



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

January 16-31, 2023

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January 16, 2023

Business Recorder

Security tightened at Chinese camps to prevent mishaps: AIGP

MULTAN: Additional Inspector General of Police (AIGP) South Punjab, Sahibzada Shahzad Sultan said that security has been tightened at all Chinese camps and police pickets to prevent any untoward incident.

During his visit to different Chinese camps and police pickets at Taunsa along with Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Ghazi Khan on Sunday, he visited the security arrangements and ordered further actions to beef up arrangements.

He also visited the martyred Head constable Mazhar Khan's home to pay condolences to the family. He presented a cheque to the martyr's family and assured full support to the children of the martyr's head constable.

He said the Punjab Police will never forget the sacrifice of their brave jawans, and the needs of the martyr's family and children would be the responsibility of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, RPO Syed Khurram Ali said the doors of police offices would remain open round the clock for the martyr's family. He said the personnel who sacrificed their lives for protecting citizens' lives and properties were the crown of our foreheads and their sacrifices would be remembered forever.

Later, the AIGP visited police Picket Jhangi along with Syed Khurram Ali and examined the scene of the attack that took place recently. He also visited other important places, praised the duty of the jawans against the terrorists and directed them to perform their duty with full devotion by keeping in view the current law and order situation in the country.

He urged police officials to ensure all precautionary measures and wear helmets and jackets, he also ordered the cleaning of weapons regularly.

A large number of locals gathered at Picket Jhangi and paid tribute to police dedication & bravery against terrorist attacks.

Earlier, the RPO visited Sadar Taunsa, Ritara and Wahwa police stations and received the manual & online records of the police stations, front desk, building, armory, cleanliness of the building, under-investigation cases, and security.

He also checked the security measures and talked to the accused in custody.

Action should be taken immediately on crimes against women and children, he said and added that there would be a zero-tolerance policy on illegal detention. Violence, killing or absconding in police custody will not be tolerated under any circumstances, he warned officials.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/01/16/3-page/952536-news.html>

CPEC: a game changer or ...?

Anjum Ibrahim

Today all three national parties - Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – are fully supportive of projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The reason is as valid today as in 2015: a dearth of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, a desired form of foreign exchange inflows.

Pakistan has never been an attractive destination for foreign direct investment inflows though by anteing up the discount rate it has been the recipient of 4 to 5 billion US dollar portfolio investment that has unceremoniously left the country overnight at the slightest possibility of uncertainty, political or flawed economic policies, or at the prospect of better earnings elsewhere in the world. On average FDI was 156.77 million dollars between 1997 to 2022 and registered 542.5 million dollars July-November 2021-22, plummeting even further to 397.2 million dollars in the comparable period of the current year.

In 2013 China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) strategy sought to rekindle the Silk Road of centuries past, a centre piece of President Xi's foreign policy initiative that also provided Chinese companies with purchase orders at a time when global recession was curtailing demand and, in some instances, provided jobs to Chinese workers. OBOR was a win-win for all participating countries by providing a unique opportunity to all those that signed off on the initiative (149 countries as of August 2022) to develop their inadequate physical infrastructure facilities.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a major component of OBOR, was all the more eagerly sought by the then PML-N administration with a plummeting rupee against all major currencies, a dearth of foreign exchange reserves (Saudis extended a grant of 1.5 billion dollars in early 2014), and a severe energy crisis resulting in load-shedding of several hours every day. In addition, CPEC was the only available FDI inflow at the time, an inflow that did not require to be repaid.

The two major national parties at the time hailed CPEC – the ruling PML-N and the PPP. The PTI expressed serious reservations on project selection at the time, a reservation that was unwisely expressed by Razzak Dawood in the last quarter of 2018 when he was the Commerce Minister in the Khan administration – a view that he as well as other senior leadership of the party backtracked from within months.

President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan from 20 to 21 April 2015 and signed off on 46 billion US dollar investment for 51 projects including construction of roads, rails and power plants, an amount that was upgraded to 65 billion dollars by 2022. The bulk of Chinese investment was for the power sector on a commercial basis, envisaging Chinese companies seeking loans from Chinese banks and insisting on the same contractual conditions as those enjoyed by existing Independent Power Producers (IPPs) criticized by many politicians as well as power sector experts for unfairly benefitting the IPPs on two major counts – capacity payments irrespective of how much electricity is actually bought and payment in dollars. The Khan administration successfully renegotiated with IPPs set up under previous policies assisted by

intelligence agencies however such an outcome has not been evident with projects set up under CPEC. It is critical for the coalition government to explore this possibility for as noted in the 2019 World Economic Forum report “executives ranked energy price shock as the highest risk for doing business in Pakistan.”

Counterpart funds and the 100 percent repatriation of profits and dividends allowed by Pakistan may account for the discrepancy in the CPEC inflows against actual FDI data released by the government of Pakistan. Board of Investment (BoI) data suggests that total FDI from 2015 till 2022 was 21.38 billion dollars (the bulk from China) though this amount does not include outflows. Finance Division data estimates inflows for the period to a little over 15 billion dollars – a far cry from investment of 65 billion dollars under CPEC.

As per Forbes by the end of 2020 those with high debt to China were all involved in OBOR with Pakistan’s external debt to China rising to 77.3 billion dollars, Angola 36.3 billion dollars, Sri Lanka 6.8 billion dollars. This high degree of debt to China has however not led to the actualization of predictions by Western doomsayers.

Former US Ambassador Alice Wells remarked on 21 November 2019 at the Wilson Center Washington DC that “CPEC is the Chinese communist party’s largest OBOR Initiative, reflecting over 60 billion dollars in regionally pledged commitment for projects in Pakistan;” and cited three major areas of concern: (i) “According to Pakistani government statistics, for each megawatt generated by a completed CPEC thermal energy project, developers spent an estimated 1.5 million. In comparison, the cost per megawatt of building non-CPEC thermal plants is half of that, or 750 million;” (ii) “what are the burdens that have fallen on the new government to manage, now with an estimated \$15 billion in debt to the Chinese government and another \$6.7 billion in Chinese commercial debt? Because it’s clear, or it needs to be clear, that CPEC is not about aid. This is almost always the form of loans or other forms of financing, often non-concessional, with sovereign guarantees, or guaranteed profits for Chinese state-owned enterprises that are repatriated to China. Even if loan payments are deferred, they’re going to hang over Pakistan’s economic development potential, hamstringing Prime Minister Khan’s reform agenda;” and (iii) “lack of transparency can increase CPEC costs and foster corruption resulting in an even heavier debt burden for Pakistan.”

US Institute for Peace’s article dated 26 May 2021 by Uzair Younus notes: “China’s ability to exert influence on Pakistan’s economy has grown substantially in recent years, mainly due to the fact that Beijing is now Islamabad’s largest creditor. According to documents released by Pakistan’s finance ministry, Pakistan’s total public and publicly guaranteed external debt stood at \$44.35 billion on 2013 just 9.3 percent of which was owed to China. BY April 2021 this external debt had ballooned to 90.12 billion with Pakistan owing 27.4 percent – 24.7 billion dollars – of its total debt to China, according to the IMF. Nevertheless, China, to date, has refrained from directly influencing Pakistan’s economic policies. In fact, as the ongoing IMF loan programme has indicated, the IMF, World Bank and ADB continue to be the key players when it comes to determining the fiscal policies that are adopted in Islamabad.” One may well add that the three multilaterals are also key players in determining all other economic policies including monetary policy, exchange policy, the role of the SBP in the

economy and last but not least the need to focus subsidies on those who need it rather than as has been evident since October 2022 on the elite.

To conclude, it is the inexplicable adherence to its own flawed policies by successive Pakistani administrations (partly due to appointing the same individual as finance minister by multiple administrations who, in turn, supports the same flawed policies), and refusal to implement structural reforms while preferring to pass on sectoral inefficiencies on the hapless consumers that are responsible for the current appalling state of the economy and the simmering public discontent.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/01/16/6-page/952564-news.html>

70 China-made freight wagons to arrive in Karachi today

ISLAMABAD: Seventy state-of-the-art wagons of freight trains for Pakistan Railways (PR) will arrive in Karachi from China on Monday.

According to Pakistan Railways Spokesperson, one hundred and thirty wagons will be added to the Railways system in March this year. The spokesperson said that incorporation of modern wagons into the system will increase the trend of freight movement by railways.

The Spokesperson said under the transfer of technology agreement, six hundred and twenty wagons will be manufactured in Pakistan which will save national exchequer and employment opportunities. The Spokesperson informed that addition of new wagons will increase 1.5 billion revenue of Pakistan Railways. The Spokesperson informed that, existing wagons can run at a speed of 80 kilometer per hour with a weight of 60 tons, while new wagons have a maximum speed of 100 kilometer per hour with a weight of 70 tons.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/01/16/16-page/952632-news.html>

Daily Times

Youth, artists' role key to Pak-China friendship, cultural ties

President All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation (APCOYF) Aasma Ismail Butt on Sunday said the young generation and artists would have to play an important role in making Pak-China friendship more stable and highlighting the culture of both countries.

Under the supervision of APCOYF chief Aasma Ismail Butt, a musical night was organized at the Rawalpindi Arts Council for artists representing the youth, setting an example of New Year happiness and Pakistan-China friendship, a press release said. This was the first program to promote the art of young singers from the platform of APCOYF.

The young singers highly appreciated the efforts of the president of the federation Aasma Ismail Butt and thanked the president of the federation for providing a platform to the new young singers in the form of the Rawalpindi Arts Council.

On this occasion, the participants welcomed the guests by hoisting the flags of Pakistan and China and chanted slogans of Long Live Pakistan-China friendship. The young singers showcased their talent and received a standing ovation for their performances.

Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) President Afzal Butt, Finance Secretary National Press Club Nayyer Ali, RIUJ President Abid Abbasi, Rudn Enclave Housing Society GM Mohammad Rashid, Echo Builders Real Estate and Marketing CEO Naeem Pasha attended musical night as special guests. The guests appreciated the efforts of Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt in highlighting the culture of Pakistan and China.

The APCOYF president was presented with an honorary shield by Mohammad Rashid, GM of Rudn Enclave Housing Society, Naeem Pasha, CEO of Echo Builders Real Estate and Marketing.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/1051738/youth-artists-role-key-to-pak-china-friendship-cultural-ties/>

55 % work at New Gwadar Int'l Airport completed, test flight in 60 days

New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) has met its fresh completion benchmark as more than 55 percent multi-tier works have finally been accomplished in stipulated time promising its first test flight within 60 days, Gwadar Pro reported it on Sunday.

Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) official told Gwadar Pro that the construction of NGIA costing Rs. 51.284 billion is going to be further expedited in the backdrop of the fresh push of government as well as harmonization of all stakeholders including Civil Aviation Authority, Pakistan and China Communications Construction Company (CCCC).

Meanwhile progression on the installation of state-of-the-art security features, an integral part of NGIA is moving into high gear with the installation of 39 hold or hand baggage scanning machines. The scope of work includes procurement/installation of Dual View/Computed Tomography (CT) Hold & Hand Baggage Scanning Machines at NGIA by CAA.

Additionally, NGIA will also be regularly inspected by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other security agencies like European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to ensure that required security standards are being implemented.

The reliability factor regarding screening of passengers will enhance after the installation of new machines. This will increase the confidence of airline operators regarding the security of passengers & baggage handling systems.

Safe airport will encourage foreign airlines to start operations to/from Gwadar and would generate economic activity to benefit CAA and Gwadar.

Besides, the pace of the entire scope of work of NGIA involves civil work, structural work, mechanical work, engineering work, and communication.

As per detail, with the joint effort of professional teams of CCCC and CAA, the fencing around NGIA was completed. The rest of work regarding construction of ATC tower, runway, apron, taxiway, operational building, complex registration office, water supply system, PTCL fiber optic, desalination plant, grid station and security system have picked maximum acceleration.

Primarily NGIA spreading over across an area of 4,300 acres will welcome the entire load of national and international passengers. In the second phase, after the cargo complex is built, it will come up with a new capacity to handle multiple cargo stuff.

It will be the biggest in Pakistan and will also become the nation's second airport. It will have the capacity to accommodate narrow-body aircraft such as ATR 72 and Boeing B-737, as well as wide-body aircraft such as Airbus A-380 and Boeing B-747 for domestic and international routes. The airport will be operated under the open sky policy and will be developed under the guidance of CAA.

The under-constructed NGIA is located 26km north-east of the existing airport in Gwadar on the south-western Arabian Sea coast of Balochistan. It is expected to stimulate the development in the Gwadar peninsula and boost trade between Pakistan and China.

The project kicked off as an early harvest high-priority project of CPEC in 2014. It was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in January 2015.

The project is being funded through a grant agreement signed between China and Pakistan in May 2017. Oman also provided grants in this regard. Soil testing on the project site was started in January 2018 and involved drilling of 300 boreholes in various locations.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held in March 2019. NGIA will also have the provision to build a second runway, which will be located north of the main runway. The greenfield airport will feature a modern terminal building as well.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1051769/55-work-at-new-gwadar-intl-airport-completed-test-flight-in-60-days/>

Pakistan Observer

New land for “Gwadar Modern Shipyard” on the cards

Since CPEC is catalyzing saga of developments in Gwadar, fresh efforts are afoot for the allotment of the most suitable land for the establishment of “New Modern Shipyard” in Gwadar, with an objective to incentivize commercial shipbuilding and repair industry, create new jobs and spur economic growth.

PMC Project Manager Dadullah told Gwadar Pro that the Balochistan government allotted 750 acres of land in Moza Kappar Gwadar which lies at a high altitude against sea level.

“The allocated land does not fit to basic formalities and merits required for the construction of Gwadar Modern Shipyard. Technically shipyard needs land that lies at zero elevation,” he added.

With taking on board all stakeholders, he said, cutting edge insights and astuteness were brainstormed. “Feasibilities were also hashed out to make the project cost-effective, productive and result-oriented.

In the final proposal, instead of Moza Kappar, we proposed the area of Surbandar as the most appropriate land for the construction of Modern Shipyard. Surbandar has zero elevation.

Secondly it is incorporated in Gwadar Master Plan 2050. Thirdly it has natural shelter with ecological advantages. Lastly many allied facilities are easily available around the Surbandar land,” he added.

GDA official said that GDA had demarcated 750 acres of land for the new shipyard project at Moza Kappar which is around 60 kilometers away from Gwadar Port.

While new proposed land at Surbandar is just 24 kilometers away from Gwadar Port, he added. “Apart from offering essential dry docking facilities to the cargo ships visiting Gwadar port, the Gwadar Shipyard would also offer services for building new ships,” he added.

“Pakistan’s federal and provincial governments have announced a collaboration by signing an MoU for the establishment of Gwadar shipyard in February 2021.

The project in the strategically located Gwadar city is of ‘great regional importance’ and also significant for the socio-economic development of Balochistan and overall Pakistan as it will ‘create employment for the locals’ and boost revenue generation for the province,” he mentioned.

“Shipbuilding industry is important for a country’s economy, prosperity and social development as it’s a job multiplier and a key industry that is closely linked with several other industries,” maritime analyst Shabir Jalil said.

This industry plays an important role in the commercial sector thus contributing to economic security and strengthening national security. China, Japan and South Korea are currently the three countries that dominate the global shipbuilding industry.

At present, Pakistan’s shipbuilding, repair and maintenance work is undertaken at the state-owned Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KSEW). Since the mid-1950s, KSEW has built over 500 commercial and naval vessels of different types for both local and international customers.

The biggest vessel built by Karachi Shipyard was merchant ship Al Abbas, a 28,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT) carrier. DWT is a measure of how much weight a ship can carry.

The new proposed shipyard at the deep seaport of Gwadar with “improved capacity and state-of-the-art facilities” will fulfill the modern shipbuilding and repairing requirements of Pakistan and also address the emerging demands of the regional countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/new-land-for-gwadar-modern-shipyard-on-the-cards/>

Poverty eradication with Chinese characteristics

The People’s Republic of China (PRC) has attained an unprecedented historical feat by achieving Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Goal 1 of the SDGs enjoins countries to end all forms of poverty. The PRC eradicated absolute poverty 10 years before the 2030 cut-off date. Goal 1 has the explicit aim to “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”. This SDG goal builds targets on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce the proportion of people subsisting daily on less than \$1.25 (about R19), and provide decent work, especially for women and the youth.

Using these targets, the PRC has set a new global benchmark by declaring “complete victory” in poverty eradication, more so for China’s rural citizens and communities.

In February 2021, the same year that the Communist Party of China (CPC) was celebrating its 100th anniversary, President Xi Jinping proclaimed that the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 villages have also been removed from the poverty list.

The criteria used by the PRC relied on “two assurances and three guarantees”. The two assurances centred on producing policies, measured constantly for their impact, that provides adequate food and clothing for impoverished rural residents.

This was supplemented with access to non-negotiable basic medical service, nine years of compulsory education and safe housing.

In addition, absolute poverty eradication was attained via public delivery of infrastructure, ensuring rural areas had access to 1.1 million km of reconstructed highways.

These rural areas were capacitated with optical fibre communications (OFC) and 4G technology covering 98 percent of the rural areas. These achievements were the total outcome from the 1978 opening up and reform process.

Former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping was decisive in leading the battle against poverty by introducing agrarian reforms. To be effective, these early reforms built on improving infrastructure to reform and revolutionise agricultural sectors.

This required sufficient investment in irrigation, drainage systems, road infrastructure and internet access to connect farmers to markets, encouraging service sectors to invest in rural areas, and in the process generating employment opportunities in rural areas.

The PRC’s experience is a model to the world about what is possible when there is in a country (i) decisive leadership, (ii) uninterrupted legal and policy continuity, (iii) bottom-up people’s empowerment, (iv) solid intergovernmental relations and private sector partnerships, and (v) leveraging contextual circumstances (in geography, politics, technology, etc).

All these factors have coalesced and translated into “poverty eradication with Chinese characteristics”. China eliminated absolute poverty and hunger by making widely available distance education, making sure that impoverished rural areas had OFC and so had access to telemedicine and e-commerce.

It is not inconceivable for South Africa to replicate the Chinese model of ending poverty in all its forms. What is needed is bold decisive leadership that transcends ideological party affiliation and focuses on realising one goal.

Second, is to empower citizens with the tools for their own liberation so that they aren’t mainly dependent on social grants. Third, the involvement of the private sector is irreplaceable in mobilising a whole-of-society approach.

