17 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has proved to be a corridor of opportunities for Pakistan, advancing the goals of economic development, regional connectivity, and shared prosperity, said Pakistani experts during a seminar. CPEC has served to promote bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, regional integration, and overall development, said the experts and academics at the recently held seminar organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), an Islamabad-based think tank. Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwestern Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation. Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Mahmood, former foreign secretary of Pakistan and director general of the ISSI, noted that CPEC has produced win-win outcomes, achieving remarkable progress over the last 10 years while taking Pakistan-China friendly relations to new heights. "The abiding friendship between Pakistan and China and its key attributes of mutual respect, strategic mutual trust, and mutual support on issues of each other's core interest are commendable," Mahmood said. Highlighting the journey of CPEC from a conceptual framework to a tangible reality, the expert said that CPEC has played a vital role in ensuring Pakistan's energy security, transportation infrastructure improvement, and employment generation.

In the next phase of CPEC, special focus would be laid on agriculture, industry, trade, and science and technology, he said, adding that besides working together on the project, Pakistan and China would also welcome third-party participation in various sectors, stressing that CPEC is aligned with "Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics."

Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, said that CPEC has brought tremendous socio-economic benefits to Pakistan and changed the lives of local people.

Under CPEC, China, with huge investments, has helped in building roads, railways, ports and special economic zones, which reduced travel time and facilitated local businesses, giving impetus to trade and economic growth of the South Asian country, according to him.

Besides that, multiple CPEC projects have enabled Pakistan to overcome the severe energy crisis by adding 8,000 MW of power to the national grid, he said, adding that CPEC has also remained effective in terms of capacity building, technology transfer, and skill development of workers and local companies. Muhammad Aamir Khan, a senior official at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that CPEC is a manifestation of deeply rooted friendship between Pakistan and China. CPEC has contributed toward building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future, he said, adding that Pakistan has a lot to learn from China's development to ensure a more thriving future for its people.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20231217/8110a00c146248bfb2906313bb85d1d3/c.html>

Feature: Pakistan's economic activity lifted with TIR trade facilitated by CPEC

by Ali Jaswal

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 17 (Xinhua) -- Every morning, Mohammad Nasir, a 60-year-old supervisor of TIR transport operations in Pakistan's state-owned National Logistics Corporation (NLC), inspects the trucks used in TIR transportation and their fitness certificates, third-party insurance, and the drivers' medical certificates.

As one of the most important members of the pioneer team of TIR transport operation between China and Pakistan, Nasir feels very proud that this initiative is contributing to his country's economic and trade development.

"When our trucks from China reached here, it was a very delightful moment for us. We were very excited because this trade activity is a big development facilitated by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," he told Xinhua.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), 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.

Loaded with goods such as walnuts and steel pipes, five vehicles bearing TIR signs reached Pakistan from China's Xinjiang, primarily via Pakistan's road network built under CPEC in recent years.

The first-ever trade activity in Pakistan under the TIR started in 2021, and this year, it began with China as well.

The TIR stands for Transports Internationaux Routiers or International Road Transport. It is an international customs transit system that helps transport operators and customs authorities save time and money when moving goods across borders.

The opening of the TIR is going to give a big boost to the economy of Pakistan, said Nasir Zia, chief operations officer at the NLC, adding that the trade activity with conducive modalities has now started with China, the Central Asian countries and beyond, through the CPEC infrastructure.

This trade was not possible before CPEC because of the low quality of the past road infrastructure, he said.

But now a network of motorways under CPEC, which goes all the way up to the Karakorum Highway (KKH) in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, has made the cross-border trade activity practical, Zia said.

"The China-built roads in the northern areas are among the highest roads being used for trade. It's a miracle that these roads were constructed on northern areas connecting the Khunjerab Pass, a major land port on the China-Pakistan border," he added.

Highlighting the prospects of enhanced connectivity and trade under CPEC and the TIR, Zia noted that the resources of the regional countries are now being tapped.

"Now, this is a mutual interdependence, we are understanding each other's culture and tourism. It's not only the trade; many more things have been connected with CPEC, and dividends are being delivered to the people," he said.

Zia further added that apart from goods like copper, cotton and aluminum, the export of perishable items and seafood to China has also started recently using refrigerated vans.

Elaborating on the TIR trade carried out by the NLC, he said that it was started with an elaborated plan, adding that from a pool of around 6,000 vehicles, 1,200 vehicles are being used for the TIR and regular bilateral trade with China.

"At the moment, we have reached to the level where our wheels are moving 24/7 towards China. Anywhere you move on KKH's CPEC route, you will find the NLC's trucks going towards China or coming back from China," said Zia.

The NLC drivers and the TIR movers are fully accredited by the International Road Transport Union, and the vehicles as well as the drivers are registered with the TIR after meeting all the international requirements, said Ahmed Khan, the NLC's general manager analytics.

Using the continuous tracking and monitoring system, he said that the NLC is closely following the service quality and the delivery time.

"At the moment, using the TIR system and the CPEC route, we are helping to reduce the transit time," he said.

The NLC's trucks that move from China's Xinjiang to Central Asian countries or to Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi take much less amount of time as now they reach from Kashgar to Afghanistan's Kabul in just seven to nine days, which used to take three to four times longer in the past, he added.

"These shipments which had been previously moving by sea were taking more than 30 to 40 days. That means using the CPEC route and the TIR, we are reducing the transit time up to 80 percent," said Khan.

<https://english.news.cn/20231217/271714a83eaa4da585aa22ea61a3fda0/c.html>

December 18, 2023

People Daily News

Int'l exhibitors seek business opportunities at China's winter trade fair

HAIKOU, Dec. 16 (Xinhua) -- At the ongoing 26th China (Hainan) International Winter Trade Fair for Tropical Agricultural Products held in Haikou, capital of south China's island province Hainan, a diverse array of products including durian from Thailand, coffee from Rwanda and rice from Cambodia has drawn the attention of visitors. Enterprises from over 20 countries and approximately 60 representatives from international organizations are participating in this year's fair, with Cambodia as the guest country of honor.

The Cambodian national pavilion, covering about 260 square meters, combines modern exhibition fixtures with traditional Cambodian architectural styles. Four leading agricultural enterprises from Cambodia displayed cashews, dried mangos and pineapples, rice, pepper, and other agricultural products.

Svay Nakry, under secretary of State with the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia, highlighted the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Cambodia since 2010. According to her, China remained the biggest trading partner of Cambodia this year, with the trade volume between the two countries reaching 11.08 billion U.S. dollars by the end of November, an increase of 4.7 percent from the same period in 2022. "I am confident that this expo will offer a great opportunity to find the potential buyers or partners, and find a way which would bring prosperity to both sides during and after the event," she said.

Inside the Pakistani pavilion, various products including rice, tea, biscuits, chocolate and saffron are on display. Businessman Muhammad Waqas said Pakistan values the Chinese market very much. "Pakistan and China are friends and we have very good relations with each other," he said. "The Chinese market is very big, and the population is huge, so we want to introduce our products, and we also have Chinese products in our country. It's a cooperation between two countries, to do business together." Waqas hoped Pakistani enterprises could find some wholesale buyers and get substantial orders through this winter trade fair. At the pavilion of Malaysia Promas International Business Society, 16 companies are showcasing Malaysia's distinctive products, including coffee and edible bird's nests.

Chey Ming Soon, director of a Malaysian bird's nest processing factory, attended the fair for the first time. "I wish to find partners and retailers here," he said.