As China deservedly celebrates ending poverty in all its forms in the PRC, there is still more to be done. As President Xi said, “Being lifted out of poverty is not an end in itself but the

starting point of a new life and a new pursuit.” Paul Tembe is a South African expert on China.

<https://pakobserver.net/poverty-eradication-with-chinese-characteristics/>

The News

Ambassador Nong Rong promoted Pak-China relationship

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

China has been sending excellent minds to Pakistan to promote and strengthen bilateral relationship. It started with the appointment of Han Nianlong, first ambassador to Pakistan.

Han Nianlong was an accomplished politician and army officer. General Geng Biao replaced him. He was instrumental in laying down the strong foundation of bilateral relations. He was also an accomplished military officer and politician.

It would be interesting to mention here that President Xi Jinping served as staff of General Geng Biao. It is widely believed working with General Geng Biao helped young Xi Jinping learn about Pakistan, develop deep understanding and affection for Pakistan. China is following the legacy till today and Nong Rong is another excellent addition to that legacy. Ambassador Nong Rong, before coming to Pakistan, served in different positions and had diverse experience. He worked with economic and trade departments of different regions. He also served as Director of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guangxi. He replaced Yao Jing.

He arrived in Pakistan at a very difficult time. World was facing worst impacts of COVID-19. It was the time when business across the world was closed and supply chains were disturbed. COVID-19 was impacting the pace of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Besides, the western propaganda and malicious campaigns were other areas of concern. Opponents had accelerated the malicious campaigns after successful launch of second phase of CPEC.

They were trying hard to slow down the pace of work on CPEC. Pakistan-China relationship was also under the radar of terrorist organisations. These organisations were funded by the enemies of Pakistan and China. Terrorists even attacked Ambassador Nong Rong’s convey and posed a serious threat to him. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan further encouraged the terrorist organisations and complicated the situation.

Ambassador Nong Rong had to juggle with multiple challenges which had no precedent in history of our bilateral history. On one hand, there was need to close the business to check the spread of COVID-19. On other, there was need to expedite implementation of second phase of CPEC, which is all about industrial, agricultural and scientific cooperation. Moreover, a comprehensive engagement strategy was required to tackle the negative propaganda.

The analysis of his tenure shows he tackled challenges quite diligently. Despite of such challenges and even threat to his life, he contributed in promoting bilateral relationship. First of all, he put all his efforts to coordinate cooperation in the fight against COVID-19. He led the China embassy to assist Pakistan in securing vaccine, protective gears, kits etc. He also

joined hands with Chinese companies in Pakistan to assist Pakistan and communities in the fight against COVID-19. Second, he worked really hard with Pakistani officials and Chinese companies for the continuity of work on CPEC during the COVID-19.

There is no second opinion that Chinese companies did not compromise on CPEC work. The companies did all, what they could do, to continue the work. The companies were source of economic relief for Pakistan, as they were providing jobs to thousands of Pakistanis. For example, only energy sector provided 23000 jobs to Pakistanis. The most important contribution of Ambassador Nong Rong is revolutionisation of engagement policy. No doubt, he has an excellent team including Wang Shengjie, Ms Bao Zhong etc. But, he himself led the work to expedite the process of engagement. He is the first Chinese ambassador in Pakistan to have a very proactive twitter account. He used his account to interact with Pakistanis and promote bilateral relations. He was providing first-hand information about the progress of CPEC which helped diffuse the propaganda against CPEC.

Second, he was regularly meeting with think tanks, researcher institutes, researchers and aspiring experts. He promoted culture of inviting scholars, research institutions and experts at embassy for open discussion.

Third, he built close relationship with media outlets and leading journalists. It helped him promote meaningful discussion with Pakistani media. Fourth, Ambassador Nong Rong gave special attention to youth. He was convinced youth can play an active role in promoting relationship. Investment in youth is also required to carry forward the message of brotherhood to next generation. In the pursuance of this objective, he invited youth to embassy for different functions and to interact with embassy staff. He encouraged working more closely with universities and enhanced funding for their initiatives.

In a nutshell, Ambassador Nong Rong played a good inning in difficult times. He tried to strengthen brotherhood with dedication and dignity. Though he is leaving Pakistan, it is hoped he will continue to promote China-Pakistan brotherhood in his new role.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=166946>

Musical night to promote Pak-China friendship

Islamabad: The young generation and artists have to play an important role in making the Pak-China friendship more stable and highlighting the culture of both countries.

This was stated by President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt while addressing a musical night organised to promote and cherish the friendship between the two countries. She said that both countries always supported each other in every hour of difficulty. Under the supervision of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt, a musical night was organized at the Rawalpindi Arts Council for artists representing the youth, setting an example of New Year happiness and Pakistan-China friendship.

This was the first programme to promote the art of young singers from the platform of the All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation. On which the young singers highly appreciated the efforts of the president of the federation Aasma Ismail Butt and said that thanks to the

president of the federation, a platform has been made available to the new young singers in the form of the Rawalpindi Arts Council. For which we are very grateful to them.

On this occasion, the participants welcomed the guests by raising the flags of Pakistan and China in their hands and raising slogans about Pakistan-China friendship.

The young singers showcased their talent and received a standing ovation. Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists President Afzal Butt, Finance Secretary Nayyer Ali, RIUJ President Abid Abbasi, Mohammad Rashid, and Naeem Pasha attended the musical night as special guests who appreciated the efforts of Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt in highlighting the culture of Pakistan and China.

The organiser of the event was Aftab Anwar who also served as the host.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=167033>

January 17, 2023

The Express Tribune

Pakistan eyes higher exports to China in 2023

Trade to benefit from China's soft Covid policy, says commercial counsellor

BEIJING: "As China relaxes its Covid-19-related restrictions, I think a major turnaround will happen for Pakistani producers. I hope that Pakistani producers, exporters, and manufacturers will come here and explore this wonderful market," said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

Looking back on the past year, Qadir acknowledged that it has been a difficult year for the global economy. In spite of this, breakthroughs have been achieved. "Pakistan's cherry has been allowed to be exported to China, which amounts to a \$2 billion market. Our sesame seed export to China surged by 50% on a year-on-year basis to \$59.09 million in Jan-Sept 2022. Pakistan's rice exports to China crossed the historical figure of one million tonnes. We are also finalising trade protocols for dairy and meat products. A market that is worth around \$20 billion," he exemplified.

This year, he said, the focus will be put on e-commerce. "In China, most of the selling takes place through e-commerce. So, we are sensitising our Pakistani exporters and manufacturers to come to China and use the wonderful facilities provided by the Chinese and provincial governments that include warehousing, rent-free offices, and all other allied facilities," he stated.

"As 2023 marks the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges, there will be some very special packages and a complete guidebook to facilitate travel from China to Pakistan," he said.

Talking about the Belt and Road Initiative ((BRI), which marks its 10-year anniversary this year, Qadir told the CEN that Pakistan was one of the pioneer participants and a beneficiary of the BRI.

According to data from the World Bank, Pakistan's export to China rose by over 35% from \$2,652 million in 2013, when BRI was proposed, to \$3,589 million in 2021.

Entering into the second phase of CPEC, the BRI's flagship project, B2B cooperation will be stepped up to convert this huge infrastructure into industrial and export-oriented outcomes. "With more joint ventures, we can have more technology transfer and IT related cooperation," he envisioned, adding that "Pakistan can not only become the food basket for China, but also provide the products at competitive rates".

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2396304/pakistan-eyes-higher-exports-to-china-in-2023>

The Nation

More space ahead for Pakistan after 10 years of BRI, says Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said that more opportunities are ahead for Pakistan after 10 years of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) is aligned with Pakistan's development strategy and national interests; not only has the initiative boosted the national economy and people's living standards over the last decade through China Pakistan Economic Corridor, but also will assist Pakistan in contributing to better connectivity of economic powers in Central Asia and South Asia, making the region the future of the world economy," said the minister while talking to China Economic Net here on Monday.

In this spirit, he said, the government of Pakistan will explore trade activities, with a special emphasis on B2B cooperation, play a role in connecting business schools between the two countries, and assist the business community in better understanding the Chinese market during the next stage of CPEC. "CPEC was a fusion of Pakistan's Vision 2025 and China's BRI initiative." the minister said adding, "it brought investment in Pakistan in the sectors that were crippling the economy", he added.

He further said, as China's all-weather strategic partner and direct beneficiary of BRI, Pakistan's energy, infrastructure, technology, and industrial sectors have all fetched benefits since the start of CPEC. "More than 5,000-MW new power generation was installed at a time when Pakistan was facing acute energy shortages. CPEC also contributes to the construction of new modern infrastructure such as the M-5 Sukkur-Multan Motorway, the Hakla-D.I Khan Motorway, and the Gwadar East Bay Expressway. Similarly, CPEC has laid a new information highway between Pakistan and China via fiber optic cable, which will help improve Pakistan's digital infrastructure", the minister said.

This year, China will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its flagship BRI. The minister, like other participants, believes that the fundamental reason for the "Belt and Road" initiative's strong resilience and vitality is that it is being jointly built, in accordance with the historical trend of economic globalization, the demands of the modern era for the reform of the global governance system, and the strong desire of people from all countries to live better lives.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-01-17/page-4/detail-6>

K2 Daily

	<p>چین پاکستان کے ساتھ آٹو موٹو سیکٹر میں چینی معیارات اور تجربات کا اشتراک کرے گا، خالد محمود</p>
<p>ہوری ہے، کزین ڈیڑھ سال میں پاکستانی صورت نے ایکٹرک گاڑیوں کو فروغ دینے کے لیے مختلف اقدامات کیے ہیں، بحیثیت قوم پاکستان ٹیکنالوجی سیکرٹری نے ہوری کے پاس دوسرے ممالک کے ساتھ ترقی کرنے کے سادہ مواقع ہیں۔ گورنر ہری کے مطابق ان طیلات کا اظہار پاک چائنا سٹری گرین انٹی (پرائیویٹ) لمیٹڈ اور الفلاح ای سی موبلز (پرائیویٹ) لمیٹڈ کے سی ای او خالد محمود نے پتھ کے روز "چین میں آئی ٹی توانائی گاڑی کے معیار میں اضافہ اور اس کا اطلاق" کے عنوان سے ایک مہینہ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان کا ایک مندرجہ ذیل ملحقہ ہے جو چین سے مشرق وسطیٰ، وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں، افریقہ اور دنیا کے دیگر حصوں سے شگ ہے۔ پاکستان کی آٹو ترقی تین الاقوامی تنظیموں میں اہلی سائنسی ہے۔</p>	<p>اسلام آباد (آئی این بی) پاکستان کی آٹو موٹو اڈیشنل منسٹر اور چینی ترقی کے ایک سے دور میں داخل (ہائی سٹی 7 جی 38)</p>

[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-01-17](https://www.dailyk2.com/Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-01-17)

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Nawaiwaqt News

یو ای ٹی: چائنا سٹڈی سنٹر کی افتتاحی تقریب

لاہور (سپیشل رپورٹر) یونیورسٹی آف انجینئرنگ اینڈ ٹیکنالوجی (یو ای ٹی) لاہور میں ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن (ایچ ای سی) کے تعاون سے قائم چائنا سٹڈی سنٹر کی افتتاحی تقریب منعقد ہوئی۔ وائس چانسلر یو ای ٹی پروفیسر ڈاکٹر سید منصور سرور نے ڈائریکٹر چائنا سٹڈی سنٹر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر شہد رفیق کے ہمراہ سنٹر کا افتتاح کیا۔ چائنا سٹڈی سنٹر ایک منی تھنک ٹینک کے طور پر قائم کیا گیا ہے تاکہ چینی اور پاکستانی یونیورسٹیوں کے درمیان تعلیمی اور تحقیقی روابط کو فروغ دیا جاسکے۔ اس مرکز کا بنیادی کام چینی اقتصادی نظام اور ثقافت کو بڑھانے کے لیے باہمی تعاون پر مبنی سرگرمیاں کروانا ہے۔ تقریب میں تمام فیکلٹیز کے ڈینز، رجسٹرار محمد آصف، سیکرٹری ٹو وائس چانسلر، ڈائریکٹر آئی بی اینڈ ایم، چیئر پرسن ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف ہیومنیز اینڈ انٹرنیشنل سائنسز ڈاکٹر مہوش ریاض، انچارج چائینز لیٹو تچ پروگرام اور تمام چائینز سنٹر کے عملے نے شرکت کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-17/page-6/detail-5>

January 18, 2023

Business Recorder

Bilawal meets Vice-Premier of China

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday met Chinese Vice Premier, Liu He at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Switzerland.

Both sides discussed the multifaceted economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and agreed to maintain close coordination to further enhance the mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/01/18/2-page/952743-news.html>

Daily Times

Contribution to China-Pakistan Friendship for a Shared Future

Nong Rong

In October 2020, I flew over the towering Karakorum Mountains and arrived in the beautiful city of Islamabad with joy and expectation. Now I feel so reluctant to leave this beloved country to end my tenure as the Chinese ambassador.

Over the past two years, I have been making friends sincerely, promoting cooperation devotedly, seeking development whole-heartedly. I truly felt the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan is higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea. I visited four provinces of Pakistan, witnessed the ongoing development of CPEC, facilitated the interaction between the leaders, and enjoyed the enhanced cooperation of various fields.

Looking back on the past two years, the evolution of the international situation has become more profound and complex, the COVID-19 pandemic together with the Ukraine crisis, has brought severe negative impact and much uncertainties to the world, and human society is faced with unprecedented challenges. Under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, China has continuously made new and great achievements. In 2022, the CPC successfully convened the 20th National Congress, drawing up a grand blueprint for advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, and the solemn mission of building a community with a shared future for mankind. China will act as a responsible major country to promote cooperation and friendship, and inject new dynamics of development for its neighbors, including Pakistan, and the world as a whole.

Against this backdrop, I am pleased to see the high-level interactions between China and Pakistan. The leaders of the two sides have maintained close exchanges through various ways. Last year, President Xi Jinping met with the Prime Ministers of Pakistan three times. Prime Minister Shehbaz paid a successful visit to China in November, becoming the first head of government to visit China after the 20th CPC National Congress. The two sides issued a joint statement and signed 21 cooperation documents. Not long ago, Premier Li Keqiang spoke with Prime Minister Shehbaz, and the new Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang had a telephone call with Foreign Minister Bilawal immediately after taking office. The two sides reiterated to promote practical cooperation in key areas and expedite the development of China-Pakistan relations. With the strong guidance of the leaders, China and Pakistan are making great strides towards building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

I am pleased to see that China and Pakistan have continued to deepen their political trust. Friendship with China has always been a cross-party consensus in Pakistan. During the 20th CPC Congress, China received 58 congratulatory letters from more than 20 political parties and organizations in Pakistan. The two countries support each other on issues of core interests and major concerns. The Pakistani side firmly adheres to the one-China policy. China supports Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and promotes its social-economic development and prosperity. Actions have proved that no matter how the

international situation changes, the friendship between China and Pakistan remains unbreakable.

I am pleased to see that the building of CPEC has achieved many fruitful results. From the initial layout focusing on Gwadar port, transport infrastructure, energy and industry, and gradually adding JWGs on social-economic development, agriculture, science and information technology, and international cooperation and coordination etc. CPEC has become an important platform for all-round cooperation between China and Pakistan. Just name some progress for recent two years, as Gwadar East Bay Expressway has been opened to traffic, the construction of the new Gwadar airport has been accelerated, the Technical and Vocational Institute has been handed over to Pakistan. Karot Hydropower Project has got its COD, and K3 Nuclear Power Plant together with TEL and Nova Power Plants all started operation. Both sides agreed to actively promote the ML-1 project and the KCR project. As a landmark project of “Belt and Road Initiative”, CPEC has brought a total of \$25.4 billion in direct investment, \$17.55 billion in revenue, \$2.12 billion in taxes, and created 192,000 jobs for Pakistan helping Pakistan to add 6000 megawatts of electricity, 510km of highway and 886km of national core transmission network, laying a solid foundation for Pakistan’s economic and social development.

I am pleased to see that bilateral trade has a good momentum of development. The second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement has shown its effectiveness. Supporting policies such as currency swaps have been continuously improved. Facilitation initiatives such as the export of high-quality agricultural products to China have been steadily promoted. The economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has maintained at high level. China has become Pakistan’s largest trading partner for eight years in a row. In particular, Pakistan’s agricultural exports to China are growing rapidly, with a trade surplus of 13 times increase in 2021, and total agricultural export volume is expected to exceed US \$1 billion in 2022. During the meeting with President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that deepening cooperation in CPEC and other areas with China is the future direction and the only choice for Pakistan. China will join hands with Pakistan to better transform Pakistan’s geographical advantages, resource advantages and labor advantages into export competitiveness and economic growth.

I sincerely wish Pakistan prosperity and its people happiness and health. May the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan last forever. May the cooperation between the two countries more prosperous. May China and Pakistan continue to write new legends.

I am pleased to see that cooperation in other fields also has been promoted in an all-round way. As an important pillar of our unique friendship, the relations between the armed forces have achieved fruitful progress, and will deepen cooperation in areas of training, joint exercises and military technology, contributing to the maintenance of regional peace and stability. People-to-people exchanges have overcome the difficulties of the COVID and remained active. More than 140 activities were held during the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic ties. With the easing of the relevant policies and the resumption of flights, the exchanges will surely increase in 2023, the China-Pakistan “Year of Tourism”.

I am pleased to see that the people of China and Pakistan keep assisting and supporting each other in times of difficulties and need. Since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, China and Pakistan have joined hands and helped each other. When China faced shortage of medical supplies, Pakistan sent a special plane to deliver the medicines. Vice versa, the Chinese government assisted Pakistan with testing reagents and masks, and making Pakistan the first country to receive vaccines donated by Chinese government and army. Last year, Pakistan was hit by historic flood. China sent timely support to its iron-clad friend. Chinese government, military, enterprises, society and individuals provided more than \$160 million in aid, ranking first among all countries. At the recent International Conference on Climate resilience Pakistan, China pledged another 100 million US dollars of aid. I myself went to the Bugti district of Balochistan to distribute Chinese relief supplies to the people affected by the flood. As Prime Minister Shabaz said, no country is as sincere as China in helping developing countries. As an old Chinese saying goes, amity between the people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. The people of the two countries share great love with true sentiments and with concrete actions.

One special episode I would like to share is that in 1956, Geng Biao, then ambassador to Pakistan, planted a bamboo tree in Chinese Embassy in Karachi to commemorate Premier Zhou Enlai's visit to Pakistan. In 2021, my embassy colleagues and I introduced this bamboo to the Embassy in Islamabad to inherit this good legacy. As time flies, now this bamboo has sprouted new branches, lush and vibrant, just like the friendship between China and Pakistan, which has been passed on from generation to generation.

A Chinese poem goes as "bosom friends could be closer than biological brothers." I have regarded my Pakistani friends as my brothers and sisters, and Pakistan as my second hometown. The two-years' time in Islamabad remains a lifetime of Pakistani friendship. I will leave with the best memories, and my heart will stay in Pakistan forever.

Allama Iqbal said that, many universes exist beyond the stars, more ordeals of love still awaiting. As good neighbor linked by fate, sincere friend sharing weal and woe, and true brother standing by each other, China and Pakistan are now at a new historical stage. We will take the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries as the guide to continuously deepen friendship, jointly promote the CPEC and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

I sincerely wish Pakistan prosperity and its people happiness and health. May the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan last forever. May the cooperation between the two countries more prosperous. May China and Pakistan continue to write new legends.

Chin-Pak Dosti Zindabad!

The writer is the Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1052669/contribution-to-china-pakistan-friendship-for-a-shared-future/>

CPEC a manifestation of Pak-China strategic partnership

Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf Tuesday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was an epic manifestation of ironclad friendship & all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.

Addressing a launch ceremony of the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) sustainable development report 2022, he said the project was mutually beneficial for both countries rather than the whole region could reap benefits from the project owing to its viability.

The event was jointly organized by the SDGs Secretariat of the National Assembly of Pakistan in collaboration with APCEA at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services.

He also said that sustainable economic development had always remained a top objective for Pakistan despite challenges. CPEC had played a massive role in the attainment of the above objective through enhanced connectivity and socio-economic development.

SDGs Secretariat in collaboration with APCEA organized the launch of a report titled "APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2022". The report provides a comprehensive overview of the CPEC projects in Pakistan while highlighting the contribution of the CPEC in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.svg%3E

The speaker said the CPEC was one significant strategic imperative that had received attention in Pakistan and around the world. The project's continuing second phase had shifted its emphasis to the Pakistani education industry, economics, infrastructure, and sustainability including the opening of technical education institutions and the initiation and expansion of student exchange programs, he added.

Mr. Wang Jie, Executive Vice Chairman APCEA and CEO of Bank of China Limited Pakistan Operations, in his welcome address, elucidated the vital need for realizing the importance of sustainable development and taking all possible corrective actions. APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2022 briefly summarizes the sustainable development achievements of Chinese enterprises in the year 2022.

He expressed APCEA's beliefs about the terms "sustainability" and "sustainable development" which go beyond generating renewable energy. He stated that Chinese enterprises practice sustainable development in all aspects, to support Pak-China relations. Consequently, their guiding principle is the fulfillment of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), including reliability, technological advancement, the welfare of the local community, and the development of their talents.

Romina Khurshid Alam, Convener National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, while highlighting the key takeaways from the report she stated that with "Pakistan's youth bulge in mind and the Phase II of the CPEC, there is a need to prioritize the construction of new schools, technical and vocational training facilities, and higher education institutions while also renovating the existing ones".

She further highlighted the role of CPEC towards the sustainable development goals especially SDGs 7 (Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Protect the Planet), and 17 (Partnership for Goals).

Minister of State for Finance & Revenue, Aisha Ghaus Pasha, stated that CPEC will supplement Pakistan's socioeconomic development as the tremendous human capital of the region is its biggest asset.

She further stated that CPEC projects have unleashed opportunities for socio-economic development for the people of Pakistan. It was remarked that in CPEC Phase II, investment possibilities worth several billions of dollars are available in Pakistan in industries that directly support the SDGs. Transportation and logistics, renewable and alternative energy, healthcare, education, technology and communication, and finance are just a few of the industries covered. CPEC also provides huge prospects for talent development and the creation of regional value chains with China.

Ms. Chen Yen, CEO of Challenge Fashion Private Limited, also presented her views on the occasion. She remarked that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor ("CPEC") is an economic marvel of its time. The actual benefits of CPEC are innumerable for the region and are not only related to the economy but shall also help Pakistan in achieving economic growth propelled by green development. With consistent and dedicated efforts of both countries, Pakistan's economic growth is bound to achieve greater heights.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1052602/cpec-a-manifestation-of-pak-china-strategic-partnership/>

President for realizing full potential of Pak-China bilateral trade

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed enhancing bilateral trade with China, which currently stood at \$27.8 billion, and said the strengthening of businesses could prove mutual reward.

Talking to the outgoing Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), 19 projects were completed, 28 were under construction, and 41 were in the pipeline. President Alvi said CPEC was a transformational flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, which had the potential to act as the pivot of regional peace and connectivity.

The expeditious completion of four broad clusters of cooperation – Gwadar Port and its auxiliary features, energy projects, transport infrastructure and industrial cooperation including the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) – would change trade, business and investment outlook of the country, he said.

The president observed that with shifts underway on the world stage, there was a need to further expedite the progress on CPEC so that the goods should start moving from South China to the Gwadar Port and upward in a regular manner.

The second phase of CPEC should be pursued expeditiously to promote agriculture; innovation and IT sector; industrial cooperation; livelihood generation and poverty alleviation; automobiles, textiles and leather manufacturing; and shifting of Chinese industries to Pakistan wherever possible, he added.

The president said that the signing of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in January 2020 had further liberalized the trade resulting in a significant expansion in trade volumes, noting that as per data for the first 11 months of 2021, bilateral trade reached a record high at \$27.8 billion registering an increase of 60 percent with the corresponding period of 2020.

Pakistan's exports amounting to \$3.6 billion also registered an increase of 68% year over year, he added.

The president expressed his satisfaction over the encompassing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of defence to socio-economic development

He conveyed his deepest gratitude to the people of China and President Xi Jinping for extending generous financial support to Pakistan which helped the country to deal effectively with the financial situation faced by it and during global warming-induced super floods last year which proved helpful in alleviating the suffering of the flood affected persons.

He said the Chinese grant to the Presidency would be used to build a digital outreach platform to provide help to people under stress or facing mental health issues.

He said the First Lady during her upcoming visit to United Kingdom would engage the psychologists and psychiatrists of the Pakistani diaspora in the United Kingdom to seek their active involvement to provide online counselling and advice to people facing mental health situations. The president expressed the hope that the approaching year of the Rabbit would be monumental for Pakistan-China relations.

He appreciated the outgoing ambassador for representing China with dignity and grace in the best traditions of Chinese diplomacy and wished him success in his future professional assignments.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1052817/president-for-realizing-full-potential-of-pak-china-bilateral-trade/>

Pakistan looks to enhance cooperation with China on high-yield, cotton varieties

Pakistan is facing an alarming decline in cotton production, it looks to enhancing cooperation with China on high-yield, climate-resilient cotton varieties, Javed Hassan, Cotton Advisor of the All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) told China Economic Net (CEN).

“In the past ten years, we have lost half of the yield and production of cotton. This year, we are going to produce 5.5 million bales as estimated, while it was 14 million bales in 2012. About half of our demand for textiles relies on import”, he elaborated. “A major reason is the lack of good cotton varieties against climate change”, he added.

Mr. Javed Hassan told CEN reporter that in terms of cotton yield per hectare, China is number one with about 1,844 kg per hectare. While in Pakistan, it is 467 kg per hectare. When farmers cannot get more yield per hectare, they are unable to get more profit and choose to go for other crops.

“But we could not import varieties from China directly, because the environment is different. In China, there is no curl leaf disease, but in Pakistan, it is prevalent”, he explained.

Therefore, he suggests that Pakistan send local highly productive varieties to China, so their institutions can convert them with GM technology, and then Pakistan can bring it back and get more yield.

It is learned that genetic research is underway in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, which is working on a holistic approach to improve Pakistan's cotton sector jointly with mechanical planting and picking companies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1052792/pakistan-looks-to-enhance-cooperation-with-china-on-high-yield-cotton-varieties/>

Pakistan likely to organize roadshow of Pakistani products in China

Pakistan is looking forward to organizing a roadshow of Pakistani products in China this year, said Mr. Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

In an interview with China Economic Net (CEN), he said “As China relaxes its Covid-19-related restrictions, I think a major turnaround will happen for Pakistani producers. I hope that Pakistani producers, exporters, and manufacturers will come here and explore this wonderful market”, On Jan. 8, China lifted quarantine requirements for inbound travelers, auguring well for its economic and trade relations with other countries in the world, including Pakistan.

The Commercial Counsellor shares that Pakistan business opportunity conferences and trilateral business opportunity conferences are in pipeline for more frequent exchanges between the two brotherly countries. Various cultural festivities like food, cuisine, and fashion shows shall be held.

Looking back to the past year, Mr. Ghulam Qadir acknowledged it has been a difficult year for the global economy. In spite of this, breakthroughs have been achieved. “Pakistan's cherry has been allowed to be exported to China, which amounts to a US\$2 billion market.

Our sesame seed export to China surged by 50 percent on a year-on-year basis to US\$59.09 million in Jan-Sept 2022. Pakistan's rice exports to China crossed the historical figure of one million tons. We are also finalizing trade protocols for daily products and meat products. It's around US\$20 billion market”, he exemplified.

This year, he said, the focus will be put on e-commerce. “In China, most of the selling takes place through e-commerce. So, we are sensitizing our Pakistani exporters and manufacturers to come to China and use the wonderful facilities provided by the Chinese and provincial governments for warehousing, rent-free offices, and all the rest of other facilities”, he told CEN.

Joint ventures will continue being encouraged to help move Pakistani products up the value chain and find broader market. “We want the sesame to be converted into sesame oil and by-products, cotton yarn into textile and final products, and broken rice into animal feed and noodles made in Pakistan. The market is huge”, he said.

Mr. Ghulam Qadir introduced that as 2023 marks the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges, there will be some very special packages and a complete guidebook to facilitate travel from China to Pakistan.

Talking about the Belt and Road initiative which marks its ten-year anniversary this year, Mr. Ghulam Qadir told CEN that Pakistan was one of the pioneer participants and a beneficiary of BRI.

According to data from the World Bank, Pakistan's export to China rose by over 35% from US\$ 2,652 million in 2013 when BRI was proposed to US\$ 3,589 million in 2021.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1052794/pakistan-likely-to-organize-roadshow-of-pakistani-products-in-china/>

Dawn News

Lawmaker for prioritising construction of educational institutions under CPEC

Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Convener National Parliamentary Task Force on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said there was a need to prioritise the construction of new schools, technical and vocational training facilities and higher education institutions in the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

She was speaking at an event held to launch "APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2022" at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services. The event was organised by SDGs Secretariat in collaboration with All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA).

The report provides an overview of the CPEC projects in Pakistan besides highlighting the contribution of CPEC in the implementation of the 2030 agenda.

CPEC is a significant strategic imperative that has received attention both in Pakistan and around the world. The project's continuing second phase has shifted its emphasis to education industry, economics, infrastructure and sustainability including the opening of technical education institutions and the initiation and expansion of student exchange programmes.

It was remarked that under CPEC Phase II, investment possibilities worth several billions dollars were available in Pakistan in industries that directly supported SDGs. Transportation and logistics, renewable and alternative energy, healthcare, education, technology and communication and finance were just a few of the industries covered.

CPEC also provided huge prospects for talent development and the creation of regional value chains with China.

Ms Alam highlighted the role of CPEC towards SDGs especially SDGs 7 (clean energy), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (protect the planet) and 17 (partnership for goals).

According to a statement, Wang Jie, Executive Vice Chairman APCEA and CEO Bank of China, Pakistan Operations, spoke on the vital need for realising the importance of sustainable development and taking possible corrective actions.

He expressed APCEA's beliefs about the terms "sustainability" and "sustainable development" which go beyond generating renewable energy. He stated that the Chinese enterprises practice sustainable development in all aspects to support the Pak-China relations.

Chen Yen, CEO Challenge Fashion Private Limited, remarked that CPEC was an economic marvel of its time.

"The actual benefits of CPEC are innumerable for the region and are not only related to the economy but shall also help Pakistan in achieving economic growth propelled by green development. With consistent and dedicated efforts of both countries, Pakistan's economic growth is bound to achieve greater heights," she said.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Aisha Ghaus Pasha said CPEC would supplement Pakistan's socioeconomic development as the human capital of the region was its biggest asset.

"CPEC projects have unleashed opportunities for socioeconomic development for the people of Pakistan. The support of China is essential for Pakistan's economic stability. The role of China has been pivotal through projects such as CPEC. Pakistan needs foreign direct investment for stability," she said.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf stated: "CPEC has resolved issues and helped Pakistan prosper." He said economic development in the region was a priority for Pakistan despite various challenges. Completion of CPEC projects will lead to enhanced connectivity and socioeconomic development.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1732165/lawmaker-for-prioritising-construction-of-educational-institutions-under-cpec>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC & AMAN 2023 and Prospects of Pakistan's Blue Economy

Dr Mehmood

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become an important "pillar" of the country's socio-economic development and sustainability. CPEC Phase-II has been initiated in the country under which hopefully new heights of "progress", "prosperity" and "productivity" will be achieved.

CPEC has already connected our "lands" and "seas". The construction of Gwadar port has become the "jewel" of the blue economy in the country. Conversely, AMAN 2023 has also further strengthened prospects of the development of the blue economy in the country. In this regard, AMAN 2023 will be held on February 8, 2023 in Karachi.

It has the main theme of peace and hopefully it will facilitate a high pace of peace, prosperity and production at Gwadar seaport. It will host more than 40-45 countries under the flagship

of AMAN-2023. It will further strengthen the Pakistan Navy's abilities to develop a blue economy in the deep waters by having and securing the freedom of the seas.

Moreover, AMAN naval exercises have further enhanced capacity building systems of the country and the region such as piracy, smuggling, stowage and illegal immigration, safeguarding ships in conflicted waters, terrorist attacks and last but not the least, environmental disasters. Additionally, Pakistan has substantial stakes in the maritime domain. Pakistan's interest in safer and crime-free seas is based on three realities i.e. extraordinary dependence on the seas for trade, making the CPEC project operational and strategic location astride the global energy highway. Thus AMAN 2023 has become an important "organ" of "national maritime stability", "facilitator" of the blue economy and of course national security.

The Pakistan Navy (PN) is responsible to defend CPEC, easy and smooth Sea Lanes of Communication open and protection of Pakistan's Coast Areas as well as the ports of Karachi, Bin-Qasim, Ormara and Gwadar.

The Task Force-88 (TF-88) is now taking care of the seaward security of Gwadar Port and protection of Associated Sea Lanes against both conventional and non-traditional threats. It comprises 400 marines, who specialize in defending marine assets/projects both on-shore and seaward against threats emanating from sub-surface, surface and aerial. It has been equipped with suitable platforms comprising gunboats, frigates, Fast Attack Craft (FTC), aircraft and drones as well as other electronic surveillance means. Most recently, the Gwadar port started receiving government imports of bulk cargo as three vessels carrying 90,000MT urea arrived at the port and clocked the fastest discharge rate.

The Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), on behalf of the government, decided to handle the import of urea and wheat through the strategically significant port. The decision to use Gwadar port will ease congestion at other ports. High traffic of vessels carrying bulk cargoes delay operations and transportation of shipments, which in turn disturbs the entire supply chain mechanism.

After the bulk cargoes were discharged, they were bagged at the port and are being transported from Gwadar to other destinations in Pakistan. From next month, the port is expected to start handling 450,000 MT of wheat, said a press release. Cargo ships docking at the port also offer substantial benefits to locals living in the nearby cities as they help generate economic activity and open employment opportunities.

Gwadar Port offers substantial economic benefits to importers in terms of efficient operations, advanced cargo handling, vast storage facilities, extensive ancillary facilities, and faster turnaround. Its unique geographical position makes it a fast-economical link between some of the land-locked Central Asian States.

Gwadar Port is also formally handling and processing 45000 metric tons of wheat imports as the official agreement between the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and Gwadar International Terminal Limited (GITL) has been inked opening a new chapter of logistic activities. As per the agreement the formal processing timeframe will be between 1st February 2023 to 31st March 2023.

To conclude, oceans/seas are a great ‘unifier’ that link up all the countries and AMAN 2023 stands for greater maritime connectivity in the region and beyond. According to OECD (2022) it has a globe value of \$1.5 trillion yearly which may be increased up to \$3 trillion by 2030.

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has become the most significant international marine route which links Europe and the Far East. The regional blue economy is being carried out across the South China Sea, Strait of Malacca, Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Suez Canal and Mediterranean until the Atlantic. Moreover, the nautical pathways of its ocean are essential for the easy and smooth supplies of energy and food. Nearly 40 percent of the world’s energy is carried out through its waterways from the Persian Gulf to Europe and Asia.

Undoubtedly, the blue economy emphasizes on harnessing ocean resources sustainably to generate employment, boost livelihoods, and spur economic growth while maintaining the health of the ocean ecosystem. Pakistan, a maritime developing country, has endorsed and incorporated the SDGs into its national development plans.

The IOR is bordered to the north by Iran, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh; to the east by the Malay Peninsula; to the south by the Southern Ocean; and to the west by Africa and the Arabian Peninsula and AMAN 2023 has become “connecting hub” of regional navies, maritime security, peace diplomacy and originator of blue economy in the region.

Many regional multilateral organizations including SAARC, APEC, the East Asia Summit, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association, are working to create supportive strategies and action plans for the sustainable development of marine resources/blue economy. China has already initiated its mega project of the BRI which is achieving wonders in National Marine Economies, which regularly assesses the development of several marine industries. Hopefully, CPEC & AMAN 2023 will further boost the blue economy in the country.

Pakistan has ports in Karachi, Qasim and Gwadar. It is a prominent coastal state in the middle of the IOR conducts more than 95 percent of its trade by sea. In addition, Pakistan makes the most of its 290 000 sq km Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf for a variety of activities such as fishing, mining, exploration, and marine research. According to national data (2021-2022), almost 15 million barrels of crude oil are being transported from the Gulf States to Pakistan via the Persian Gulf. Pakistan provides the quickest maritime access to China, Afghanistan, and the Central Asian States. This emphasizes the geo-strategic and geo-military significance of Pakistan as well as the potential of its maritime economy which would be further developed after AMAN 2023.

The policy makers are trying to develop Baluchistan under the flagship project of CPEC-I & CPEC Phase-II through Gwadar Port. The western coast of Pakistan is crucial from a strategic perspective because of sea lines of communications making their way from the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf nearing Gwadar, Karachi, and beyond. Pakistan’s current maritime revenue projection stands at [183 million dollars](#) which is far less than that of Bangladesh and India but can be further increased through the active role of Pakistan Navy and AMAN 2023 in the days to come.