Reflecting on his participation at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai this year, where he sold over 20 kilograms of edible bird's nests, Chey saw the immense potential of the Chinese market.

"The potential of the Chinese market is huge, because of the large population and strong demand, and the Chinese government offers help," he said, noting that the government-sponsored winter trade fair provides a good platform, not only facilitating the world's products to enter the Chinese market, but also giving them the opportunity to find new business opportunities.

"The fair is very big, and the displays are really impressive, very professional and really interesting," said Henry Robertson from an Australian agricultural company, adding he expected the fair to go more international in the future. "I'm really confident about the Chinese market. We see a lot of growth from our company... and a big part of that is within China," he said. The four-day winter trade fair, kicking off on Thursday and ending Sunday, is held at an exhibition hall covering about 80,000 square meters, with product categories including fruits and vegetables, grains and oils, tea, coffee, livestock, aquaculture, agricultural technologies and cross-border e-commerce.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1218/c90000-20111652.html>

Xinhuanet News

CPEC helps advance goals of economic development, regional connectivity, say Pakistani experts

by Raheela Nazir

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 18 (Xinhua) -- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has proved to be a corridor of opportunities for Pakistan, advancing the goals of economic development, regional connectivity, and shared prosperity, said Pakistani experts during a seminar. CPEC has served to promote bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, regional integration, and overall development, said the experts and academics at the recently held seminar organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), an Islamabad-based think tank. Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a corridor linking Pakistan's southwestern Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, highlighting energy, transport, and industrial cooperation. Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Mahmood, former foreign secretary of Pakistan and director general of the ISSI, noted that CPEC has produced win-win outcomes, achieving remarkable progress over the last 10 years while taking Pakistan-China friendly relations to new heights. "The abiding friendship between Pakistan and China and its key attributes of mutual respect, strategic mutual trust, and mutual support on issues of each other's core interest are commendable," Mahmood said. Highlighting the journey of CPEC from a conceptual framework to a tangible reality, the expert said that CPEC has played a vital role in ensuring Pakistan's energy security, transportation infrastructure improvement, and employment generation. In the next phase of CPEC, special focus would be laid on agriculture, industry, trade, and science and technology, he said, adding that besides working together on the project, Pakistan and China would also welcome third-party participation in various sectors, stressing that CPEC is aligned with "Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics."

Masood Khalid, former Pakistani ambassador to China, said that CPEC has brought tremendous socio-economic benefits to Pakistan and changed the lives of local people.

Under CPEC, China, with huge investments, has helped in building roads, railways, ports and special economic zones, which reduced travel time and facilitated local businesses, giving impetus to trade and economic growth of the South Asian country, according to him.

Besides that, multiple CPEC projects have enabled Pakistan to overcome the severe energy crisis by adding 8,000 MW of power to the national grid, he said, adding that CPEC has also remained effective in terms of capacity building, technology transfer, and skill development of workers and local companies.

Muhammad Aamir Khan, a senior official at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that CPEC is a manifestation of deeply rooted friendship between Pakistan and China.

CPEC has contributed toward building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future, he said, adding that Pakistan has a lot to learn from China's development to ensure a more thriving future for its people.

<https://english.news.cn/20231218/9e747f920eba4d06b8c2c80c44e1b107/c.html>

December 19, 2023**China Daily****Pakistan extends sympathy to the people of China after earthquake**

Pakistani Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has extended a message of sympathy to the Chinese people over the 6.2-magnitude earthquake that has caused over 100 deaths in Gansu and Qinghai provinces at midnight Monday. Kakar wrote in the social media platform X on Tuesday that he is "deeply saddened to learn about the loss of precious lives due to the earthquake in Gansu province in China." "Our sympathies are with our Chinese brothers and sisters in this hour of grief," he added. Jalil Abbas Jilani, foreign minister of Pakistan, has also extended heartfelt condolences on the social media platform X.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/19/WS65816d91a31040ac301a885e.html>

People Daily News**Chinese navy fleet returns from escort missions**

HANGZHOU, Dec. 18 (Xinhua) -- A Chinese navy fleet returned to the port city of Zhoushan in Zhejiang Province, east China, on Monday after completing escort missions. The 44th fleet of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy, comprising the guided-missile destroyer Zibo, the guided-missile frigate Jingzhou, and the comprehensive supply ship Qiandaohu, escorted 33 Chinese and foreign ships during the missions in areas including the Gulf of Aden, the waters off Somalia and the Arabian Sea. The escort squad traveled over 100,000 nautical miles during its 235-day voyage since setting off on April 28, visiting Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Myanmar and Pakistan, with a technical stop in Singapore. China began dispatching naval ships to carry out vessel protection operations in December 2008 in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1219/c90000-20112105.html>

December 20, 2023**Global Times****Pandas returning from overseas in good condition at Chengdu research base**

By Cui Fandi in Chengdu

In 2023, a total of 15 giant pandas returned to China from overseas after expiry of loan agreements. Among these 15 pandas, four are currently residing at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Southwest China's Sichuan Province and are in good condition, the Global Times learned during a recent visit.

On February 22, giant panda Yong Ming arrived in Chengdu from Japan with his twin daughters, Ying Bang and Tao Bang. On July 26, giant panda cub Yuan Meng, who was born in France, arrived in Chengdu and also joined the base, a staff member surnamed Liu at the

research base told the Global Times. Among all the returning pandas, Yong Ming is the oldest at 31 years old, which is about 100 years old in human terms. He is also the second oldest captive male giant panda in the world. After arriving at the base, the pandas undergo quarantine and a period of isolation, said Liu. Once their condition stabilizes, they will be moved to open enclosures to meet the public. During the visit, the Global Times reporter saw these pandas eating bamboo and enjoying their time at the base. All of them appeared to be in good physical and mental health, which was confirmed by the base's staff. At the base, each panda has an outdoor activity area ranging from 500 to 800 square meters in size, which ensures that they have ample space to move around, Liu said. They also each have an "indoor apartment." Since the return of the panda cub Xiang Xiang in February, a total of 15 pandas have returned to China in 2023 from countries including the US, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Malaysia, and the UK. In 2024, several more pandas are expected to return to China after their loan agreements expire. These pandas, who have lived abroad for a long time, have also become favorites among Chinese tourists after returning to China. The Global Times has learned that many make special trips to the breeding base to visit these national treasures.

On the same visit, representatives from Pakistani media and think tanks expressed admiration for China's panda conservation efforts and shared their expectations for cooperation between China and Pakistan in this field. "In the past, pandas were a globally endangered species, but China has taken special measures to protect them. Here, all the pandas receive excellent care," said Faiyan Zia Bangash, a senior reporter from Pakistan's The News. "I have always had a special love for pandas, but it wasn't until today when I saw them with my own eyes that I truly experienced their cuteness," said Fahd Gauhar Malik, editor of the Pakistan Observer. "I really hope that in the future, China and Pakistan can also have relevant cooperation so that the people of Pakistan can see pandas in their own zoos," Malik said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1304004.shtml>

December 21, 2023

Global Times News

Development of Xinjiang impresses Pakistani media and think tank representatives

By Cui Fandi in Kashi and Urumqi

During a five-day on-site visit to Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 15 representatives from media and think tanks in Pakistan witnessed the development situation in the region. One of the most impressive aspects for them was the development of Muslims in Xinjiang and the religious freedom they enjoy, according to journalists and scholars who spoke to the Global Times. They called for more people who have misunderstandings about Xinjiang to visit the region. In Xinjiang, the delegation visited the Id Kah Mosque in Kashi and the Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Urumqi, and stayed, observed, and talked at length to the Imam and the director at these two religious facilities. The Id Kah Mosque is located in the old town of Kashi. It has a long history and is also a representative example of Uygur

architectural art. In recent years, the Chinese government has allocated a large amount of funds to renovate the mosque, providing good conditions for religious believers. The Xinjiang Islamic Institute was established in June 1987 and currently has a student body of around 1,000. It is the only religious higher education institution in Xinjiang and has eight branch campuses.