Fortunately, the government of Pakistan declared 2020 as the year of the blue economy. It has also further reformed the Merchant Marine Policy of 2021 which provides a broad array of financial incentives to private investors, including the right of first berthing for carriers, a margin tonnage tax, the approval of freight rates in Pakistani rupees instead of US dollars, and a long-term loan facility.

Under CPEC and a series of AMAN naval exercises, Pakistan can develop its biodiversity-based tourism opportunities and can also explore eco-tourism in the coastal belt of Pakistan. Moreover, the fishery business has an untapped export market for seafood worth \$US 2 billion which can be further developed.

The policy makers should also focus on the development of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) so that through integrated maritime policies the development of the blue economy would be achieved in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-aman-2023-and-prospects-of-pakistans-blue-economy-by-dr-mehmood/>

CPEC injecting Chinese investment in Pak economy

Farhan Ahmed

In this time of global economic crisis, the business community is looking eastward with a hope of growth and prosperity. Economists and big banks are forecasting this year will be a great year for China to contribute to the recovery of the world economy. The Chinese market is expected to bring new opportunities this year for the world.

Inflation rate in the whole world is strengthening its roots while Covid-19 and geopolitical stress have added to global economic crisis and currently there is no positive expectation for its recovery anytime sooner. In this scenario, China is one of the few hopes, which keeps growing on the one hand while expanding the domestic demand on the other.

The World Bank has anticipated that the Chinese economy will grow by 4.3 percent in 2023 while around five percent in the following year despite the immense pressure from pandemic as China has eased travel restrictions. Similarly, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also forecast that the Chinese economy will grow by 4.4 percent this year. This is a very major projection, made by the World Bank, in a time when all major economies are on the path of slowing down the expansion of their GDP.

For example, the growth rate of the United States of America's GDP is expected to lower by 0.5 percent this year while the European region is also set for a flat GDP growth rate. The reason behind this decline in GDP's expansion is increasing inflation, high interest rates, absence of investment and international conflicts. China has already eased pandemic-related restrictions by shifting its focus from preventing infections to herd immunity owing to the significant increase in demand for goods and services.

Currently, the technology industry of China has become a centre of attention for the whole world and individual and institutional investment is being flown into it. Although China is facing a temporary decline in its economy coupled with Covid-19 spread, it has witnessed a huge achievement in different sectors including Artificial Intelligence, Eco-Friendly vehicles

and Digital economy with a number of others. China is not only growing its different sectors but also maintaining high-quality to sustain its consumers.

For a long time China has been serving the consumers world-wide while on the other hand it has become a mega market which imports around 2.5 trillion dollar goods and services from different countries. China has been continuously enhancing its quality of production and also expanding its domestic demand. Chinese officials are of the view that by expanding its domestic demand, China can retain its position as the world's mega market and this is how business communities across the world can be benefited.

China has adopted a new policy to introduce opportunities for the world by bringing down overall tariffs. It has lowered down more than one thousand categories of goods. Majority of the business community and financial institutions world-wide are foreseeing that if China continues with the same dedication and speed, it will lead the world in the next few years.

Being all-weather friends, China is committed to support Pakistan and they proved it so many times. Now Pakistan should also shift its focus to China by expediting the CPEC projects because this strategic project can bring stability and prosperity in our country and Pakistan can become a centre of attention for many world powers.

In this New Year, so many hopes are attached with CPEC which includes fuelling up of Chinese investment, Free Trade Agreements, Special Economic Zones and many more. On the contrary, there are some challenges to it either which includes Pakistan's economic crisis, Political Uncertainty and security hazards.

In this whole scenario, Pakistan has been enjoying complete support from China. Despite all the challenges, more than 30 projects are in work and it is expected that the majority of the projects will be finalized during this year.

The current government has also resolved for a better economic situation and improved foreign relations now time will show that if this government can succeed in its mission by shifting its focus from degrading the opposition to growth and stability of the country's economy. This is a high time for all the political parties to move over the personal and political scorings and be united for the sake of the country as there are so many challenges, we are fighting that includes drowning economic conditions, flood effects, emerging security threats, elevated inflation rate and many more.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-injecting-chinese-investment-in-pak-economy-by-farhan-ahmed/>

Dar lauds Nong's contributions in cementing brotherly ties

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar hosted a farewell lunch on behalf of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif in honour of H.E Mr. Nong Rong, out-going Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad, on Tuesday.

The Finance Minister welcomed the Ambassador of Republic of China and praised the long-standing and deep-rooted friendly relations between the two countries. The Finance Minister, on behalf of the Prime Minister, lauded Chinese Ambassador's contributions in enhancing

جنہوں نے منگل کو یہاں ایوان صدر میں ان سے الوداعی ملاقات کی۔ صدر نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت انیس منصوبے مکمل کیے گئے۔ 28 زیر تعمیر جبکہ 41 پائپ لائن میں ہیں، سی پیک بیٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کا ایک انقلابی فلگ شپ منصوبہ ہے، جو علاقائی امن اور رابطہ کاری کے محور کے طور پر کام کرنے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے۔ صدر مملکت نے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دفاعی اور سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے شعبوں میں وسیع تعاون پر اپنے اطمینان کا اظہار کیا اور چین کے عوام اور صدر شی جن پنگ کا پاکستان کو دل کھول کر مالی معاونت فراہم کرنے پر تہ دل سے شکریہ ادا کیا۔ صدر نے سبکدوش ہونے والے سفیر کو چینی سفارت کاری کی بہترین روایات کے مطابق وقار کے ساتھ چین کی نمائندگی کرنے پر سراہا اور ان کی مستقبل کی پیشہ ورانہ ذمہ داریوں کے حوالے سے نیک تمناؤں کا اظہار کیا۔

صدر علوی

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-18/page-10/detail-60>

January 19, 2023

Business Recorder

‘Gwadar plants on Thar coal’

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

Two Chinese loans to be confirmed soon

ISLAMABAD: China has reaffirmed strong resolve to extend financial support to Pakistan including early confirmation of two loans, i.e., from ICBC and CBC, as Pakistan has reverted its decision regarding shifting of Gwadar coal power projects from imported to local coal, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

This information was shared by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Coordination, Syed Tariq Fatemi who along with SAPM on Power Zafaruddin Mahmood, with Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr. Tauqeer Hussain Shah, Finance Minister, Ishaq Dar and Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal attended a breakfast meeting with the Prime Minister.

According to Syed Tariq Fatemi, as desired by the Prime Minister, he invited the Chinese Ambassador soon after conclusion of the Prime Minister’s breakfast meeting on January 4, 2023 to discuss the issue of two loans from Chinese commercial banks; SAPM Zafaruddin Mahmood was also present.

The meeting began by informing the Ambassador that the Prime Minister had taken a policy decision to go ahead with the Gwadar Power Project, as had been repeatedly requested by the Chinese Government. He expressed his profuse thanks to the Prime Minister, reiterating that this decision would be to our advantage, in the long run. He also shared that the Planning Minister had conveyed the same information to him.

The Government of Pakistan had finalized plan to shift Gwadar coal power plant from imported coal to Thar coal but Chinese government refused to accept the decision of GoP. However, when PM visited China, he was compelled to alter GoP’s decision. Recently, Chinese Foreign Ministry also sought written confirmation from the GoP that it will honour commitment given by the Prime Minister during his recent trip to China.

Chinese company CHIC Pak Power Company (Pvt.) Limited, in a letter to Managing Director PPIB stated that in response to the decision taken by the GoP, the company is keen to resume the financing activities on fast track and in order to achieve financial closing, the required permission or consents be cleared to expedite the project.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also planning to undertake another official visit to China and seek further financial assistance from Beijing to deal with current financial woes of the country.

Fatemi also informed the Ambassador that the Prime Minister had taken note of Chinese concerns regarding IPPs payments and the alleged unfriendly attitude of the Power Division officials, adding that PM would soon be chairing an inter-ministerial meeting to deliberate on this matter.

The Ambassador then shared with both the SAPMs that he was worried that notwithstanding Pakistan's decision, it may go back on it at some stage in the future. Consequently, he requested Power Division to confirm abandonment of the earlier view on the Gwadar Power Project and a firm policy decision in favour of it in this important port city.

SAPM Zafaruddin Mahmood added that the Chinese company should complete all necessary work at the earliest, including financial closure by December 31, 2023 to ensure that power plant starts generating electricity by December 2025; and to commence construction prior to completing financial closure.

SAPM Fatemi also reiterated Pakistan's request for early confirmation of the two loans, one from ICBC and the other one from CBD. He also suggested that the Chinese government encourage the commercial banks to confirm refinancing of the loans, at the earliest.

In response, the Chinese Ambassador reaffirmed his government's strong resolve to extend financial support to Pakistan. Chinese ambassador stated that loan from ICBC was in an advanced stage which would be approved "very soon." He also stated that CBD's technical team was already in Islamabad and meeting Pakistani officials to prepare a due diligence report. The final decision would be based on recommendations made in the report.

Chinese ambassador was advised by the aides to the Prime Minister to provide all additional information sought by CBD's technical team.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/01/19/1-page/952806-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan's SEZs to further augment industrial growth

Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) Chairman SM Naveed said on Wednesday that Special Economic Zones being developed across the country under the 2nd phase of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would further augment Pakistan's industrial growth. Chairing a meeting here at SEZA Secretariat, he said that Special Economic Zones would also help in the development of transport, infrastructure and energy sectors. Five Special Economic Zones, being developed under the CPEC, would possess state-of-the-art infrastructure and Pakistan would provide all the necessary facilitation in setting up the industry.

SM Naveed urged the local and foreign investors to fully benefit from the improved ease of doing business in the country and avail the opportunities being offered by Pakistan's business and investment-friendly policies. He highlighted that the investment-friendly policies of the country had already started paying dividends, which had encouraged famous mobile phone brands to invest in the manufacturing and assembling of phones in Pakistan. He also urged the business community to fully utilize and benefit from sectorial policies designed by the government offering incentives like tax breaks, tax refunds, tax reduction, dedicated infrastructure and investor facilitation services.

Terming the CPEC as being reflective of exemplary Pak-China bilateral relations, Chairman SEZA said that huge investments under CPEC would further reinvigorate various sectors of Pakistan's economy, besides attracting investment from friendly countries in different sectors of the Pakistani economy. He said that CPEC had already advanced the level of cooperation with Pakistan's all-weather friend China in the infrastructure and energy sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1053102/pakistans-sezs-to-further-augment-industrial-growth/>

The Nation

Meeting discusses promotion of Pak-China tourism

Israr Ahmad

ISLAMABAD-A high level meeting was held yesterday at China Embassy between Ms Pang Chunxue, Chargé d'Affaires, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Awn Chaudhry, Advisor to Prime Minister on Tourism and Sports, and Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director of PTDC, to discuss the promotion of bilateral tourism between Pakistan and China on Wednesday.

Discussion was held on improving facilitation for the tourists on both sides to enhance people to people contacts on the occasion of year 2023 which has been declared by both the countries to be celebrated as the year of China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchange. Awn Chaudhry conveyed the best wishes to her excellency on the occasion of Chinese New Year starting from 22nd January this year. He said China-Pakistan friendship is everlasting and two brotherly counties need to enhance cooperation in tourism sector to increase the flow of tourists from both sides which will be greatly be helpful in improving the people to people contacts.

Aftab Rana, MD PTDC, especially emphasized on the need to promote group tours through the registered tourism operators of both the countries to provide convenient way to enjoy touristic sites through guided group tours. He also recommended about the opening of Khunjrab Pass for tourist traffic as it provides easy access to the visitors of both the countries. He also shared a brief having various recommendations to promote bilateral tourism with Ms Pang Chunxue. Ms Pang Chunxue highly appreciated the idea of improving people to people contacts during the year of 2023 and agreed to provide all support and assistance for the promotion of bilateral tourism between China and Pakistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-01-19/page-8/detail-5>

January 21, 2023

Daily Times

Pak-China crossing at Khunjrab Pass to open from Jan 30 to Feb 10

The Pak-China border crossing at Khunjrab Pass will be temporarily open for trade from January 30 to February 10 to facilitate crossing of important Pakistani supplies stuck on the Chinese side.

In the first phase, the Khunjrab Pass was temporarily opened on Tuesday and Wednesday to facilitate local trade and key hydropower projects.

During the said two days, heavy machinery required for development work on Diamar Bhasha Dam was passed through Khunjrab border to Sost.

It included 40 truckloads, including 11 of hydropower plant equipment and 29 of livelihood supplies, according to official sources.

In the next phase, important supplies stuck in China will be allowed to cross into Pakistan from January 30 to February 10.

A senior Pakistani official has appreciated the special efforts of border officials on both sides to ensure smooth operation despite challenging conditions. The bilateral partnership is truly All Weather and higher than the Himalayas.

It may be noted that due to the closure of the Pakistan-China border, important Pakistani supplies were stuck on the Chinese side.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1054122/pak-china-crossing-at-khunjrab-pass-to-open-from-jan-30-to-feb-10/>

China's support helps Pakistan to cut oil seed imports: experts

China continues to help Pakistan to cut its oilseed imports amid economic challenges., China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

As Pakistan has been confronted with severe economic challenges especially after massive countryside floods, with the shrinking foreign exchange reserves, the country's various imports are putting additional financial strain.

Statistics from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) show that in FY2021, Pakistan's imports of soya beans, whether or not broken, reached about \$1.145 billion, a strong growth of about 50% year-on-year, exhibiting the country's urgent demand for soybeans.

However, in the first quarter of FY2023, Pakistan's soybean imports were \$269 million, down about 18% year-on-year, which may had been affected by the decline of the country's foreign exchange reserves. Soybean production should be adequately considered by Pakistan because of the country's over dependence on imports of soybeans. Lack of high-quality seeds, high-yielding planting patterns and machinery restricting Pak soybean production "We are dependent on imports. It is very expensive which causes increase in the price of feed, oil

etc. day by day. It is our need to plant it in our country,” Hafiz Saad Bin Mustafa, Oilseed Scientist, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute said.

According to him, In Pakistan, all crops are non-GMO except cotton. “Most foreign varieties that we import are of mild areas and GMO. They can neither be planted here nor can they survive here. So seeds of local varieties should be multiplied and should be promoted in the potential areas that we have identified by our trials and adoptability studies,” Hafiz said.

As he sees it, since soybean is mostly cultivated in such countries as America, Brazil and Argentina where there is mild climate, Pakistan needs to develop its own non-GMO soybean varieties that can perform well in high temperatures.

“We do not produce good quality seeds, and the total seed production is twenty percent in different crops. There is a huge gap. At present we are dependent on imported seeds for different crops even for wheat, rice, cotton and vegetables, and the same is with soybeans.

We should produce it locally,” Dr. Zahir Ahmad, In-charge, Soybean Breeding Lab, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) said.

According to Dr. Zahir Ahmad, farmer needs specific planters, harvesters and threshers. “Mechanization is one of the best approaches by which we can increase soybean production. In this way we need less labor, less time and less storage time,” he said. Talking about the latest progress of soybean production in Pakistan, Dr. Zahir Ahmad emphasized that now their focus is intercropping-specific soybean promotion, which is a high-yielding technology from China.

“Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur who was recently graduated from Sichuan Agricultural University, China has expertise in intercropping especially soybean intercropping with different crops, and he has efficiently introduced this technology in different areas of Pakistan. We have been collaborating with China at different stages and in different technologies,” Dr. Zahir Ahmad said.

Hafiz Saad Bin Mustafa is also working on promoting maize-soybean intercropping technology brought by Dr. Ali and has achieved promising results. “Many people thought soybean can’t be cultivated in Pakistan but I didn’t think that way. Dr. Ali supported my point. People were not shifting to soybean because they thought it’s a competition with maize. However, with intercropping, people can grow maize and soybean at the same place. Then we identified intercropping specific lines or varieties.

We provide those lines to Dr. Ali for evaluation since the last two years. The yield advantage is double or 2.5 times higher than the conventional varieties,” he said. In Hafiz’s opinion, soybean intercropping technology fits Pakistan’s conditions well and is hopefully to be applied in more areas. “Traditional rice areas or cotton areas lie uncultivated for a specific time period as no crop fits it at that time period. We roughly made a calculation and estimated that if we use 60% of that kind of land, we can make profit of at least \$3 billion annually. This is from the area that is uncultivated, free and on which farmers are unable to earn anything. We have grown soybean in those areas.

Secondly, Soybean is a leguminous plant. It fixes atmospheric nitrogen as it contains nitrogen fixing root nodules. By this the fertility level of free soil will also increase and farmers will need less nitrogen for the next crop. So, you are making economic gains and getting soybean crops plus soil fertility is also improved. So we are doing this,” Hafiz analyzed.

“As we know, Pakistan’s oilseed import bill is increasing. We are importing in billions of dollars. If we locally produce soybean, we can cope with the challenge of importing oilseeds. In addition, China is the largest importer of soybean from USA. If we produce soybean locally in our country, we can have the chance to export soybean to China instead of importing it,” Muqadas Saleem, Scientist Soybean Breeding, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1054108/chinas-support-helps-pakistan-to-cut-oil-seed-imports-experts/>

Dawn News

Karachiites welcome Chinese Year of the Rabbit

Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The best way to celebrate any Chinese event is by digging into a heaped platter of egg fried rice with a generous helping of any gravy, preferably sweet and sour chicken or beef, but not before having a steaming bowl of chicken corn or hot and sour soup, mind you.

And that’s what everyone was doing on the eve of the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit being ushered in the most befitting way at the Nami Zumi restaurant at Karachi Marriott Hotel here on Friday.

You could taste all the sumptuous Chinese specialties with a market spread of Asian food on carts. There was a soup cart with skinned chickens hanging on hooks from the front along with the soup pots. An assortment of ingredients including noodles, meats, seafood, etc, was also laid out on another cart to add to the bubbling hotpots to cook and enjoy one’s own delectable concoctions.

Even before the soup there were small portions of finger fish and Beijing beef being served over bits of cabbage sprinkled with soy sauce in small glasses. Some of the dishes in the main course served as a buffet included Kung Pao Chicken, Beef Mongolian, Wok Chart Chicken, Stir Fry Beef Pepper, Mix Vegetables, Honey Chilli Eggplant, Prawn Tempura, Steamed Crabs and Rabbit Cuts, of course, since it was the Year of the Rabbit being welcomed after all.

The Chinese food that one is familiar within Pakistan is basically a fusion of Pakistani and Chinese cuisine done to suit the local palate. There was also the option of enjoying the food with chopsticks or relishing it with just a fork and spoon the normal way. To add a more local touch to it, this scribe took off the slice of lime from the fresh lime drink to squeeze over prawn tempura.

Chef Yasir Bin Yamin shared a bit of history about the Chinese lunar years, which was followed by a traditional dragon dance by a very funny little red and gold dragon with sharp white teeth who seemed to want to try food from everyone's plate.

Later, while addressing the guests, Chinese diplomat Yang Guangyuan said that he was happy to be celebrating the new year with friends in Pakistan.

"It's occasions like these that you miss being with your loved ones the most," he said. "But here in this restaurant, the decorations are Chinese, the music is Chinese and, most importantly, the food is Chinese," he added before wishing everyone a Happy New Year of the Rabbit.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1732728/karachiites-welcome-chinese-year-of-the-rabbit>

Pakistan Observer

China's year of rabbit & future economic prospects

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

CHINA has entered into the "Year of Rabbit" which stands for hope, progress, prosperity and productivity.

With the start of "Chinese New Year", the Chinese policy makers have now further geared up the process of opening-up.

New policy of prevention, control and adjustment of COVID-19 has been announced and institutionalized, making travelling, social mobility, manufacturing capacity and last but not the least, cross-regional connectivity easier and smoother.

Unfortunately, the US and the West have again started a new war of tug and imposed unjustified travel advisory and restrictions on Chinese travellers which the Foreign Minister of China has already strongly "condemned".

The ongoing "World Economic Forum 2023" has again confirmed economic strategic strength, diversified utility and multidimensional productivity of the Chinese macro-economy, achieving and producing "miracles" in the country, region and beyond.

In this regard, most of the financial experts in the WEF 2023 are of the view that China's reopening from COVID-19 restrictions could drive global growth beyond "expectations" and hopefully help avoid an imminent global recession because of struggling and declining of world's largest economies.

Most recently, the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBSC) released the 2022 economic data, indicating that the country's GDP increased by 3 percent.

Despite external economic prolonged economic protectionism orientations, unilateral socio-economic & trade sanctions and punitive legal embargoes imposed by the US and the West and last but not the least, fabricated hurdles in the sustained global supply chains China's economic nullified economic predictions of the IMF and World Bank in which its agriculture, high-tech manufacturing and equipment manufacturing sectors outperformed other sectors.

Furthermore, employment and prices were generally stable, high-quality development achieved new dividends and the economic output reached a new level.

Hopefully, the entire Chinese economy will definitely improve further in 2023. It will remain resilient, sustainable and innovative during 2023 and beyond.

In this regard the ongoing “Chinese Spring Festival” shows that domestic travel bookings have already increased by more than 70 percent year-on-year, while international travel has soared 260 percent which is good omen for its economy and may be value addition for the regional & world quick economic recovery.

Various international institutions believe that the Chinese economy will further pick up the growth trend in the second quarter of 2023 and economic productivity will be geared up more quickly.

In this connection, consumption will be further increased and the year-on-year growth rate of GDP may rise sharply.

Economic growth of China has multiplier effects on all the regional economies as well. It is hoped that the tourism industries in Southeast Asia, Europe and other countries have high expectations, but some companies such as German and Japanese ones have also begun to accelerate their investment in China.

The Central government of China has already initiated many integrated and meaningful policies to further develop the private economy and small, medium and micro enterprises.

The Central Economic Work Conference (CEWC) which was held during December 2022 emphasized to encourage and support the growth of the private economy and private enterprises.

It seems that the constant structural economic reforms of China have transformed its private economy and small, medium and micro enterprises have now become the main source of China’s economic diversity and sustainability and innovation after the gradual opening-up.

World Bank officials (January 2023) have warned that the global economy would be in severe recession and decline during 2023.

Nevertheless, they have raised their optimistic expectations for the Chinese economy. Its inflows of the FDIs have continued to rush to increase.

Its public spending is constantly on the rise showing its economic strength, sustainability and diversity.

According to the Chinese official figures (January 2023) the net purchase of 89.146 billion RMB since January is recorded which is close to the net purchase amount of 90.02 billion RMB in the whole year of 2022.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), China has the ability to recover which would be the single most important factor for global growth in 2023.

The OECD termed China’s reopening as “overwhelmingly positive” in global fight to tackle surging inflation.

Moreover, the Washington Post dubbed China's opening as supportive to global consumer and business activity that could prevent global economy from tumbling into recession.

To conclude, undoubtedly the Chinese economy has become the "ultimate hope" of the entire world.

It seems that in the last 40 years of reforms and opening-up, the Chinese economy has created countless socio-economic miracles (lifting more than 850 million people from extreme poverty, formation of the world largest social nets & human insurance, global manufacturing hub and champion of global green development).

The Chinese latest figures reveal that China's GDP expanded 3 percent year-on-year to 121 trillion RMB (\$18 trillion) during 2022, climbing above 120 trillion RMB benchmark for the first time as the world's second-largest economy navigated hot waters during 2022.

The increasing "conspiratorial" geopolitical tensions and geostrategic "compulsions" along with intentional increase in "US FED in the interest rate" and waning overseas demand tried to "derail" Chinese economy but "miserably" failed to do so.

Despite constant price hikes and inflationary trends because of prevailing energy and food insecurity in the region and the world, China's national economy "outperformed" other major economies including the US, Japan and Germany during 2022.

It again reconfirmed China's supportive, facilitating, integrative and dual role as both the "locomotive" and the "stabilizer" of the world economy during 2022.

Its macro-economy "growth" and "manufacturing capability" successfully rescued the world economy from the high inflation and stabilized the supply chains.

Comparative analysis reveals that its GDP increased an impressive 4.57 percent which shows its long term economic fundamentals.

Even a deadly pandemic could not "deter" its economy and "resilient" human spirits and both remained positive and productive during 2022.

Interestingly, the year 2023 starts on a "positive" note with public spending, country-wide consumption, high industrial production, innovation and opening-up which is good omen for the region and the world alike.

The consumer confidence is high which would be useful for achieving GDP growth of above 5 percent in 2023.

Moreover, according to the Chinese data (December 2022), its economic output jumped to a new high, topping 120 trillion RMB in 2022 which were 110 trillion RMB and 100 trillion RMB in 2021 and 2020, respectively, and China maintains its standing as the world's second-largest economy.

Interestingly, China's GDP per capita stayed above the \$12,000-mark for two years in a row, close to the high-income countries.

Its positive economic outlook stands for China's comprehensive national strength, social productivity, international influence and people's livelihood.

It promises a more comprehensive socio-economic development, qualitative development, increasing innovation, diversification, persuasions of green development in which its mega projects of greater regional connectivity (BRI & CPEC) and global socio-economic integration (GDI & GSI) would play an important role in days to come.

—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-year-of-rabbit-future-economic-prospects-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

PFC eulogies services of outgoing Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong

Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC), Mian Kashif Ashfaq Friday eloquently eulogized the meritorious services rendered by the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong in further cementing bilateral relations between the two countries besides promoting trade.

Talking to the envoy through zoom, he said it was time-tested ground realities that the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan is higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea. He said his remarkable tenure, the two sides reiterated to promote practical cooperation in key areas and expedite the development of China-Pakistan relations. With the strong guidance of the leaders, China and Pakistan are making great strides towards building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, he added.

He said during the term of Nong Rong, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved many fruitful results and bilateral trade has a good momentum of development while the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement has shown its effectiveness. He said the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has been maintained at a high level. China has become Pakistan's largest trading partner for eight years in a row. In particular, Pakistan's agricultural exports to China are growing rapidly and China is the third largest export destination of Pakistan. Mian Kashif Ashfaq praised the role of the Embassy of China in Pakistan in facilitating the Pak exporters and importers in visiting to China.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pfc-eulogies-services-of-out-going-chinese-ambassador-nong-rong/>

The News

Book by Pak, Chinese writers on Pakistan's geology launched

Islamabad : A book titled 'Pakistan in the Eyes of Geologists', a scientific monograph led by China-SCO Geo-sciences Cooperation Research Centre, was published by Geology Press.

Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, and Hou Zengqian, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, wrote prefaces for the book respectively, giving full recognition to China-Pakistan cooperation in geological survey and the original aspiration and significance of the book.

The book is divided into six parts, which took the Chinese and Pakistani teams three years to complete.

The teams include China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the Geological Survey of Pakistan, Bahria University, Chang'an University, and other Chinese-funded enterprises in Pakistan, according to a Gwadar Pro's report.

From the perspective of geoscientists, it describes the natural scenery, geological evolution, mineral resources, and highlight projects of northern Pakistan all the way to the south, with Karakoram, China-Pakistan Friendship Highway as the main line.

Epitomising Chinese geoscientists serving the construction of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and supporting overseas investment and cooperation of mining enterprises, it introduces the history of China-Pakistan geoscience cooperation over the past ten years with a combination of graphics and text.

Dr. Zhang Huishan, co-author of the book said, "Geology is one of the key areas of cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Practical cooperation between China and Pakistan in mineral resources and mountain hazards will further promote local economic development and build a closer China-Pakistan community of a shared future."

According to the publisher, the book shows traditional geological work and portrays the subtle emotions of geologists, encouraging more people to understand and participate in geological work, adding to the construction of BRI.

In addition, a short film 'Building Dreams to the West - Exploring Lead and Zinc Resources and Serving the Nation', which has the same theme as the book, tells the arduous journey of Chinese geological scientists in exploring lead and zinc mines under BRI. The video is currently available on ScienceNet.cn and other platforms.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=168528>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے قومی دن پر اسلام آباد میں خصوصی تقریب، کیک کاٹا گیا

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے قومی دن کے موقع پر اسلام آباد میں خصوصی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ تقریب میں وزیر مملکت فیصل کریم کنڈی نے پاکستان میں چینی سفارتکاروں کے ساتھ ملکر کیک کاٹا۔ تقریب میں چینی کینیپوں، ذرائع ابلاغ کے نمائندگان اور شہریوں نے کثیر تعداد میں شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے فیصل کریم کنڈی نے کہا کہ سی پیک سمیت دونوں ممالک کے دوستانہ تعلقات خوش آئند ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی ہماری سب سے بلند اور سمندر کی گہرائیوں سے گہری ہے۔

چین قومی دن

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-21/page-1/detail-14>

January 22, 2023

Business Recorder

Pakistan's trade with China to reach new heights: Bilawal

BEIJING: Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the bilateral trade relationship with China is expected to flourish further, thanks to the win-win cooperation between both countries in the fight against climate change and investments in renewable energy.

Over the last 71 years, successive generations of leaders have nurtured bilateral ties between Pakistan and China, he said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua at the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland this week.

“Our relationship is based on mutual respect, trust and understanding. Both countries support each other on issues of core interest. Pakistan and China believe in promoting regional peace and stability and share a common dream of national development and prosperity,” he said.

Pakistan-China relations have also grown thanks to new initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by China in 2013, he said.

The foreign minister emphasized that Pakistan and China today have a multi-faceted partnership.

“We have robust strategic and defence cooperation. Our economic and trade relations are rapidly advancing, ... entering a new phase with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Our financial, investment and industrial sectors maintain close links,” he said.

“China has become the top destination for Pakistan's students and there are strong links between our people nurtured by artists, academia, the scientific community and the media,” he said.

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

With investments in the country's modern transportation networks including roads and railways, energy projects, ports and special economic zones, the CPEC has provided the opportunity for Pakistan to promote development and economic growth.

Regarding the bilateral trade outlook between China and Pakistan, he said that economic relations are the centre piece of the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Trade relations with China have exceeded pre-pandemic levels, he added. “China is among our top export markets and the largest source of foreign direct investment. Both our countries also have an extensive Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) that is contributing to our wide-ranging economic relationship.”—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/01/22/2-page/953037-news.html>

Daily Times

Greenline train with new Chinese coaches to restart its operation from Jan 27

Pakistan Railways has decided to restore Greenline Express train between Islamabad to Karachi with newly imported Chinese coaches from January 27 to facilitate rail passengers. PR sources said on Saturday that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would soon inaugurate the train operation. The train will run between Margala (Islamabad) Railway Station and Karachi with stops at Rawalpindi, Chaklala, Lahore, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Rohri, Hyderabad and Drig Road and no stop at Drig Road on return. The rack of the train will consist of AC Business, AC Parlour, AC Standard and Economy Class coaches. Facilities of high-class breakfast, lunch, dinner, hi-tea, five-star bedding, clean drinking water, infotainment screens in AC coaches, pre-arrival announcement, WiFi utility kit and special toilets for special citizens would be provided in the train. Separate cabins for women passengers in AC and Economy Class coaches would also be allocated in the train. Booking and reservation of the train has been started.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1054481/greenline-train-with-new-chinese-coaches-to-restart-its-operation-from-jan-27/>

The Nation

Without Communist Party, there would be no new China, says Zhao Shiren

Khawar Abbas Sandhu

LAHORE Few basic facts about China that are less known and people want to know. On the arrival of New Year 2023 of the People's Republic of China, we have tried to know from the Consul General of Chinese Consulate Lahore, Mr Zhao Shiren.

Consul General said as the traditional Chinese spring festival is approaching, I would like, on behalf of the Chinese Consulate General in Lahore, to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the Chinese living and working in Punjab province and our Pakistani friends as well.

The year 2022 is an extraordinary year for both China and Pakistan. Pakistan experienced the catastrophic flood disaster and the government and people of Pakistan are making relentless efforts to cope with various challenges, especially the post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction and to revive the socio-economic development momentum.

China is embarking on a new journey to build it into a modern socialist country in all respects and advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts. China and Pakistan are all-weather iron-clad brothers and partners. I sincerely hope the year 2023 will bring China and Pakistan closer and our bilateral relations enjoy stronger impetus and uplifted to a new height.

(1) Is there a difference between Chinese new Year and spring Festival?

There is no big difference between the Chinese New Year (CNY) and the Spring Festival, or they can be deemed the same. CNY or Spring Festival refers to, in a limited sense, the first day of Chinese lunar calendar for the welcoming of the deities of the Heavens and Earth on midnight. But observances traditionally take place from CNY's Eve, the evening preceding the first day of the year to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year. It is considered as the most important holiday for Chinese at home and abroad.

CNY's eve is usually accompanied with a dinner feast for family gathering and they will sit together to watch spring festival gala which is a TV show with singing, dancing, sketch comedy and cross-talk, etc.

(2) What is the meaning of new and old China, do the Chinese understand something like this?

There is a famous song which goes "Without The Communist Party, There Would Be No New China". The Communist Party of China (CPC), under the leadership of Chairman Mao, founded the New China on October 1, 1949, putting an end to an old China (generally regarded as the period from 1840 to 1949) of semi-colonial and semi-feudal society, and embarking on a path of independent and peaceful development. 45 years ago in 1978, the new China started its reform and opening up to the outside world, which paves the way to a booming socialist market economy. 11 years ago in 2012, the 18th National Congress of the CPC was held, heralding the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics in a new era, opening up a brighter prospect for China's modernization drive.

(3) If there is one reason behind China's development, what would it be?

If there is only one reason attributing to China's development, it must be the strong leadership of Communist Party of China. The CPC was founded in 1921, when China was in utter disorder, impoverished and weak, and the Chinese people were living in dire straits.

The party was aimed at helping change China's destiny, seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenating the Chinese nation. After several decades of hard struggle and sacrifice, the CPC led the Chinese people to establish the People's Republic of China in 1949, enabling the Chinese nation to stand up as an independent nation and to take on a new look step by step ever since. About 98.99 million impoverished rural residents had been out of poverty by the end of 2020.

(4) How important is the role of one-party system in making China a great nation?

A country's political party system is a major component of its political framework and makes a critical contribution to democracy. The system best suited to a country is determined by its history, traditions and realities. There are many types of political party system across the world, and there is no one size fits all. In this system, in addition to the CPC, there are eight other political parties: the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the China National Democratic Construction Association, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the China Zhi Gong Party, the Jiusan Society, and the Taiwan Democratic Self-Govt League. The system also includes prominent individuals without affiliation to any of the political parties.

(5) Can every Chinese citizen obtain membership of Communist Party?

As of 2022, the CPC has over 96 million members, making it the largest political party in size worldwide. The party constitution stipulates that any Chinese aged 18 or over can apply to join the Party, but being accepted has always been difficult. The CPC attaches great importance to the political loyalty and personal integrity, and has a rigorous internal selection process for applicants, who must pass a battery of tests, interviews, background check, votes, and probation over a 2-3 year period before becoming a full member.

(6) The Chinese nation copes with every challenge, it also coped with Corona, how do they do it?

It fully demonstrates that under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core and the guidance of Xi Jinping thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, with the hard work of hundreds of millions of Chinese people, China successfully coped with every single challenge, natural calamities and socio-economic exigencies, including the corona pandemic. The Chinese government has been implementing the people-centered philosophy of development and spare no efforts to fight against the Covid-19. China has made significant achievements in its fight against COVID-19 over the past three years, and has made important contributions to international cooperation against the pandemic. China has achieved lowest infection cases and lowest fatalities so far.

(7) Every year of China is associated with an animal, what is the reason for this?

China has been traditionally an agriculture-based country. Animal is not only the effective tool for Chinese agricultural development, it also becomes an important food supply source. The Chinese zodiac consists of twelve animals, and no one knows the exact date as of when the zodiac was essentially created, actually they were officially identified during the Han Dynasty, which was over 2000 years ago.

(8) 2023 is attributed to the rabbit, it is a beautiful and active animal, will its effects be seen?

Rabbit, a lovely and cute animal, small in size and agile in action, is, in Chinese culture, the symbol of dynamism, vitality and great ambition. So the year 2023, the year of the rabbit, marks a defining moment for us to further cement the partnership between our two nations and peoples, and our collaboration should also be expedited, become more dynamic, resilient, sustainable and achieve a new height through mutual concerted efforts. This year is also the year of Tourism and Exchanges of our two countries. The Gandhara Art Exhibition will be held at the Palace Museum in Beijing. The third “Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation” is expected to be held in China.

(9) How important role is the belt and road playing in promoting of Chinese language and Chinese culture?