"Everyone has heard so many of the propaganda stories against Xinjiang," Moiz Farooq, an executive editor of Daily Ittehad Media Group, told the Global Times. "Now finally we have seen the truth, and it is great to say that seeing is believing."

Farooq said that he is particularly impressed by the fact that there are currently about 1,000 students studying full-time at the Xinjiang Islam Institute, where they receive an undergraduate education and a BA degree and a job in the religious field after graduation.

"It is very happy for me to see the Muslims in Xinjiang are enjoying all the freedom," he said. "They have freedom to practice in religion over here, with the best facilities in the institute."

After the visits to the Id Kah Mosque and the Xinjiang Islam Institute, Yasir Habib Khan also said that he has gained a clearer understanding of China's policy on religious freedom.

"In accordance with Chinese law, every religion is treated equally, which is very encouraging," he said. "Some Western media have repeatedly attempted to demonize China and fabricate false information about Chinese Muslims, but seeing is believing - Muslims in Xinjiang can fully engage in normal religious activities according to Islamic doctrines."

"Setting foot on the ground and making close observations in Xinjiang, it is testified that Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang are completely free to live their normal lives practicing Islam in its true spirit," Khan wrote in his column.

"Those who make unfounded remarks should come to Xinjiang in person and see the real situation here," he said.

Sayed Kalbe Ali Naqvi, a senior reporter from Dawn newspaper, also noted that the real Xinjiang is far different from the false propaganda and portrayals by Western media.

In the past, he thought Xinjiang was a small and underdeveloped border town, as is described in many foreign media reports. But upon setting foot on this land, he discovered that it is much more prosperous and lively than he imagined, with a vast territory and a large population.

Naz Parveen, editor of the Daily Kasoti and The Window of China, described snow-covered Urumqi as romantic - with winding flyovers and towering buildings not far from hazy snow-capped mountains, far surpassing her imagination.

"The development of Urumqi is beyond imagination," said Fahd Gauhar Malik, editor of Pakistan Observer, who had previously learned about Xinjiang mainly through media reports. Upon arrival, he discovered that Urumqi is filled with high-rise buildings, well-developed infrastructure, and people living and working in peace and contentment, completely the opposite to the so-called "backwardness" reported by Western media.

"I can see that people living in Urumqi are very happy," he said.

"Beautiful Xinjiang deserves to be promoted to the world," said Mahzaib Abbasi, a Pakistani online influencer who has been living and studying in China for seven years. "I want to share the wonderful experience in Urumqi as soon as possible and showcase the real Xinjiang through my videos."

During their five-day visit to Xinjiang, a delegation of 15 representatives from Pakistani media and think tanks also visited Kashi Old Town, Jiashi water safety engineering facilities, a prune industrial park, Xinjiang Mustang Ecological Park, the Urumqi International Land Port Zone, and the International Grand Bazaar.

The delegation visited China from December 6 to 16, travelling from Beijing to Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, and Kashi and Urumqi in Xinjiang.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1304098.shtml>

Yearender: Chinese military on vigilance amid grave security challenges

PLA shows capability in safeguarding national sovereignty, territorial integrity, development interests

By Liu Xuanzun

Surrounded by geopolitical security challenges from multiple facets amid a global deterioration in security environment, China in 2023 maintained vigilance, fended off foreign military provocations, and deterred "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces, while contributing to global peace and stability through concrete actions including foreign exchanges, joint exercises and patrols, peacekeeping and escort missions as well as international humanitarian aid.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) also saw some major milestones over the past year in terms of equipment development.

The PLA Navy revealed in April the commissioning of the seventh and eighth Type 055 10,000 ton-class large destroyers, a type of warship deemed by experts as the world's best destroyer in terms of comprehensive combat capability.

Shi Hong, executive chief editor of the Chinese magazine Shipborne Weapons, told the Global Times that continued commissioning of Type 055s contributed to the PLA Navy's combat capabilities, as they are powerful escorts of aircraft carriers and can lead flotillas on their own, giving more tactical flexibility to the PLA Navy.

The first hull of a new type of warship, the Type 054B frigate, was launched as confirmed at a press conference by the Chinese Ministry of National Defense in August. This next-generation warship is expected to succeed the PLA Navy's workhorse the Type 054A frigate with comprehensive upgrades, media reports said.

In September, the PLA Army announced the induction of its first armed reconnaissance drone, the KVD002, which analysts said will give the Army more tactical flexibility.

While the PLA Air Force has long been using armed reconnaissance drones like the GJ-1 and the GJ-2, Fu Qianshao, a Chinese military aviation expert, told the Global Times that recent conflicts around the world have shown that ground forces should also have its own drones.

With the KVD002, the PLA Army's deployment of armed reconnaissance drones will become very flexible, he said.

In November, China's third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, started launch tests for its electromagnetic catapult system in preparation for sea trials. In response to the reports, Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defense, said at a regular press conference later that month that the carrier had been holding mooring tests and would continue its construction steadily according to plan.

2023 was also a big year for the country's second aircraft carrier, the Shandong. According to media reports, the Shandong held its first far sea exercise beyond the first island chain in the West Pacific in April, followed by two more later in the year that broke records including aircraft sortie rate.

With one of the Chinese military's main missions being to safeguard national sovereignty, territorial integrity and development interests, equipment developments have served the combat capabilities, experts said.

In 2023, collusions between "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces and external interfering forces seriously provoked China's national sovereignty and security, as the US not only approved additional arms sales, but also announced plans to send military aid to the island of Taiwan.

US military vessels and aircraft made several provocative transits in the Taiwan Straits throughout the year, and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 passed by the US Congress in December also approved training for armed forces on the island of Taiwan, according to media reports.

Part of the PLA aircraft carrier Shandong's far sea exercise in early April was joining the three-day combat alert patrols and "Joint Sword" exercises encircling the island of Taiwan, which came shortly after a provocative meeting between Taiwan regional leader Tsai Ing-wen and then US House speaker Kevin McCarthy during Tsai's "transit" in the US.

The large-scale PLA drills involved joint blockade and joint strike as well as seizing of air superiority and control of the sea, creating strong deterrence against collusions between "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces and external interfering forces, and gaining more capabilities and control over the region, experts said.

Besides the Taiwan question, military aircraft and ships from the US, sometimes also from US allies such as Canada and Australia, continued to make frequent close-in reconnaissance operations on China's doorstep, and in some cases, they even accused China of intercepting them.

Under US' instigation, the Philippines has repeatedly stirred up troubles over Chinese islands and reefs in the South China Sea since August, but saw their attempts restricted by the China Coast Guard one by one.

The US also held military drills and patrols with the Philippines, and gained access to additional military bases in the Philippines, with analysts saying that the US sees the

Southeast Asian country as an important foothold in the southern end of the first island chain to contain China militarily.

Signs of Japan's right-wing military ambitions that go along with the US' "Indo-Pacific Strategy," including accelerated deployment plan of missiles that can strike foreign countries, have also raised vigilance among Chinese experts.