On September 7, 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed building a Silk Road Economic Belt by promoting policy coordination, inter-connectivity, unimpeded trade, currency convertibility and strengthened people-to-people ties during his state visit to Kazakhstan. Therefore, people-to-people exchanges are important for enhancing mutual understanding in which the cultural and language promotion is the key component. Taking

the CPEC as an example, data available shows that CPEC has so far provided 192,000 jobs to Pakistan and trained a large number of technical and management staff. Pakistanis who have received Chinese language education or studied in China will have more opportunities to get jobs in the CPEC projects.

(10) How difficult is it for the overseas Chinese who do not reach their relatives to spend time on new Year?

Family reunion is the value and tradition of the Chinese people when the Spring Festival comes. No matter how far they are away from home, the Chinese people may overcome all the hurdles and difficulties for home coming and celebration. Given various circumstances, some Chinese may not go back to join their families for this occasion. They have to enjoy the festival with local friends and colleagues. They have to be working for the CPEC and non-CPEC projects and doing service to Pakistan's socio-economic development. They are making personal sacrifices. The Consulate General in Lahore cares very much about the Chinese, who stay in Punjab province and has made efforts to extend greetings and best wishes and distributed the "heart-warming" packages, in the hope that it would alleviate their homesickness. We wish all the Chinese compatriots abroad stay safe and secure, be healthy and prosperous, and enjoy a peaceful and joyful Spring Festival home away from home.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-01-22/page-2/detail-2>

January 23, 2023

Business Recorder

Protection of Economic Reforms Act

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

MOF asks Power Div to satisfy Chinese lenders

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Finance (MOF) has asked Power Division to expedite measures to satisfy Chinese lenders on the Protection of Economic Reforms Act (PERA) to avoid any dispute in future, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

Finance Ministry has written to Power Division in the backdrop of "potential system risk from \$ 150 million Standby Letter of Credit (SBLC) against National Bank of Pakistan (NBP)," saying that for the time being Hubco SBLC has been extended till February 23, 2023 and the other matter has been resolved amicably between Hubco and NBP.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed the concerned authorities including Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal to resolve a dispute between Hubco and M/s China Power Hub Generation Company (CPHGC) on "encashment of Hubco's Standby Letter of Credit of \$150 million", well informed sources told Business Recorder.

He issued these directions on an SOS call from Hubco as according to CEO Hubco Kamran Kamal, the CPHGC called on Hubco's SBLC of \$ 150 million despite Islamabad's untiring efforts.

In a letter to Secretary to Prime Minister, Kamran Kamal had stated that under the SBLC Facility Agreement with the banks, Hubco is required to pay \$ 150 million in equivalent Rupees (amounting to Rs 34 billion) within the next ten days to National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in order for the NBP to honour its obligations under the SLBC.

Hubco argued that the overdue receivables from CPPA-G to Hubco and Hubco Narowal as of now are Rs 37 billion and Rs 11 billion, respectively, totalling Rs 48 billion. “We believe that CPHGC’s call on SBLC is invalid and legally defective and Hubco is taking appropriate steps in this regard but it has created a huge financial exposure for Hubco.”

At the same time, the call on Hubco’s SBLC will have far reaching consequences on the entire CPEC initiative and its future and all relevant stakeholders including Hubco, CPHGC, CPIH and lenders. It will create serious adverse implications for Pakistan, as well as, energy security in the country,” said Kamal in his letter.

On November 19, 2022, Hubco in a letter to Ahsan Iqbal contended that as a joint venture partner and Pakistani sponsor of a CPEC power project named CPHGC, Hubco provided sponsor support to CPHGC’s lenders in the form of a \$ 150 million SBLC. The SBLC was issued on November 24, 2017 at the time of the project’s financial close for a period four years till November 23, 2021. It was primarily meant to cover the project’s construction risk which was mitigated upon the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the project in August 2019.

Post-COD, the project has completed three years of operations during which it has demonstrated strong earnings with profits in excess of \$ 400 million and has been servicing its debt in a timely manner which includes foreign principal repayments amounting to \$293 million to date.

The project has also completed the major requirements of Project Completion Date (PCD) including compliance with the stipulated financial ratios. Government of Pakistan has not defaulted on a single debt payment commitment of any Pakistani Independent Power Producer in the past.

However, despite this, Chinese lenders did not give up the requirement of SBLC citing the reason of default in establishment of Revolving Account by CPPA-G. Consequently, Hubco was constrained to renew the SBLC for another year till November, 2022.

The government of Pakistan (GoP) established the Pakistan Energy Revolving Fund (PERF) on November 1, 2022 with concurrence of Chinese ambassador to satisfy the requirement of Revolving Account for CPEC projects. This milestone was achieved ahead of the recent visit of Prime Minister to China to demonstrate GoP’s commitment towards the CPEC.

The dispute between Hubco and Chinese company also landed in a court in Karachi. However, the issue has been resolved for the time being due to involvement of high level officials.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/01/23/1-page/953097-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese Lunar New Year celebrated

The new Chinese lunar year celebration have kick started in Pakistan as well. Following the celebrations an event was jointly organised by the embassy of people’s Republic of China in Islamabad and The Monal group of companies. While addressing the event the chief guest Faisal Karim Kundi, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety felicitated the Chinese nation on new lunar year. Faisal Karim Kundi mentioned that Pakistanis love China whereas the Chinese nation reciprocates in the same manner.

“The future of CPEC lies in China and Pakistan,” Kundi added. Xing Lijun, the acting DHM and the Third secretary, Chinese embassy informed that the current lunar year has unique importance among the Chinese worldwide. The present year is dedicated to the Rabbit. Xing Lijun termed Pakistan as his second home adding “Pak-China Friendship is of unique significance in this region and beyond. Luqman Ali Afzal, CEO The Monal, group of companies expressed his hopes that the CPEC projects will soon be completed. Afzal termed the presence of a great neighbour as fortune for Pakistan. CEO The Monal, Group of companies also announced 20 percent discount for the Chinese nationals in connection with Chinese New Year celebration. On occasion the cake cutting ceremony also took place in connection with Chinese New Year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1054786/chinese-lunar-new-year-celebrated/>

Series of activities launched to celebrate Chinese New Year

The China Cultural Centre in Pakistan has launched series of activities to grandly celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year. The 2023 Chinese New Year falls on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023, and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 5th, 2023. Chinese New Year is also known as Spring Festival. It is the most important festival of the year for the Chinese Nation. It is a time reserved for families. It is an important opportunity for families and friends to get together and celebrate the New Year. Often, family members and relatives travel from all over the country to come together for the special event.

Chinese people strive to make this event as special as possible, often spending hours preparing food and decorations for the events of the festival. In order to celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, China Cultural Center in Pakistan is working with the Shanghai Municipality this year to promote the cultural and tourism resources of Shanghai in Pakistan. A wide range of exciting events, such as cultural performances, exhibits, tourism promotion documentaries, and more, will be included.

China Cultural Center in Pakistan launched the musical concert “Our Common Homeland” by the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra online, and in the coming days, “Happy Chinese New Year – Pujiang Arts Collection” Online Performances & Exhibitions by the Center for China Shanghai International Arts Festival and more similar activities will be launched on various social media platforms run by China Cultural Center in Pakistan as well as the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan. The Cultural Office of

the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan organized a cake-cutting ceremony with the renowned restaurant chain MONAL on the evening of January 20, 2023, in Islamabad to kick off the upcoming celebration and to cordially invite all Chinese nationals living in Pakistan to take part.

Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and concurrently Director of China Cultural Center in Pakistan said that Chinese New Year, an annual brand activity held to celebrate Spring Festival under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, has taken off in recent years and is increasingly becoming an important platform for China to share Chinese culture and concepts with shared future with people from all over the world. Friend from Pakistan can visit our social media platform including Facebook and Wechat to witness the festive celebration of 2023 Happy Chinese New Year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1054771/series-of-activities-launched-to-celebrate-chinese-new-year/>

Pakistani superstar performs at China's 2023 Spring Festival Gala

Pakistani singer Sahir Ali Bagga performed at the highly anticipated 2023 Spring Festival Gala held on Saturday evening as Chinese people worldwide celebrated the start of the Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the Spring Festival Gala, also known as "Chunwan," has taken place every year since 1983. It is an indispensable part of the celebrations for the Chinese people to ring in the Chinese New Year, the most important Chinese festival centering on family reunions.

It has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's most-watched TV program. A collection of singing and dancing, opera, sketch comedy, crosstalk, martial arts, acrobatics, and other types of programs were provided to the audiences at home and abroad in this four-hour extravaganza.

As the year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Sahir Ali Bagga, among other singers from countries along the Belt and Road, sang a Pakistani song Korina at the gala, making him one of many international stars like Canadian-French singer Celine Dion and French actress Sophie Marceau who have appeared at the show. Sahir Ali Bagga is a victorious Pakistani singer who rose to fame in 2009 and since that time he is ruling the hearts of millions of people not only in Pakistan, in fact, all over the world.

The Spring Festival Gala will be aired on multiple TV channels, radio stations and new media platforms. According to the national broadcaster China Media Group, the total audience of the 2022 Spring Festival Gala reached a record 1.296 billion at home and abroad, with more than 650 media outlets from over 170 countries and regions worldwide carrying live coverage of the gala.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1054731/pakistani-superstar-performs-at-chinas-2023-spring-festival-gala/>

Dawn News

Colourful ceremony held to celebrate Chinese New Year

PESHAWAR: The Chinese Cultural Centre's China Window organised a ceremony on Sunday to celebrate the country's New Year.

A large number of senior politicians, government officials and social figures participated in the colourful ceremony, according to a statement issued here.

Prominent among the participants were former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, secretary higher education Dawood Khan, Senator Haji Hidayatullah, former MPA Samar Haroon Bilour and President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Ishaq

Speaking on this occasion, Mr Jhagra said PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had played very important role in strengthening Pakistan-China friendship.

Other speakers said sharing happiness on the occasion of Chinese New Year had sent a message of friendship, affection and love to the people of China. They said people of China organised events all over the world on the New Year, and that series of events in Peshawar was undoubtedly a clear example of friendship between the peoples of two countries.

They expressed hope that the Chinese New Year would be a year of China's progress, achievements and stability, and would further strengthen friendship between the two countries. Traditional music of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and China was also played and documentaries on Pakistan-China friendship and New Year were also shown. A cake was also cut on this occasion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1733121/colourful-ceremony-held-to-celebrate-chinese-new-year>

Performances, exhibitions planned for Chinese New Year celebrations

ISLAMABAD: The China Cultural Centre has organised a series of online activities to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

According to a statement issued by the centre, the Chinese New Year fell on Sunday (Jan 22) and celebrations would continue till Feb 5 when the Lantern Festival would be held.

The Chinese New Year is also known as the 'Spring Festival' and is the most important festival of the year for the Chinese nation and a time reserved for families.

It is an important opportunity for families and friends to get together and celebrate the new year.

In order to celebrate the Chinese New Year, China Cultural Centre was working with the Shanghai Municipality this year to promote the cultural and tourism resources of Shanghai in Pakistan.

A wide range of exciting events, such as cultural performances, exhibits, tourism promotion documentaries, and more, would be included.

China Cultural Centre launched the musical concert ‘Our Common Homeland’ by the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra online, and in the coming days, ‘Happy Chinese New Year - Pujiang Arts Collection’ online performances and exhibitions by the Centre for China Shanghai International Arts Festival and more similar activities would be launched on various social media platforms run by China Cultural Centre in Pakistan as well as the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan.

The Cultural Office of the Chinese embassy in Pakistan organised a cake-cutting ceremony with a local restaurant chain on the evening of Jan 20, in Islamabad to kick off the upcoming celebration and cordially invite all Chinese nationals living in Pakistan to take part.

Journalists from Pakistani media organisations, newspapers, and television channels attended a live 2023, Chinese New Year press conference that was organised last month in this regard by the Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy and the China Cultural Centre in Pakistan at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Islamabad.

Zhang Heqing, cultural counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and concurrently director of China Cultural Centre in Pakistan said: “Happy Chinese New Year, an annual brand activity held to celebrate Spring Festival under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, has taken off in recent years and is increasingly becoming an important platform for China to share Chinese culture and concepts with shared future with people from all over the world.”

He said that friends from Pakistan could visit social media platforms to witness the festive celebration.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1733063/performances-exhibitions-planned-for-chinese-new-year-celebrations>

Pakistan Observer

China Cultural Center kicks off celebrations to mark Chinese New Year 2023

At the start of the Chinese New Year since January 15, China Cultural Center in Pakistan has launched a series of activities to celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year .

The 2023 Chinese New Year fell on Sunday, and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 5th, 2023. Chinese New Year is also known as Spring Festival. It is the most important festival of the year for the Chinese nation.

The start of the New Chinese Year is a time reserved for families. It is an important opportunity for families and friends to get together and celebrate the new year. Often, family members and relatives travel from all over the country to come together for the special event.

According to a press release issued on Sunday, the Chinese people strive to make this event (New Chinese Year) as special as possible, often spending hours preparing food and decorations for the events of the festival.

In order to celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, China Cultural Center in Pakistan is working with the Shanghai Municipality this year to promote the cultural and tourism

resources of Shanghai in Pakistan. A wide range of exciting events, such as cultural performances, exhibits, tourism promotion documentaries, and more, will be included. In order to celebrate the day with festivity and great fun, China Cultural Center launched the musical concert “Our Common Homeland” by the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra online, and in the coming days, “Happy Chinese New Year – Pujiang Arts Collection” Online Performances & Exhibitions by the Center for China Shanghai International Arts Festival and more similar activities will be launched on various social media platforms run by China Cultural Center in Pakistan as well as the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan.

The Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan organized a cake-cutting ceremony with the renowned restaurant chain Monal to kick off the celebrations and to cordially invite all Chinese nationals living in Pakistan to take part.

Senior journalists from renowned Pakistani media organizations, newspapers, and TV channels attended a live 2023 Happy Chinese New Year Press Conference that was organized last month in this regard by the Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy and the China Cultural Center in Pakistan at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Islamabad.

Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and concurrently Director of China Cultural Center in Pakistan said that Happy Chinese New Year, an annual brand activity held to celebrate Spring Festival under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, has taken off in recent years and is increasingly becoming an important platform for China to share Chinese culture and concepts with shared future with people from all over the world. Meanwhile, President of the All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, Aasma Ismail Butt celebrated the Chinese New Year with students of Holy Help Welfare School System, an education institution for under-privileged kids.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-cultural-center-kicks-off-celebrations-to-mark-chinese-new-year-2023/>

China celebrates the Lunar New Year

People across China rang in the Lunar New Year on Sunday with large family gatherings and crowds visiting temples after the government lifted its strict “zero-COVID” policy, marking the biggest festive celebration since the pandemic began three years ago.

The Lunar New Year is the most important annual holiday in China. Each year is named after one of the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac in a repeating cycle, with this year being the Year of the Rabbit. For the past three years, celebrations were muted in the shadow of the pandemic.

Many people finally made their trip back to their hometowns to reunite with their families without worrying about the hassles of quarantine, potential lockdowns and suspension of travel. Larger public celebrations also returned for what is known as the Spring Festival in China, with the capital hosting thousands of cultural events — on a larger scale than a year ago.

These Lunar New Year dishes remind those who make them of their family and friends

In Beijing, many worshippers offered morning prayers at the Lama Temple but the crowds appeared to be smaller compared to pre-pandemic days. The Tibetan Buddhist site allows up to 60,000 visitors a day, citing safety reasons, and requires an advance reservation.

Throngs of residents and tourists swarmed pedestrian streets in the Qianmen area near Tiananmen Square. Many of them enjoyed snacks from barbecue and New Year rice cake stands, and some children wore traditional Chinese rabbit hats. Others held blown sugar or marshmallows shaped like rabbits. Agencies

<https://pakobserver.net/china-celebrates-the-lunar-new-year/>

The Express Tribune

How China can help lift economy

Pakistan needs to benefit from high consumption in China, especially of food

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is at a crossroads. It is encountering numerous challenges. Terrorism has started to resurface and the country's enemies are trying to fan trouble.

At the same time, the global landscape is going through rapid changes, which has posed new challenges. Political parties are fighting among themselves senselessly, complicating the situation in the country. They are hell bent on securing their positions, at any cost.

However, the economic challenges have broken the back of the common citizen. They have weakened the ability of the state to effectively address the woes, as we know that in the modern era, the economic health determines the strength of any country.

A so-called cold war between the West and China has exacerbated the woes for Pakistan. Western powers are forces different countries to take sides and Pakistan is no exception.

Rather, Pakistan is a victim of the cold war as it has refused to take sides. Although Pakistan is paying the price of the neutral stand in different areas, the economy is bearing the brunt of the impact.

In this backdrop, Pakistan is struggling to find a way to revive the economy on a sustainable basis. It is struggling to find economic partners that do not impose any conditions. It is looking for such economic partners that will not push the country into a deeper debt trap.

The Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development (AIERD) has analysed the Cold War 2.0 and its motive. It came up with the conclusion that China could be such a partner due to multiple factors.

First, Pakistan and China have been enjoying brotherly relations for decades. Both countries stood by each other, no matter what the situation was. Besides, China never put conditions or compelled Pakistan to accept anything against national interests. China and Pakistan always protected each other's core interests at all levels.

Second, the economic rational also favours the relationship with China. There is no second opinion that China is a major economic power. Third, China is the biggest market of the world with 1,400 million consumers. It aims to become one of the major consumption markets by encouraging the class transformation.

China is observing a rapid increase in the middle class, which increased from 39.1 million in 2000 to 707 million in 2018. It is pertinent to mention that 68% of the 707 million fall in the lower middle class, which means they will be trying to graduate to the upper middle class (Pew classification).

According to the Chinese classification, the middle class was around 340 million in 2021, which is expected to reach 500 million by 2025-26.

Furthermore, it is hoped that 400-600 million will graduate to the middle class and 200-400 million will graduate to the upper middle class and upper class till 2035. It will create a huge consumption market, which is already above \$6 trillion.

An HBSC report estimated that consumption will increase by \$1.1 trillion with additional spending by the new middle class in China. Morgan Stanley analysts estimated that China's private consumption will reach \$12.7 trillion in 2030.

Pakistan can benefit from the enhanced consumption, especially in the food sector. China is one of the biggest importers of food commodities and products including meat, soybean, seafood, fruits, wheat, sorghum and dairy products.

Food imports of China reached \$266 billion in November 2022. And they are expected to increase further in the coming years.

The food market can provide Pakistan immediate support to revive its economy. Thus, it should work with China to find avenues to promote the export of meat (China imported 2,330,000 tons of meat in 2021), fruits and dairy products.