"2023 has not been a peaceful year. This applies to China because the US intensified the layout of its 'Indo-Pacific Strategy,' but also to the whole world because of the Palestinian-Israeli and Russian-Ukrainian conflicts," Song Zhongping, a Chinese military expert, told the Global Times.

Against this background, the Chinese military firmly defended national sovereignty, security and development interests against relentless provocations from the US-led West, as the PLA has strengthened its combat preparedness and worked together with friendly countries to safeguard peace and stability in the region, Song said.

Throughout the year, the Chinese military communicated with foreign militaries through various channels including the Shangri-La Dialogue and the Beijing Xiangshan Forum, held a number of joint exercises or joint patrols with countries including Russia, Pakistan, ASEAN members and countries in the Middle East, and had vessels visiting countries in Africa, Southeast Asia and South Pacific among others, providing elements of stability to the world, analysts said.

Song said 2024 will see many variables that could cause uncertainties to the world, so the duties the Chinese military have to carry out could become even heavier. "But I'm confident that the PLA has the capability to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests."

Observers are keen to see when aircraft carrier Fujian will make its maiden voyage test, and what the PLA Air Force will display at the 2024 edition of the Airshow China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1304088.shtml>

Pakistan: China-Pakistan textile summit strengthens economic ties and collaboration

The China-Pakistan Textile and Apparel Executive Summit and Business Meetings were held in Kunshan, East China's Jiangsu Province, on December 15. At least 100 representatives from the Chinese and Pakistani governments, trade associations, and textile and apparel enterprises attended the event.

In his opening speech, Deputy Mayor of Kunshan Zhang Feng noted that 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the initiation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). As a flagship project of the Belt and Road, the CPEC has achieved significant cooperation results, particularly in the textile and apparel sector where there is substantial complementarity and potential for collaboration between the two countries.

He expressed hope that the summit would further deepen exchanges and cooperation in the textile and apparel industry.

Gohar Ejaz, Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries of Pakistan emphasized Pakistan's traditional strength in textiles, citing natural conditions conducive to cotton production, a large and competitive workforce, a complete industrial chain, and favorable conditions for international market access.

He highlighted the potential for joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises to produce different products along the textile value chain. Pakistan will provide comprehensive support for Chinese businesses investing in the country.

During the summit, the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT) and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

According to a post by the CCCT, the signing of the MOU will further promote and strengthen economic and trade cooperation between the textile and apparel industries of China and Pakistan.

This collaboration is expected to empower and facilitate the development of cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani businesses, pushing bilateral trade, investment, and supply chain cooperation in the textile and apparel sector to new heights.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1304067.shtml>

Roundup: Pakistan exports first shipment of red chilies to China in CPEC agriculture cooperation

by Raheela Nazir, Zou Shuhua

KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec. 20 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan has made its first shipment of dry red chilies to China as part of enhanced agricultural cooperation between the two countries under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

To mark the event, a grand ceremony was held on Tuesday in Pakistan's port city of Karachi in southern Sindh province, attended by officials, experts, and business people, among others, from both Pakistan and China.

Pakistan is among the leading chili-producing countries in the world, with the potential to become a major player in chili cultivation. Chinese technical teams are collaborating with local farmers, landowners and universities to help Pakistan reach its full potential as a chili-exporting country.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for National Food Security and Research Kausar Abdullah Malik said that the agriculture sector is crucial for Pakistan and China has been helping his country to modernize the sector and ensure food security under CPEC.

"Boosting agricultural trade between the two countries as well as enhancing food security is a significant part of CPEC," the minister said, adding that the Chinese companies are providing

local farmers with technology and trainings to increase production substantially and grow high-quality crops, including chilies.

Malik said that Pakistan and China would continue to cooperate to boost agricultural production and trade, helping the South Asian country alleviate poverty and improve people's living standards.

The export of the inaugural shipment of dry chilies to China not only showcased the capabilities of Pakistani exporters but also highlighted the potential for further collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese businesses, caretaker Minister for Commerce Gohar Ejaz said.

"It marks the beginning of a new era in the trade relationship between Pakistan and China," he said.

Highlighting the immense potential for growth in the Chinese market, Ejaz said that Pakistani exporters need to uphold high-quality standards, increase productivity, and implement effective marketing strategies to meet the expectations of the Chinese market.

He said the export of Pakistani products to China have the potential to exceed 20 billion U.S. dollars in the coming years, noting that achieving the ambitious goal requires concerted efforts by the Pakistani exporters.

In a video speech, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that the red chili contract farming project, in the first batch of CPEC agricultural projects, has showed a demonstration effect, effectively promoting the local agricultural development and helping improve the lives of local farmers.

China has attached great importance to promoting agricultural cooperation with Pakistan and will continue to promote trade facilitation measures, expand contract farming, and push intensive processing of Pakistani agricultural products, the ambassador said.

"We will support more high-quality agricultural products from Pakistan to export to China, continue working for the two countries' agricultural cooperation to deepen and solidify, and bring more tangible benefits to the people," he added.

On the occasion, Zheng Xiaohui, project manager at China's Sichuan Litong Food Group, said that the goal of his company is to promote the healthy and steady development of Pakistan's chili industry.

The Chinese company is carrying out a 16,000-acre chili planting project in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province and southern Sindh province, along with one dry chili processing plant.

"We have trained over 1,500 Pakistani agricultural technicians and provided 6,000 temporary employment opportunities, significantly boosting economic benefits for local farmers," Zheng said.

<https://english.news.cn/20231220/a894453245a94067b7256d70ce23fe11/c.html>

Xinhuanet News**Pakistan exports first shipment of red chilies to China in CPEC agriculture cooperation**

Pakistan has made its first shipment of dry red chilies to China on Tuesday as part of enhanced agricultural cooperation between the two countries under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://english.news.cn/20231221/366db4cbfcb64ced8cfe11f3ad3b22e5/c.html>

December 22, 2023

People Daily News**Development of Xinjiang impresses Pakistani media and think tank representatives**

By Cui Fandi

During a five-day on-site visit to Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 15 representatives from media and think tanks in Pakistan witnessed the development situation in the region. One of the most impressive aspects for them was the development of Muslims in Xinjiang and the religious freedom they enjoy, according to journalists and scholars who spoke to the Global Times. They called for more people who have misunderstandings about Xinjiang to visit the region.

In Xinjiang, the delegation visited the Id Kah Mosque in Kashi and the Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Urumqi, and stayed, observed, and talked at length to the Imam and the director at these two religious facilities.

The Id Kah Mosque is located in the old town of Kashi. It has a long history and is also a representative example of Uygur architectural art. In recent years, the Chinese government has allocated a large amount of funds to renovate the mosque, providing good conditions for religious believers. The Xinjiang Islamic Institute was established in June 1987 and currently has a student body of around 1,000. It is the only religious higher education institution in Xinjiang and has eight branch campuses.

"Everyone has heard so many of the propaganda stories against Xinjiang," Moiz Farooq, an executive editor of Daily Ittehad Media Group, told the Global Times. "Now finally we have seen the truth, and it is great to say that seeing is believing."

Farooq said that he is particularly impressed by the fact that there are currently about 1,000 students studying full-time at the Xinjiang Islam Institute, where they receive an undergraduate education and a BA degree and a job in the religious field after graduation.

"It is very happy for me to see the Muslims in Xinjiang are enjoying all the freedom," he said. "They have freedom to practice in religion over here, with the best facilities in the institute."

After the visits to the Id Kah Mosque and the Xinjiang Islam Institute, Yasir Habib Khan also said that he has gained a clearer understanding of China's policy on religious freedom.

"In accordance with Chinese law, every religion is treated equally, which is very encouraging," he said. "Some Western media have repeatedly attempted to demonize China and fabricate false information about Chinese Muslims, but seeing is believing - Muslims in Xinjiang can fully engage in normal religious activities according to Islamic doctrines."

"Setting foot on the ground and making close observations in Xinjiang, it is testified that Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang are completely free to live their normal lives practicing Islam in its true spirit," Khan wrote in his column.

"Those who make unfounded remarks should come to Xinjiang in person and see the real situation here," he said.

Sayed Kalbe Ali Naqvi, a senior reporter from Dawn newspaper, also noted that the real Xinjiang is far different from the false propaganda and portrayals by Western media.

In the past, he thought Xinjiang was a small and underdeveloped border town, as is described in many foreign media reports. But upon setting foot on this land, he discovered that it is much more prosperous and lively than he imagined, with a vast territory and a large population.

Naz Parveen, editor of the Daily Kasoti and The Window of China, described snow-covered Urumqi as romantic - with winding flyovers and towering buildings not far from hazy snow-capped mountains, far surpassing her imagination.

"The development of Urumqi is beyond imagination," said Fahd Gauhar Malik, editor of Pakistan Observer, who had previously learned about Xinjiang mainly through media reports. Upon arrival, he discovered that Urumqi is filled with high-rise buildings, well-developed infrastructure, and people living and working in peace and contentment, completely the opposite to the so-called "backwardness" reported by Western media.

"I can see that people living in Urumqi are very happy," he said.

"Beautiful Xinjiang deserves to be promoted to the world," said Mahzaib Abbasi, a Pakistani online influencer who has been living and studying in China for seven years. "I want to share the wonderful experience in Urumqi as soon as possible and showcase the real Xinjiang through my videos."

During their five-day visit to Xinjiang, a delegation of 15 representatives from Pakistani media and think tanks also visited Kashi Old Town, Jiashi water safety engineering facilities, a prune industrial park, Xinjiang Mustang Ecological Park, the Urumqi International Land Port Zone, and the International Grand Bazaar.

The delegation visited China from December 6 to 16, travelling from Beijing to Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, and Kashi and Urumqi in Xinjiang.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1222/c90000-20113678.html>

Pakistani minister urges Pakistani, Chinese media to contribute to CPEC construction

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 21 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi urged Pakistani and Chinese media to disseminate accurate and unbiased narratives to contribute to the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"As custodians of information, the role of media as guardians of truth is more vital than ever," the minister said on Wednesday while addressing a media forum here.

Talking about the news reporting of CPEC, Solangi said that the media's crucial role in shaping public perception of CPEC requires objective reporting.

Addressing the occasion, Chairman of the Pakistani Senate's Defense Committee Mushahid Hussain Syed said Pakistani and Chinese media should continue to leverage their strengths to help deepen the iron-clad friendship between the two countries and promote the high-quality development of CPEC.

Also on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said that the comprehensive and in-depth development of China-Pakistan relations has provided rich materials and favorable conditions for media cooperation between the two countries. With joint efforts, the China-Pakistan relations enjoy stronger public support and the media environment for bilateral cooperation becomes more positive.

The ambassador said that Chinese and Pakistani media should continue to deepen cooperation by providing more colorful content, innovating communication methods, expanding media platforms, and broadening the audience base.

"Both sides' media should do a good job to report stories about the two peoples' pursuit of a better life and win-win cooperation, and then contribute media power to building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," he added.

Launched in 2013, CPEC, the 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/n3/2023/1222/c90000-20113769.html>

Company in China's Henan sells wedding embroideries abroad

Wedding embroidery works, including red bridal veils, produced by a company in Ruzhou, a county-level city overseen by Pingdingshan city in central China's Henan Province, have reached households far and wide, including those in foreign countries.

Located in the Ruzhou Embroidery Industrial Park in the city, the company, Ruzhou Libaijia Embroidery Co., Ltd., recently participated in an investment and trade fair held in Keqiao district of Shaoxing city, east China's Zhejiang Province.

The district is a global textile hub.

"We exhibited over 300 kinds of red bridal veils at the fair and received orders from home and abroad. In particular, we received orders for over 60,000 square meters of spangle embroideries from clients in countries and regions including Pakistan, the United States, Türkiye, and Dubai," said Li Jian'e, an executive of the company.

According to Li, the company produces 380 kinds of wedding supplies under four categories, which are sold to over 200 cities in China. The company also exports more than 10 million wedding embroidery pieces annually, and has obvious competitive advantages compared with similar enterprises.

Li attributed the company's success to its technical advantages, customized equipment, and quality control. In August 2022, the company ordered two customized embroidery machines, with each being able to produce embroideries with two different colors simultaneously, a unique achievement in the country.

This year, Li established a branch in Guangzhou city, south China's Guangdong Province, to produce high-end products for clients in Europe, America, Japan, and South Korea, among others.

In recent years, Li has made efforts to cultivate research and development (R&D) talents and establish an embroidery R&D center. The company invests over two million yuan (about \$279,876) annually and launches 10 to 20 new machine embroideries every month. So far, the company has obtained 14 national registered trademarks, 165 national copyright registrations, 10 patents for utility models, five software copyrights, five design patents, and three items of export qualifications. It is the only nationally recognized sci-tech-focused small and medium-sized enterprise in the Ruzhou Embroidery Industrial Park. "We plan to set up an overseas warehouse in Türkiye in 2025 and sell our products to every corner of the world," Li said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1222/c98649-20113982.html>

Xinhuanet News

Pakistani minister urges Pakistani, Chinese media to contribute to CPEC construction

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<https://english.news.cn/20231222/25dc69143e504a50bdb24299c62de538/c.html>

December 23, 2023

Xinhuanet News

GLOBALink | Pakistani, Chinese media could contribute to CPEC construction: Pakistani minister

Pakistan's Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi urged Pakistani and Chinese media to disseminate accurate and unbiased narratives to contribute to the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

<https://english.news.cn/20231223/ddbc976a5cd046d48a9528ea1df1251c/c.html>

December 25, 2023

China Daily

CPEC bolsters chili industry in Pakistan

Boosting agricultural collaboration and trade links between Pakistan and China, and improving food security serve as significant components of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, officials and experts say.

Pakistan, one of the leading chili producers in the world, has the potential to become a major player in chili cultivation. In one of the first batch of CPEC agricultural projects, Chinese technical teams are collaborating with Pakistani farmers, landowners and universities to help the South Asian country reach its full potential as a chili exporter.

Pakistan recently made its first shipment of dry red chilies to China as part of enhanced agricultural cooperation between the two countries under the framework.

"Agriculture cooperation is getting momentum between the two countries," said Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, executive director of the Center for South Asia and International Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Chinese company Litong Food has played an important role in the shipment, he said, adding that it has started a new era in the trade relations between Pakistan and China.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, between 2020 and 2021, the agricultural sector contributed about 24 percent of the country's GDP, accounting for half of the employed labor force. It was the largest source of foreign exchange earnings.

"On its part, China has made 'rural vitalization' a priority to promote growth in the countryside over the next five years," Khan said. "Initiatives in science and technology are being introduced in less-developed rural areas to promote modern agriculture, and the same may be replicated in Pakistan under CPEC phase II in the country."

The second phase of CPEC aims to diversify the economic impact of the project by venturing into new sectors such as agricultural modernization, industrial development and socioeconomic projects, said Maarij Farooq, deputy editor-in-chief of Pakistan Economic Net and Daily Ittehad Media Group.