It would be a win-win proposition, as Pakistan can earn foreign exchange and China can get quality and cheap food. However, to capitalise on the opportunity, Pakistan will have to meet the quality and health standards.

Good thing is that China has already offered its help to meet the international food standards. Besides, Pakistan can also work with China to promote soybean cultivation, which is one of the biggest food imports from China.

Third, Pakistan is home to the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

CPEC is a complete programme that can help to revive the economy and put the country on a fast track of sustainable development. Pakistan can use CPEC to benefit from the enhanced consumption market of China.

Fourth, BRI is the biggest trade, economic, investment and development programme. It has 149 member countries. So, Pakistan through the BRI can connect to 150 markets of the world, which will open diverse markets.

Fifth, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank can be a good alternative for acquiring financial assistance.

Sixth, the China International Import Expo (CIIE) is another landmark initiative. Pakistan by adopting a smart policy can create multiple economic opportunities at CIIE.

Seventh, being a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Pakistan can benefit from the Chinese initiatives like the China-SCO Special Free Economic Zone and the Digital Economy Forum.

Eighth, China has launched two major initiatives called the Global Development Initiative and Six-100 Development programmes. These are very comprehensive initiatives, which cover almost all major areas of development and environmental protection.

The unique aspect of these initiatives is that China is open to project ideas and no conditions are involved.

The facts discussed above clearly indicate that Pakistan should work with China. China offers opportunities, which can turn around the economic and development agenda of Pakistan.

Industrial and agricultural cooperation will pave the way for sustainable development. Education and scientific cooperation will help Pakistan to benefit from the fourth industrial revolution.

The West itself is looking for markets, especially consumption markets. That's why they always try to appease India. Western countries feel that the Indian market can help to compete with China.

Thus, Pakistan's cooperation with China will act as a shield against blackmailing by the big global players.

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

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2397339/how-china-can-help-lift-economy>

The Nation

'Young generation our valuable asset'

ISLAMABAD-Aasma Ismail Butt, president of the All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, said that the young generation is our valuable asset.

She said our dearest friend China supported us in every moment of hardship. In the joy of new year, China always remembers our children and the younger generation.

She said this during a visit to the Holy Help Welfare School System, a poor children's education institution. On the occasion, school chairman Abdullah Sabir, teachers and students welcomed Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt. President Federation Aasma Ismail Butt distributed school bags and gifts to children. She greatly appreciated the efforts of the chairman and teachers.

Later, Aasma Ismail Butt said in her address to students and teachers that China is a very sincere friend of Pakistan and is taking steps to encourage and promote education of the younger generation of Pakistan.

Due to limited resources in Pakistan, a large number of children are deprived of education. Our federation is working with China Embassy to educate the younger generation of Pakistan, she said adding that the efforts of the Holy Help School System are commendable.

Aasma Ismail Butt appealed to China to help educate children who are deprived of education. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Abdullah Saber said, “We are providing free education to 200 poor children. Our resources are limited. We are very grateful to Aasma Ismail Butt who supported needy children.

Hopefully, their cooperation will also be involved in the future.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-01-23/page-14/detail-6>

Jang News

روس کے ساتھ معاہدے میں چین کے ذریعے ادا بیگیوں پر غور

پاکستان کی روس سے سستے تیل کی خریداری کے معاہدے پر بات چیت جاری ہے، روس کے ساتھ معاہدے میں دوست ملک چین کے ذریعے ادا بیگیوں پر غور کیا جا رہا ہے۔

میڈیا رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان روس کو ادا بیگی کیلئے چینی یو آن استعمال کر سکتا ہے، ڈالر کے بجائے چینی کرنسی کے استعمال سے یوان کو طاقت ملے گی۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق معاہدے کو حتمی شکل ابھی نہیں دی گئی تاہم معاہدہ جغرافیائی سیاسی طور پر نیا ہوگا، پاکستان روسی کاروبار کیلئے ایک غیر متوقع منزل ہے۔ میڈیا رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان اور روس کے درمیان کئی دہائیوں سے کوئی تجارتی تعلقات نہیں، چین نے پاکستان کو روسیوں کے ساتھ تعلقات استوار کرنے کی ترغیب دی۔

رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان ناصر روسی تیل بلکہ گیس، ہتھیار اور دیگر ایشیا بھی لینے کا خواہاں ہے۔

اطلائک کونسل میں پاکستان انیشی ایٹو کے ڈائریکٹر عزیز یونس کا کہنا ہے کہ امریکی نظریہ ہے کہ پاکستان جیسے ممالک اسٹریٹیجک طور پر اہم ہو سکتے ہیں۔ عزیز یونس نے کہا کہ امریکی نظریہ ہے کہ دیگر ممالک کا پاکستانی معیشت کو مستحکم کرنا اس کے حق میں ہے، واشنگٹن ممکنہ طور پر اپنے اسٹریٹیجک مفادات کو ابھی کسی اور جگہ پر ترجیح دے گا۔

یو ایس انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف پیس میں ڈائریکٹر جنوبی ایشیا پروگرامز تمنا سالک الدین کا کہنا ہے کہ روس پاکستان تیل معاہدے سے امریکا اور اس کے خلیجی دوستوں کو فرق نہیں پڑے گا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1185347>

Nawaiwaqt News

چائینیز نیو ایئر کی تقریبات، تو نصیلت، رہائشگاہوں کی سکيورٹی سخت

لاہور (نامہ نگار) چائینیز نیو ایئر کی تقریبات کو فول پروف سکيورٹی فراہم کرنے کے سلسلے میں ڈی آئی جی آغا محمد یوسف نے چائینیز قونصلیٹ اور رہائش گاہوں کے دورے کیے اور سکيورٹی انتظامات کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا۔ اس موقع پر ڈی آئی جی آغا محمد یوسف کا کہنا تھا کہ آئی جی پنجاب عامر ذوالفقار خان کی ہدایات پر پورے پنجاب میں چائینیز کے لیے فول پروف سکيورٹی فراہم کی گئی اور سکيورٹی کے سخت اقدامات کیے گئے۔ ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ چائینیز حساس مقامات کو فول پروف بنانے کیلئے سکيورٹی کے ہر پہلو کا باریک بینی سے جائزہ لیا گیا۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ چائینیز نیو ایئر ٹائٹ کے موقع پر کسی بھی قسم کا ناخوشگوار واقعہ دیکھنے میں نہ آیا ہے اور اس کا سہرا میرے جوانوں کو جاتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-23/page-3/detail-18>

پاک چین تعلقات اور توانائی کے متبادل ذرائع

وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ دو طرفہ تجارتی تعلقات میں مزید اضافہ کی توقع ہے۔ دونوں ممالک موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کے خلاف جنگ، قابل تجدید توانائی اور سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کے لیے پر عزم ہیں۔ ورلڈ اکنامک فورم کے موقع پر سوئٹزر لینڈ میں چینی خبر رساں ایجنسی (شہوا) کے ساتھ ایک خصوصی انٹرویو میں بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا کہ گزشتہ 71 سال کے دوران پاک چین رہنماؤں کی کئی نسلوں نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دو طرفہ تعلقات کو پروان چڑھایا ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ ہمارے تعلقات باہمی احترام، اعتماد اور افہام و تفہیم پر مبنی ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک بنیادی دلچسپی کے امور پر ایک دوسرے کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ چین کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو (بی آر آئی) ایسے عظیم الشان منصوبے کے تحت چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبہ اس دو طرفہ دوستی کو مضبوط بنیادوں پر استوار کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ قومی ترقی، خوشحالی اور استحکام دونوں ملکوں کا مشترکہ خواب ہے جس کی تعبیر کے لیے دونوں ممالک کی حکومتیں مصروف کار ہیں۔ مستقبل میں سی پیک کا منصوبہ نہ صرف چین اور پاکستان کے لیے بلکہ دیگر ممالک کے لیے بھی نئے مواقع فراہم کرے گا۔ جہاں تک قابل تجدید ذرائع سے توانائی کے حصول کا تعلق ہے اس سلسلے میں اگرچہ پاکستان اور چین نے کئی بڑے سولر، ونڈ اور ہائیڈرو الیکٹرک منصوبے بھی شروع کر رکھے ہیں جس سے ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں سے نبرد آزما ہونے میں مدد مل سکے گی لیکن پاکستان کی بڑھتی ہوئی ضروریات اور تیل و گیس کی عدم دستیابی یا بحران کے پیش نظر اب تک کی جانے والی کوششیں قطعی ناکافی ہیں۔ اس حوالے سے ابھی بہت سا کام کرنا باقی ہے۔ بد قسمتی سے ہمارے حکمران اور پالیسی ساز ادارے اس ملکی ضرورت کا پوری طرح ادراک نہیں کر رہے اور محض ڈنگ ٹیپا پالیسیوں پر انحصار کیے ہوئے ہیں جس کی وجہ سے مستقبل میں توانائی کے بحران کا ہمیں سامنا کرنا پڑے گا اس کے لیے تاحال کوئی تیاری دکھائی نہیں دیتی۔ ہمارے پالیسی سازوں کو یہ بات ابھی تک سمجھ نہیں آئی کہ صرف زبانی بیانات جاری کر دینے یا بڑے بڑے دعوے کر دینے سے مسائل حل نہیں ہو سکتے، عملی اقدامات بھی کرنا پڑتے ہیں۔ ہمیں چین کی ترقی سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے اپنے معاشی مسائل پر قابو پانے کی کوشش کرنا ہوگی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-23/page-5/detail-10>

January 24, 2023

Daily Times

Turkey, Saudi Arabia to set up warehouse in Gwadar Free Zone

Turkish and Saudi delegation has shown keen interest to make massive investments in the Gwadar Free Zone with tax holidays. Ahmad Emran Ayubi, representing the Turkish delegation, along with Pak-Saudi Business Chamber official Sohial Siddiqui, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry official Adeeba Sheikh and Pakistan Transport Council President Tanveer Ahmed met high-ups of COPHC, traders, businessmen and marketers in Gwadar. The delegation aspired to establish warehouses in Gwadar Free Zone, dubbing it more cost-effective, commercially prolific and productive. "As of now, Turkish companies utilize the port and zone facilities in Jabel Ali, UAE.

Since Jabel Ali is expensive and congested, companies desire their trade in Gwadar. From here onward, the supply of the products which includes tyres, automotive parts and batteries will be shipped to markets in Central Asia, South Asia and Middle East," Ahmad Emran Ayubi said. Gwadar warehousing offers storage services with complete inventory management through modern IT-based WMS that meets the demand of customers like FIFO, LIFO, FEFO and LEFO; Batch /Lot expiry control and ABC analysis. Its bonded Warehousing Services also offer storage spaces for custom bonded cargo. A GPA official said that Gwadar Free Zone phase II is fully capable of meeting Pakistan Vision 2025 which

seeks to enhance the modern warehouse industry embedded with national transportation infrastructure and logistics system.

Establishing industrial parks and developing SEZs along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will strengthen warehouse networks the transportation network and the logistics infrastructure, he added. “Road freight contributed over 90% of the goods transported by land. Rail freight is likely to gain a share due to modernization and expansion with ML-1. High priority is given to road, rail, sea and air network development. Private sector participation in logistics infrastructure development has already gained momentum, and transportation and warehousing are likely to lead logistics industry growth during 2023-2025,” he added.

After Gwadar New International Airport, a CAA official said that Pakistan’s international freight forwarding industry will enter into a brand new chapter of growth. The international freight forwarding industry is the largest contributor to Pakistan’s GDP in the service sector. The importance of the industry lies in managing the logistics of the country’s international trade. The services provided by international freight forwarding companies facilitate exports and imports on large scale.

Gwadar trader Imtiaz Gul that deals with services of warehouse and logistic told Gwadar Pro that Gwadar is becoming hub of warehouse services, freight forwarding and logistics industry that plays a vital role in the overall economy of Pakistan. “Logistics Service Providers assist trade in all processes including sea freight, air freight, custom clearance, warehousing, road transportation, rail transportation, packaging, warehousing and other allied value added services,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1055118/turkey-saudi-arabia-to-set-up-warehouse-in-gwadar-free-zone/>

Pakistan Observer

Clean energy playing growing role in ensuring China’s energy supply

Wind and solar energy are playing growing roles in ensuring China’s energy supply, thanks to their continuous scale expansion.

In 2022, the newly installed capacity of wind and solar power topped 120 million kW, and the cumulative installed capacity surpassed 700 million kW by the end of last year, data from the National Energy Administration (NEA) showed.

The newly installed capacity of wind and solar power accounted for 78 percent of the newly installed capacity in the country last year, making them major power generators in China.—Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/clean-energy-playing-growing-role-in-ensuring-chinas-energy-supply/>

January 25, 2023

Daily Times

PCJCCI celebrates Chinese New Year

The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Monday arranged an exclusive new year celebration ceremony for felicitation of Chinese businessmen, entrepreneurs and investors associated with the platform of the joint chamber. The ceremony was presided over by PCJCCI President Moazzam Ghurki, while Vice President Hamza Khalid, Executive Committee members also extended their greetings to the Chinese guests.

Addressing the ceremony, Moazzam Ghurki said that Chinese collaboration had played a great role in keeping the trustworthy relationship intact between two friendly nations. He said that the decision of Pakistan to join hands with China for the remarkable projects such as CPEC, One Belt-One Road, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS for building economic and political linkages with neighbors and Asian countries had truly been commendable.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1055482/pcjcci-celebrates-chinese-new-year/>

Dawn News

New Chinese railway coaches to run from 27th

Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways (PR) is going to start from Jan 27 the commercial operations of the new state-of-the-art passenger 46 coaches recently imported from China as the completely built units (CBUs) manufactured by a Chinese firm under an agreement.

The coaches' operation would begin with the composition of the Green Line Express Train that will resume running from Islamabad to Karachi via Rawalpindi, Lahore, Khanewal and Sukkur.

The operation of the train was suspended in August last year due to the floods and it would be resumed with new Chinese coaches, Dawn has learnt.

“The trial run of the coaches has been completed. After the trial, it has been decided to operate them as a part of Green Line Express Train from Margalla Station (Islamabad) to Karachi with effect from Jan 27,” an official source in the railways said while talking to Dawn on Tuesday.

“The new coaches are well-equipped with modern facilities including Wifi, dining, LCDs, phone charging and others. All services will be free of cost,” he added.

The official said 46 new coaches would comprise three rakes—one will move from Islamabad, another from Karachi and the third would be stationed at Lahore as a spare one.

It merits mentioning that the 46 high-speed modern coaches were received as CBUs from China on Nov 27 last year, paving the way for provision of state-of-the-art rail travel facilities

to the masses. Arrangements have also been made to start manufacturing of 184 similar coaches (passenger, luggage and brake vans) under the technology-transfer component of the 230 coaches' purchase contract. Since the test run of all 46 coaches was recently completed, the railways planned to use them in various express trains on the main line.

“Modern train coaches can run at the speed of 160km per hour,” the official said, adding that the federal government had, in November 2021, inked an agreement with the China Railway Construction Corporation Tangshan Locomotive and Rolling Stock Company for the supply of 230 high-speed coaches to the Pakistan Railways.

PR Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Salman Sadiq Sheikh has termed the commercial operation of the passenger coaches the beginning of a new era of modern traveling in Pakistan.

“The facilities, which will be made available to the passengers during the journey by the Green Line will include high tea, breakfast and lunch of a five-star hotel, high-quality bedding, infotainment and WiFi,” the CEO said while speaking to participants in an online open court he held at the PR Headquarters on Tuesday.

He said the PR, after the hard work, succeeded in restoring operation of its freight and passenger trains gradually, which were suspended due to floods. To a question, he said despite an increase in the fares and freight charges following increase in the POL prices, the PR passenger train fares and goods' train charges were much less compared to the road transport.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1733405/new-chinese-railway-coaches-to-run-from-27th>

Pakistan Observer

Mobile phone industry to get boost under CPEC: Murtaza

Federal Minister for Industry and Production, Makhdoom Murtaza Mahmud on Tuesday said that the mobile phone manufacturing industry would flourish more under the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that the country was passing through a hard time, but it was everyone's responsibility, including politicians, the private sector and stakeholders to work together, adding that mobile manufacturing was a new industry, therefore, they were facing difficulties.

He was addressing a summit titled “Mobile Device Manufacturing” organised by the Engineering Development Board (EDB) and Pakistan Mobile Phone Manufacturing Association (PMPMA).

Mahmud said that by improving the mobile industry, the country's needs could be fulfilled from domestic production.

He said that the devaluation of the rupee had reduced labour costs and added that the export could be increased by enhancing mobile manufacturing.

He said that Pakistan will come out of these situations in the short term, but “we have to make a long-term policy”.

Meanwhile, Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Production Imdadullah Bosal highlighted that in 2020, a policy was launched to increase the production and half the journey had been completed while half was left.

He said, “We need to upgrade technology, boost productivity to increase labour market, and the policies that work in Vietnam and Malaysia may not work here.”

Senior GM Policy Engineering Development Board Asim Ayaz said that friendly policies had been introduced for the mobile phone industry.

He said that local production of mobiles in Pakistan was “continuously increasing”, except for one company, all major brands of mobiles were made in Pakistan. Around US\$ 2.6 billion had been invested in the local mobile manufacturing industry in the country, Ayaz highlighted.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/mobile-phone-industry-to-get-boost-under-cpec-murtaza/>

Green CPEC, BRI & CPC: From Vision to Policy & Persuasions

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Now green development pursuits have passed through from the Chinese political galleries to the fields of applied economics. The Chinese President Xi Jinping has already “transformed” the Chinese political lifeline, the “Communist Party of China (CPC)” and its mega projects of the 21st century “One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI)” and “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)” for gearing up green development. Of course, green/greening has become one of the most important state’s policies of China.

In this regard, green development of the CPEC is boosting local employment and skill uplift in Pakistan and also enhancing Pakistan’s green and sustainable development capacity. It is an important pilot project of the BRI which promotes the construction of green infrastructure, the development of green technology and green finance in the country. Additionally, green development cooperation between the two countries has been getting momentum and has already completed five wind power projects, one solar power project and one hydropower project, besides three hydropower projects under construction. Hopefully completion of these green energy projects would change the energy mix, efficiency, productivity, capacity and utility and would also create a healthy impact on the environment in the country.