"This phase emphasizes agricultural development and technology transfer, aiming to modernize Pakistan's agricultural sector, which is a backbone of its economy."

At a ceremony marking the chili shipment in the southern port city of Karachi, Kausar Abdullah Malik, minister for national food security and research, said the agriculture sector is crucial for Pakistan, and China has been aiding his country in modernizing the industry and ensuring food security under CPEC.

Chinese companies are providing local farmers with technology and training to increase production immensely and cultivate chilies and other high-quality crops, he said.

Demonstration effect

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said via video link that the red chili contract farming project has a demonstration effect, and it has effectively promoted the local agricultural development and helped improve the lives of local farmers.

China has attached great importance to promoting agricultural cooperation with Pakistan and will continue to promote trade facilitation measures, expand contract farming and push intensive processing of Pakistani agricultural products, Jiang said.

Zheng Xiaohui, project manager at Litong Food Group in Sichuan province, said the goal of the company is to promote healthy and steady development of Pakistan's chili industry.

"We have trained over 1,500 Pakistani agricultural technicians and provided 6,000 temporary employment opportunities, significantly boosting economic benefits for local farmers," Zheng said.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/25/WS6588ddc3a31040ac301a94e5.html>

December 27, 2023

People Daily News

Economic corridor aims at higher goals

By Liu Jianqiao

CPEC will focus on green development, strengthen Pakistan's status, experts say

After 10 years of fruitful results, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is expected to be more productive and beneficial for the people of both Pakistan and China in the next stage, experts said.

Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chair of Global Silk Route Research Alliance and a nonresident fellow at the Beijing-based Center for China and Globalization, said the

upcoming decade holds brighter prospects for high-quality BRI cooperation, outlining new key areas and directions for the second phase of the CPEC.

"Innovation, digital economy and green development will be important. The CPEC focuses on green and digital development, as well as the stability and sustainability of supply chains, which will further strengthen the regional as well as global status of Pakistan in the next decade," he said.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China. It connects Pakistan's southwest Gwadar port with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, with a focus on energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

On July 31, Pakistan and China agreed to expand and accelerate the construction of the CPEC. The second phase of the CPEC will focus more on agriculture, science and technology, personnel training, innovation, health, and education to enhance the "soft power" of Pakistan, according to official documents.

Building upon the achievements and experience of the last decade, experts expect the second phase of the CPEC to inject new momentum into Pakistan's economic development and that of the entire region.

Awan highlighted 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 Pakistan.

"Therefore, deepening bilateral collaboration with China under the CPEC will provide significant impetus to the operations of industrial and supply chains," he said.

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development in Pakistan, said the CPEC will further improve connectivity in the South Asian country.

"With the help of the project, Pakistan has effectively utilized the advantages of the Gwadar port, transforming itself into a regional connectivity hub," he said.

Enhancing connectivity

Ramay said Pakistan has signed agreements with Central Asian countries to maximize the benefits of the Gwadar port and the Gwadar airport. Additionally, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan have agreed to build a railway linking Gwadar to enhance regional connectivity. He believes that Pakistan and China should collaborate to create a model of green development under CPEC cooperation, which will help other countries understand the concept of a green BRI and green development. Both experts said the CPEC and other projects of the BRI are designed for global developments, resulting in economic prosperity, peace, and harmony among nations worldwide. "China has helped build hydropower projects and wind farms across Pakistan, which boost the sustainable development of Pakistan's economy and save our environment," Ramay said. "Pakistan, being the closest friend and strategic partner of China, is among the first countries that joined the BRI, and the CPEC has become the 'flagship project of BRI'," he said. Awan, a veteran diplomat who once worked in China, lauded the CPEC for making significant contributions, including over 2,500 kilometers of motorways to Pakistan's transportation network and 10,000 megawatts of power generation capacity to the national grid. "It has contributed to reducing poverty and improving the national GDP and also benefited agriculture, industry and health sectors in Pakistan," he said. The analyst spoke highly of the friendship between Pakistan and China and expressed confidence in the two countries joining forces to achieve "national rejuvenation" in the future. "China has become the largest supporter of Pakistan in its journey of growth and development. CPEC is a catalyst for Pakistan's economic takeoff," he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1227/c90000-20115209.html>

December 28, 2023

Global Times News

Chinese projects under key protection in Pakistan, as country's security situation improves: Pakistani media members

By Cui Fandi

Although the domestic security situation was rough about five or six years ago, it has largely been improved in recent years, especially with extra protection measures taken to ensure the security of Chinese projects and people in Pakistan, the Global Times learned from the visiting delegation members of Pakistani media and think tanks. "There have been some concerns over security, but the government has taken very strong steps in ensuring the security of our Chinese brothers who are working in Pakistan with us," said Nouman Rashid, media advisor of GNN News. "The military has also been called in for assistance, providing security protection to all the Chinese nationals and installations." Rashid said that he is very hopeful that serious security incidents involving Chinese nationals will not happen in the future. Although terrorist activities have been a problem in Pakistan, now an official department has taken over the problem using strong measures, Moiz Farooq, executive editor of Daily Ittehad Medis Group, told the Global Times. Farooq said that some terrorist activities are supported by Pakistan's rivals who always intend to sabotage the friendship

between China and Pakistan. "These organizations believe that if they can hurt the Chinese nationals in Pakistan with terrorism, the BRI and CPEC projects can be compromised, which is their goal," he said. "But this is not likely to happen." The influence of foreign power behind the security concerns in Pakistan was also brought up by Naz Parveen, editor of Daily Kasoti and the Window of China. "Some superpowers want to make a hindrance and make hurdles in the way of development in Pakistan's future," she told the Global Times. Parveen, nonetheless, also noted that the security situation has become much better than it was about five or six years ago, and that neither the Chinese nor Pakistani government has given up on cooperative projects, and they will not be deterred by these terrorist activities. In the past few days, several overseas media outlets have reported that a commander of the Baloch National Army that had surrendered himself to the Pakistani government had disclosed that India has been secretly supporting terrorist activities in Balochistan and financing Balochistan separatist forces, while Baloch officials said that India's support and use of terrorists is the main reason behind the increasing terrorist activities in the province. On Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that the Ministry is aware of these reports. Terrorism is humanity's common enemy, said Mao on Wednesday's regular news conference. "China firmly opposes double standards on counterterrorism. To support and use terrorist groups and let them thrive out of one's selfish interests at the expense of international and regional security benefits no one and will only backfire."

China stands for strengthening counterterrorism cooperation among all countries to jointly fight all forms of terrorism, Mao said.

Syed Kalbe Ali Naqvi, a senior reporter of Dawn newspaper who has dedicated his career to reporting anti-terrorism in Pakistan, pointed out that the vast land border that Pakistan shares with Afghanistan has been an unstable factor for the security situation in Pakistan.

With the insufficient border control power, foreign fighters can enter Pakistan and launch attacks, he noted. "They want to destabilize Pakistan, with some of them working with external powers from other countries." Ali urged that much more transparency of information should be shared between different institutions in the country and internationally to tackle this problem. "When it comes to border security and terrorism, many decisions are always made in closed doors," he said, noting that the terrorist organizations can take advantage of the information gap. In terms of the public perception and attitude toward the BRI and CPEC projects, the Pakistani media members stressed that there is one important aspect to be understood that the Pakistani people and the Pakistani government think of the BRI and CPEC projects as very beneficial for the development of the whole world. China has been doing a tremendous favor to Pakistan with the CPEC and BRI projects, said Rashid. "No matter how many problems would come up or which Pakistani political party would come into power, these projects are of the people and for the people." The 15-member Pakistani delegation of media and think tanks visited China from December 6 to 16, travelling from Beijing to Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, as well as Kashi Prefecture and Urumqi in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202312/1304450.shtml>

People Daily News

Diplomatic events reap broad benefits

By Xu Wei

China's boom in exchanges helps to promote global recovery, peace

For Pakistani journalist Saud Faisal Malik, China's remarkable surge in international exchanges, including a rich variety of diplomatic events, has offered him key opportunities to observe from close up Beijing's foreign policy priorities and domestic agenda.

During his five-month stay in China this year, Malik traveled to 12 cities for news-gathering trips and covered several of the nation's landmark diplomatic events, including the first China-Central Asia Summit in May and the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October.

Malik, who is deputy editor-in-chief of Pakistan Observer magazine, said it was highly rewarding for him to be part of a process that saw China welcome a historic increase in visits by global leaders, business executives, scholars and reporters in the first year of its post-pandemic era.

"The nation's booming exchanges served the need of both the country and the rest of the world for economic revitalization and promoting peace and harmony," he said.

Over the past year, China has ratcheted up efforts to forge partnerships for win-win cooperation, seek multilateral solutions to global challenges and build an open world economy, as part of a commitment to building a global community with a shared future, said analysts and observers.

The most important multilateral event hosted by China this year was the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, an event in Beijing that brought together two dozen global leaders and representatives from over 100 countries and 30 international organizations.

In a landmark address delivered at the forum, President Xi Jinping announced Beijing's eight major steps to boost the high-quality development of the Belt and Road going forward, outlining a new vision for the future of the flagship initiative.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said after the event that the global forum delivered a strong appeal for solidarity, cooperation, opening-up and win-win outcomes, instead of division, confrontation, closed doors and zero-sum games.

"Amid the complex changes of the century, the BRI always brings stability and positive energy to the world," he added.

Key outcomes of the forum include Beijing's pledge to set up new renminbi financing windows, carry out 1,000 aid programs for public well-being, and provide training sessions on green development for partner countries by 2030.

A forum secretariat has also been established to promote institutional development and project implementation. The secretariat said in a statement this month that more than half of the outcomes of the BRI forum have already been implemented.

The China-Central Asia Summit, held in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, marked another highlight of China's diplomatic events in 2023.

The five Central Asian countries underscored their support for building a China-Central Asia community with a shared future, and the summit adopted more than 100 agreements in various sectors that paved the way for future cooperation.

During the summit, Beijing emphasized its commitment to expanding trade and economic cooperation, establishing energy partnerships and increasing the number of direct flights between China and the region.

Malik, the Pakistani journalist, said the China-Central Asia Summit has its own importance in the region, since China has emerged as a main player in the region for connectivity under the BRI.

President Xi also hosted global leaders at the FISU World University Games in Chengdu, Sichuan province, and the Hangzhou Asian Games, two sporting events that were staged in a streamlined, safe and splendid manner.

The global gatherings over the past year have offered a key window for Xi's vision for building a global community with a shared future, analysts said.

Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at Renmin University of China, said the head-of-state diplomacy from Xi charted the course for Beijing's foreign policy initiatives through the multilateral events.

"China has played a pioneering role in global cooperation in terms of its visions, strategic planning, institutional innovation and pragmatic actions," he said.

Kostas Gouliamos, former rector of European University Cyprus and an ordinary member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, said the tangible outcomes of China's events and summits uphold the Chinese wisdom for multilateralism and, accordingly, maintain the spirit of inclusive growth, openness and high-quality cooperation.

Such outcomes carry global significance as they become effective instruments for universal security, stability, everlasting friendship and peace, he said.

The stronger synergy between China and its global partners "is a splendid chapter in charting both a connected, peaceful world and a path for a global community of shared future", he said.

With the increased internationalization of Beijing's efforts, the government's foreign policy has thus emerged as being characterized by more significant developmental practices and vital to multilateralism as well as high-tech and economic policies, he added.

Marsela Musabelliu, executive director of the Albanian Institute for Globalization Studies, said Beijing has actively sought multilateral solutions to global challenges, recognizing that complex issues often require collaborative efforts from the international community.

"In the face of a turbulent global landscape, China's political leadership has considered domestic and international imperatives, working with a strategic vision and introducing a series of policies favorable to regional, continental and global geopolitical stability," she said.

Wang Huiyao, president of the Beijing-based Center for China and Globalization, said China has put greater emphasis in 2023 on building global platforms for economic cooperation. "While Western countries ramped up efforts to form geopolitical circles, China has intensified its drive to develop platforms committed to promoting economic growth and win-win cooperation," he said.

Besides existing mechanisms such as the China International Import Expo, China also held its first International Supply Chain Expo in November. The expo in Beijing drew 15,000 participants, with businesses signing more than 200 cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding that involved total funding of over 150 billion yuan (\$21 billion).

The supply chain expo marked an innovative drive to strengthen the security of global industrial and supply chains, said Wang Yiwei, from Renmin University.

China, instead of seeking decoupling or the severing of supply chains, has sought to strengthen them for the benefit of the global community and to lead globalization to a deeper level, he said.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1228/c90000-20115683.html>

Commentary: China's openness, positive economic outlook inject confidence, energy into quality development

By Peng Songhan

BEIJING, Dec. 27 (Xinhua) -- The past year has seen a faltering global economy struggling to get back on its feet in the post-pandemic era. Amid a multitude of downward pressures and unprecedentedly adverse global landscape, China's economy has manifested considerable resilience and certainty as well as a blend of upward trend and continuity.

In the first three quarters of 2023, China has achieved year-on-year GDP growth of 5.2 percent, a pace thrusting China ahead of the world's major economies and thereby laying a solid foundation for achieving its annual target and stronger development in the coming year.

Why could the Chinese economy forge ahead against the headwinds of escalating global instabilities and uncertainties? On top of its own economic strengths, China's hard-won steady economic rebound can also be attributed to its unremitting quest for new initiatives aimed at achieving high-quality development, as well as its steadfast commitment to high-level opening up.

For starters, the Chinese economy holds unique and unparalleled strengths. Over the transformative 45 years of reform and opening up, China has not only developed a robust foundational industrial system but also achieved global industrial leadership in a vast array of categories.

China's industrial prowess and ever-evolving economic strength are evidenced in 2023 by its brilliant feats such as the launch of its first large cruise ship, the maiden commercial flight of C919 jetliners, and the remarkable advancement of the "East Data, West Computing" project.

China's economic terrain flourishes through a robust domestic cycle within a population exceeding 1.4 billion and a middle-income group surpassing 400 million people. Abundant market resources provide substantial developmental opportunities, promoting the clustering of industries and enhancing resilience against external disruptions.

China's innovative approaches, notably its emphasis on a green transition, to achieve high-quality development also fuel its growth momentum.

In the past year, Chinese electric vehicle (EV) industries have made great strides. Key EV makers of China are also increasing its investment abroad, particularly in Europe. In 2017, BYD, a prominent Chinese EV company, established its first European EV factory in Komárom, Hungary. This facility primarily produces electric buses and tourist coaches.

Regarding EV batteries, collaboration between China and the EU is gaining steam. Stellantis, the world's fourth-largest automotive group, and Contemporary Amperex Technology, a leading innovator in new energy technologies from China, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which covers the local provision of lithium iron phosphate battery cells and modules to support EV production in Europe.

China's pursuit of green and sustainable development is also helping developing countries realize energy transition and cleaner development. From the Karot Hydropower Project in Pakistan, the De Aar Wind Power Project in South Africa, to the Al Dhafra PV2 Solar Power Plant in the UAE, China-contracted renewable projects worldwide are facilitating green and low-carbon growth in more countries. Currently, 50 percent of the world's wind power equipment and 80 percent of the photovoltaics equipment are from China.

China has been promoting a new development paradigm through high-quality opening up, which has been considered as essential for China's miraculous economic rise over the past four decades.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the 45th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. The BRI represents high-quality opening up in tandem with high-quality development. In just a decade, more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations have joined the initiative, a testament to its growing popularity.

In October, China held the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF). The gathering yielded fruitful results, with 97.2 billion U.S. dollars in Sino-foreign business agreements. The success of the forum sends out a clear message of seeking solidarity, collaboration, openness and win-win results.

As a major trading partner of over 140 countries, China is also taking new measures to improve domestic business environment for foreign investors.

In August, China rolled out guidelines featuring 24 specific measures to further improve its foreign investment environment and beef up foreign investment inflow, a significant push towards higher quality opening-up.

While continuing to expand market access and cut the negative list for foreign investment, China will strive to improve its business environment and better serve foreign companies. According to the survey report on the business environment for foreign companies in China

in the third quarter, over 80 percent of the surveyed companies say they are satisfied with the business environment in China.

The survey also showed that 70 percent of the companies say their industrial chain layout in China will "remain stable," up by 4.57 percentage points from the second quarter, and 80 percent expect their yearly profits to increase or remain flat in 2023.

China stands ready to work with other countries to make the pie of the global market even bigger, strengthen the mechanisms for sharing benefits globally, and explore new ways of international cooperation.

World-renowned investor and financial commentator Jim Rogers said that China's commitment to high-level openness will "benefit the entire world." He views China's expansion of high-level openness as extremely beneficial for both the world and China. This perspective underscores the interconnectedness of global economies and the positive impact of China's policies on a broader scale.

"Everything I read about China these days is that Beijing has determined that it's going to continue to open up," he said. "It's going to continue to engage with the outside world."

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1228/c90000-20115781.html>

Yearender: Building, connecting, empowering -- BRI's decade marked with transformative achievements

HONG KONG, Dec. 27 (Xinhua) -- On the 10th year of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the cooperation platform has become a popular international public good and added new growth drivers to the global economy at a time when the world is facing tremendous changes.

By building up railways, highways, power plants and dams, it helps local people in the Asia-Pacific region lead a better life. By enhancing cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, it popularizes the vision of a global community of a shared future.

Drawing the blueprint for the next decade in a recently released document titled "Vision and Actions for High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Brighter Prospects for the Next Decade," China is committed to encouraging all parties to strive toward equal cooperation and mutual benefit, propelling Belt and Road cooperation into a new phase characterized by high-quality development.

FRUITFUL ACHIEVEMENTS

Data show that from 2013 to October 2023, total imports and exports between China and BRI participating countries surpassed 21 trillion U.S. dollars, and China's direct investment in BRI partner countries topped 270 billion dollars.

Being a miniature of the robust and unimpeded trade shown by the figure, the 1,035-km China-Laos Railway, which began operations in December 2021, has generated more benefits since it launched cross-border passenger service on the railway in April this year. Linking the Lao capital Vientiane with Kunming, the capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, the railway has quickly become the preferred option for a growing number of international travelers.

"The BRI has played a critical role in building connectivity within the ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and between China and ASEAN," said Thong Mengdaivud, a research supervisor at the Asian Vision Institute, a Phnom Penh-based independent think tank.

In Bangladesh, the first train of the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project departed from a new station on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka on Oct. 10, marking a dream come true "to cross the Padma river by train," the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said.

The entire 172-km project, which will eventually lead to Jashore in the southwestern region of Bangladesh, is scheduled for completion in 2024.

It will serve as a vital channel that connects Dhaka and more than 20 districts in the southern area of Bangladesh and will also be an important part of the trans-Asian railway network to promote regional connectivity and economic development of Bangladesh.

In Cambodia, the Chinese-invested Siem Reap Angkor International Airport in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province was officially inaugurated on Nov. 16, carrying the hope to link Cambodia to the world, according to Prime Minister Hun Manet, and will give a big boost to the tourism sector in Siem Reap with the local residents directly benefitting from it.

GLOBAL WELLBEING

"The Belt and Road cooperation has created more jobs and provided more vocational training and education opportunities for the people in partner countries, and thus improved their livelihoods in the process of development," said Anna Malindog-Uy, vice president of the Manila-based think tank Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute.

For Khairul Ikmal, a villager in Malangnengah, Purwakarta Regency of Indonesia, the Jakarta-Bandung High-speed Railway (HSR) under the BRI cooperation changed his life as an assembly line worker in a shoe factory. He was recruited in 2019 and learned to become a welder after five months of training.

In service for two months, the 142-km railway has handled over 1 million passenger trips, brought smoother and more efficient journeys, and provided many other villagers with employment as well as incomes. Ikmal fulfilled his long-held dream of owning a motorcycle thanks to his new job.

"Since the railway project is completed now, I plan to run a welding studio and use the technology I have learned over the past four years to make products such as guardrails and window guards," he said.

According to statistics provided by Kereta Cepat Indonesia China, a joint venture consortium between Indonesian and Chinese firms that constructs and runs the HSR, 45,000 Indonesian employees were trained on-site during the railway's construction. As the first overseas high-speed railway project that fully uses Chinese railway systems, technology, and industrial components, the project has created about 51,000 jobs in Indonesia.

Landmark projects like these in the region also covered a wide range of areas beyond transport. In the past decade, BRI cooperation featured green and high-quality development

and has brought socio-economic benefits to regional countries, improving the lives of local people and infrastructure and offering opportunities for further growth in the green sector, experts believed.

Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, an Islamabad-based think tank, said China has not only helped Pakistan overcome the severe energy crisis but also assisted in promoting green development.

In northwest Pakistan, the construction of the Suki Kinari Hydropower project has been making significant progress. With a total installed capacity of 884 megawatts, it is expected to generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually, replacing 1.28 million tons of coal and reducing 2.52 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1228/c90000-20115866.html>

Pakistan, China enjoy unique friendship: president

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 27 (Xinhua) -- Pakistani President Arif Alvi said on Wednesday that Pakistan and China enjoy a unique friendship as all-weather strategic cooperative partners.

"The bilateral ties between Pakistan and China are of special importance ... Both countries are close, trusted friends and iron brothers," the president said during a meeting here.

Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, bilateral relations between the two countries have touched new heights, he said.

"A network of roads has been laid across Pakistan under the CPEC, whereas infrastructure projects of strategic importance were also included in the mega project," Alvi said.

Also, China is the largest trading partner of Pakistan and is an important source of foreign direct investment in the country, he added.

Alvi said that the cultural and educational exchanges are important for the strong friendship between the two countries, adding that Pakistan and China are taking steps to deepen the bond between the people of the two countries.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC 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/n3/2023/1228/c90000-20115872.html>

Commentary: Three reasons warrant China's positive economic outlook in 2024

By Peng Songhan

China stands ready to work with other countries to make the pie of the global market even bigger, strengthen the mechanisms for sharing benefits globally, and explore new ways of international cooperation.

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Xinhuanet News

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<https://english.news.cn/20231228/32fedd2c6f834ac9b9364fbbd7e2c58b/c.html>

Building, connecting, empowering -- BRI's decade marked with transformative achievements

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