The Chinese President Jinping Xi has also announced a “paradigm shift” in the energy projects of the BRI. He has now completely discarded coal projects in all the BRI member countries which are good omen. China is the world’s largest manufacturer of solar panels, wind turbines, batteries and EVs which is now well placed to help deliver low-carbon technologies to BRI’s Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs). China has pledged to step up support for other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy and not build new coal-fired power projects abroad.

Moreover, the Green Investment Principles (GIP) for the BRI was initiated in 2018 to accelerate green investments in the member countries. Its three-year “Vision 2023” action plan calls on signatories to assess and disclose strategies for managing their climate risks, set green investment targets, commit to phasing out carbon-intensive investment and invest in the growing pipeline of green BRI projects. It has now more than 41 signatories holding or managing combined assets in excess of \$49 trillion and providing significant funding to BRI projects. Signatories represent 15 countries and regions in Asia, Europe and Africa, and include commercial, investment and policy banks, insurers, and BRI investors and project developers.

Since 18th CPC, China put forward a new development philosophy focusing on innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development in the country and also in all the BRI member countries. Since then, China has constantly followed a holistic and systematic policy to conserving and improving mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland and desert ecosystems which is now paving its huge socio-economic and climate dividends. In this regard, the Xi integrated and holistic policies and resolute determination and result-oriented governance, China has, therefore immensely improved its ecological conservation systems, advanced the critical battle against pollution, and achieved solid progress in promoting green, circular, and low-carbon development in the country, region and all the member countries of the BRI.

Fortunately, China has succeeded to achieve the biggest rise in forest density, and is now home to the largest, afforested area in the world. The size of China’s newly-added green coverage accounts for one fourth of the global total which should also be replicated in all the projects of the CPEC so that real change would be secured and sustained in the days to come. Interestingly, China’s carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP have dropped by 34.4 percent. The share of coal in primary energy consumption dropped from 68.5 percent to 56 percent.

According to the Chinese data (2022) in 2021, China’s total renewable energy use reached 750 million tons of standard coal, reducing emissions of carbon dioxide by 2.1 billion tons. Furthermore, as a key contributor to the Paris Agreement, China pledged to peak its carbon dioxide emissions by 2030, and to reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

It seems that China promotes green development as the inevitable path towards modernization and qualitative development. China’s overall objective and work plan of green development for the next phase has been formulated in the report of the CPC’s 20th National Congress.

It consists of improvement in the industrial structure and the energy mix through implementing a conservation strategy and upgrading the policies and systems of standards to boost green and low-carbon industries. By achieving this goal green consumption will be encouraged to advance green and low-carbon ways of production and life through accelerating the R&D and application of energy-saving and carbon emission reduction technologies.

The Chinese policy makers will continue to control pollution in a lawful, targeted, and science-based way. The environmental infrastructure will be upgraded and living environments in both urban and rural areas will be improved. It will carry out major projects for preserving and restoring key ecosystems to enhance diversity, stability, and sustainability in its ecosystems. In this connection, major biodiversity protection projects and large-scale greening programs will be initiated. Last but not least, China will work actively and prudently toward the carbon goals. It will better control the amount and intensity of energy consumption, particularly of fossil fuels. Therefore, green, low-carbon, and high-efficiency energy use will be institutionalized. Hopefully, it will bring the green energy revolution and speed up the planning and development of a system for new energy sources.

To conclude, there is an urgent need to form a “Green Energy Corridor (GEC)” under the flagship projects of the CPEC in the country. Both countries should also jointly work for “Climate Justice”, constant reduction of carbon footnotes and ultimately achieving the end goal i.e. carbon neutrality in the days to come. Both countries and all the private companies should pledge to facilitate “Transfer of Technology Mechanism (TRM)” in all the energy (green) projects in the country. In this regard, the government of Pakistan has already requested to facilitate the TRM in solar planes production in the country.

Interestingly, both countries have boosted cooperation in green energy. Under the CPEC, five wind power projects have been completed with a total capacity of 300 megawatts and another 300-megawatt solar power project has been completed. Projects such as the Karot hydropower plant, SK and the Matiari-Lahore power transmission line have helped in reducing energy loss and improving efficiency.

It has multiplier socio-economic effects. CPEC green and sustainable development is also generating huge employment opportunities in Pakistan. According to statistics, CPEC has created more than 90,000 jobs for Pakistan till date.

It is suggested that the framework/domain of the proposed green energy corridor should be extended to diverse sectors of the economy including agriculture, environment, food, climate change, and food security under the flagship projects of the CPEC. Furthermore, the construction of modern transportation networks, numerous energy projects, and special economic zones should also be transformed into green energy.

Sincere and integrated efforts should be started so that domestic businesses, industries and production centers should be moved towards green renewable energy to reduce emissions, lower energy costs, and improve eco-friendliness in the country under the CPEC Phase-II projects. In this regard, massive digitization, energy-efficient integrations, and green solutions that overcome the intermittency in renewable energy production should be started as soon as possible. In this regard, “Green Hydrogen Shift (GHS)” will be a game changer between two countries. Production of EV and Lithium batteries should be started as soon as possible. In this regard, mobilization and channelization of domestic banking industry assets would create a “strategic financial cushion” for the country to promote green energy development.

Moreover, issuance of innovative “Green Bonds”, “Green Financial Derivatives”, “Green Saving Certificates” and “Green Artificial Intelligence Centers” would revolutionize Pakistan’s economy, agriculture, industry, production centers, society and last but not the least, environment in the days to come. Rationale policy formation and consistency of green structural reforms are the way forward in the CPEC Phase-II in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/green-cpec-bri-cpc-from-vision-to-policy-persuasions-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Opening doors: enhancing cultural tourism through BRI

Engr Qaiser Nawab

CULTURE is the heart of tourism and tourism is the gateway to culture. Today cultural tourism is one of the fastest and largest-growing global tourism industries that not only enhances and promotes the attractiveness and competitiveness of destinations but also helps them gain an edge in the increasingly cutthroat tourism industry, to forge a local identity in the face of globalization. The most prominent example of promoting high-quality cultural tourism is China.

Owing to the country’s extensive history spanning over 5000 years, diverse culture, beautiful landscapes and strategic location, China has a huge influx of tourists that has been contributing to the rapid growth of its tourism industry.

China, the creator of “The Belt and Road Initiative”, has also been leveraging regional cooperation frameworks and historical and cultural elements associated with the ancient Silk Road, “The Silk Road Economic Belt” and “The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road”, to create a community of shared interests, future and responsibilities marked by mutual trust and cultural tolerance as well as for the sake of promoting economic cooperation, boosting local trade and encouraging the free flow of people.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) policy document lays out a plan for promoting and developing cultural tourism, specifically through “tourism cooperation”. This includes increasing coordination within the country and developing domestic tourism, as well as promoting the opening of tourism to attract international visitors to Chinese tourist destinations. China is home to many renowned tourist attractions such as the “Great Wall of China”, “Terracotta Army”, “Forbidden City”, “Potala Palace”, the longest glass suspension bridge in the world in Hebei province and the colonial architecture of Shanghai among others.

The focus of the BRI is to promote mutually beneficial global cooperation, with a goal of fostering cultural exchange among participating countries.

This is intended to advance global civilisation and enhance international tourism options by boosting the number and quality of tourist places and products. In addition, it intends to learn from other countries’ innovative concepts and implement them to enhance domestic tourism services.

Through cooperation and collaboration in tourism, the BRI aims to create a win-win situation by identifying differences, addressing shortcomings and reducing the gap between participating countries in cultural tourism.

With its focus on international tourism cooperation, The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is not only one of the most active and rapidly developing spaces for golden tourism, but also has many advantages, including cultural history, geographical position and a heritage of exchange and cooperation.

Currently, 149 countries are participating in the BRI, working to promote the transformation and development of the global tourism industry by driving progress in tourism, economics, culture and other areas.

The BRI has been providing various opportunities for tourism in participating countries. The improved infrastructure and transportation networks have made it easier for tourists to travel to and within the participating countries. This is helping in boosting the local economies and promoting cultural exchange as well.

For example, “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor” (CPEC) is a prominent component of the BRI that aims to improve infrastructure and transportation networks in Pakistan, with the goal of connecting the “Gwadar Port in Pakistan” to the north-western region of China.

The development of Gwadar Port and the construction of new highways and railways as part of CPEC have made it easier for tourists to travel to Pakistan’s remote and less developed regions. This has led to an increase in the number of tourists visiting these areas and has helped to boost the local economy through tourism-related activities such as hotel bookings, local transportation and souvenirs sales etc.

Additionally, the BRI is also promoting the development of new tourism products and services. For instance, many of the participating countries are now developing eco-tourism, adventure tourism and cultural tourism products to attract more tourists. The BRI has a wide-ranging impact on tourism.

By implementing the BRI, China has not only reinforced its relationships with other countries but has also enhanced its responsiveness to the rest of the world, making a significant contribution to the development of cultural tourism. Cultural tourism is a unique aspect of the BRI and countries along the route should make the most of this opportunity to achieve cultural interaction and inclusion.

All of the countries have their own unique cultural values and beautiful landscapes to explore, what we need to do is to uncover and discover the hidden gems and natural wonders of these countries.

Additionally, cultural exchange programs can be established among the Belt and Road countries, bringing people particularly the youth from different backgrounds closer together and promoting the sharing of cultures. Furthermore, to increase tourism, the Belt and Road nations need to work together to establish tourist-friendly policies to attract more visitors.

Hence, sustainable tourism development along the Silk Road can be bolstered by the BRI which will allow local communities to prosper, attract investment, safeguard cultural and natural treasures and provide tourists an experience they will never forget.

Creating a tourist-free trade zone is a long-term goal of BRI tourism development, and one that will not only greatly benefit the future of the tourism industry but will also lead to the opening of various doors of opportunities to the world.

<https://pakobserver.net/opening-doors-enhancing-cultural-tourism-through-bri-by-engr-qaizer-nawab/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے تعاون نے قابل اعتماد تعلقات کو برقرار رکھنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا، معظم گھر کی

نے پیر کو پاک چائنا جوائنٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے پلیٹ فارم (PCJCCI) لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان چائنا جوائنٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری سے وابستہ چینی تاجروں، کاروباری افراد اور سرمایہ کاروں کو مبارکباد دینے کے لیے نئے سال کی ایک خصوصی تقریب کا اہتمام کیا۔ تقریب کی صدارت پی سی جے سی آئی کے صدر معظم گھر کی نے کی جبکہ نائب صدر حمزہ خالد، ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی کے اراکین نے بھی چینی مہمانوں کو مبارکباد دی۔ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے معظم گھر کی نے کہا کہ چین کے تعاون نے دو دوست ممالک کے درمیان قابل اعتماد تعلقات کو برقرار رکھنے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

اور برکس جیسے (SCO)، شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم (AIIB)، ون بیلٹ ون روڈ، ایشین انفراسٹرکچر انویسٹمنٹ بینک CPEC انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کا چین کے ساتھ نے آٹھ ممکنہ صنعتی PCJCCI قابل ذکر منصوبوں کے لیے ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ اقتصادی اور سیاسی روابط استوار کرنے کا فیصلہ ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اس سال شعبوں میں چین سے سرمایہ کاری لانے کے لیے خصوصی اقدامات کیے ہیں جن میں فرنیچر، دستکاری، ٹیکسٹائل، کھاد، سیمنٹ، گلاس ورک، توانائی اور فارماسیو ٹیکل شامل ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان شعبوں کی مشترکہ طور پر پی سی جے سی آئی کے اعلیٰ حکام نے نشاندہی کی تھی تاکہ تمام پہلوؤں سے مثبت نتائج سامنے آسکیں۔ چینی دوستوں سے خیر سگالی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے حمزہ خالد نے کہا کہ انہیں یقین ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کا مضبوط رشتہ دنیا کے سامنے ایک شاندار مثال قائم کرے گا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کی خوشحالی کے لیے پاکستان اور چین کی مشترکہ کوششوں نے واقعی ایک اچھی مثال قائم کی ہے۔ سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف نے کہا کہ چینی دونوں دوستوں کے درمیان دوستانہ خصلتوں کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے بہتر پاکستان کے لیے مزید کردار ادا کریں گے۔ چینی سال نو کی تقریبات کے بعد کیک کاٹا گیا اور پی سی جے سی آئی کے ممبران کی جانب سے چینی عوام کو دلی مبارکباد پیش کی گئی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-25/page-6/detail-11>

January 26, 2023

The News

DRAP proposes import of raw material for medicines, equipment in Chinese currency

M. Waqar Bhatti

KARACHI: The Drug Availability Committee of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has proposed the import of medicines' raw materials and medical equipment from China in its currency RMB (Renminbi) to ensure the availability of essential medicines at a time when Pakistan is facing a severe dollar liquidity crunch.

“As the LCs issue is hampering the import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) from China and India, the Drug Availability Committee of DRAP has come up with a solution to import the medicines’ raw material from China in its local currency RMB (Renminbi) to ensure availability of essential medicines in the country”, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DRAP Asim Rauf told leaders of the local pharmaceutical industry at a meeting in Karachi today.

Pakistani pharmaceutical companies are facing immense hardships in importing medicines’ raw materials and finished biological products, the latest cancer therapies, hormones and other therapeutic products due to the dollar liquidity crunch as local banks are not opening Letters of Credit (LCs) for the imports from China, India and some other countries.

DRAP Chief maintained that on the directives from Prime Minister’s office, they were working on the issue of LCs for the local pharmaceutical industry and proposed to the State Bank of Pakistan and the finance ministry to look into the possibility of import of pharmaceutical ingredients in the Chinese currency, adding that around 55 per cent of the medicines’ raw material already comes from China. “The pharmaceutical products’ imports from China can further be increased and taken up to 70 to 80 per cent. As we are facing a shortage of dollars, we can do the trade in the Chinese currency to ensure availability of the essential medicines, medical devices and other therapeutic goods”, Asim Rauf added.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the People’s Bank of China have already signed a bilateral currency swap agreement (CSA) in December 2011 to promote bilateral trade, foreign direct investment, provide short-term liquidity support and for any other purpose mutually agreed between the two central banks.

Referring to India’s humiliation due to hundreds of deaths caused by tainted cough syrups supplied by the Indian pharmaceutical companies to countries around the globe, DRAP’s Chief Executive Officer said some of the Pakistani pharmaceutical companies had established manufacturing plants of international standards and obtained international accreditations that could help them in boosting pharmaceutical products’ exports manifolds. “But most of the local industries are still not conforming to the international standards, many lack testing facilities while many companies don’t have qualified workforce. But DRAP is trying its best to come up to the international standards so that its certification could get international recognition and help Pakistan’s pharmaceutical exports to other countries”, Asim Rauf added.

Assuring the pharmaceutical industry of resolving their issues on a priority basis, he urged the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA) members to resolve their internal issues mutually, work on acquiring international accreditations and said he was quite impressed with the newly-established manufacturing plants of Getz Pharma and Genix Pharm in Karachi.

Managing Director of Getz Pharma Khalid Mahmood told the DRAP Chief that the pharmaceutical industry was facing many issues including the high cost of electricity and natural gas, supply of highly polluted water and untrained and unskilled labour while several other countries including Malaysia were providing many incentives to their industry to boost their pharmaceutical products’ imports.

Chairman of the PPMA Farooq Bukhari in his welcome address expressed the desire to have more interactions with the DRAP chief and his team to discuss issues facing the pharmaceutical industry and hoped that regulatory authorities would listen to their grievances and try to resolve them on an urgent basis.

Meanwhile, the DRAP Chief Executive Officer Asim Rauf visited the vaccine manufacturing facility at Dow University of Health Sciences Karachi and expressed his satisfaction with the quality of equipment, facilities and trained staff available at the facility. The Dow University of Health Sciences is manufacturing Anti Rabies Vaccines as well as Anti Snake Venom Serum and wants its facility to be recognized by the DRAP so as to provide the vaccines in the local market and to import them in the future.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=170215>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین تعلقات ہر گزرتے دن کیساتھ مضبوط ہو رہے ہیں: طلحہ محمود

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) چین کے نئے قمری سال کے موقع پر چائنا میڈیا گروپ کے زیر اہتمام پاکستان میں اسلام آباد میں ایک پروقار تقریب، جس میں مقامی اور چینی شائقین کی ایک قابل ذکر تعداد نے شرکت کی۔ وفاقی وزیر سینیٹر محمد طلحہ محمود کے علاوہ وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی ظفر الدین محمود، ریڈیو پاکستان کے سربراہ محمد طاہر حسن سمیت مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والی نامور شخصیات موجود تھیں۔ سینیٹر طلحہ محمود نے پاکستانی حکومت اور عوام کی طرف سے چین کو نئے سال کی مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دیرینہ تعلق وقت کے گزرنے کے ساتھ مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوتا رہا ہے۔ چین پاکستان تعلقات کے نئے دور میں تاریخ ساز منصوبے سی پیک نے بنیادی ڈھانچے اور توانائی کے شعبوں میں کامیابیاں سمیٹی ہیں اور صنعتی، زرعی اور سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبوں میں تعاون کی سمت متعین کی جا چکی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-26/page-3/detail-22>

January 27, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistani singers celebrate Chinese New Year

Pakistani singers enthralled the audience of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad late Tuesday to celebrate Chinese New Year 2023 at Pak China Friendship Centre. The show Happy Chinese New Year 2023 – Year of Rabbit and the Spring Festival Musical evening was organised by China Media Group. Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Zafuddin Mehmood was the chief guest on the occasion, who termed the event a token of celebration between Pakistan and China and said that such events are the opportunity to boost people to people contacts and strengthen cultural ties between two brotherly countries. Singers including Syed Asim Raza, Adil Khan, Waqas Ali, Seher Gul Khan, Alizeh Khan and Naseer Khawaja mesmerized the audience including Chinese community with popular melodies who joined them in singing and dancing. Meanwhile, China Cultural Centre in Pakistan has launched series of activities to grandly celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, the celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 5, 2023. Chinese New Year is also known as Spring Festival. It is the most important festival of the year for the Chinese

Nation. It is a time reserved for families. It is an important opportunity for families and friends to get together and celebrate the new year. Often, family members and relatives travel from all over the country to come together for the special event.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1056346/pakistani-singers-celebrate-chinese-new-year/>

The Express Tribune

Interest in cultivating Chinese chilli growing

Pakistan's red chilli project will help lift agriculture sector

BEIJING: A red chilli farming project launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework will help Pakistan's agriculture sector, experts said.

Launched in 2013, CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while the new phase expands to the areas of agriculture, livelihood, etc.

Echoing CPEC's cooperation in agriculture, China Machinery Engineering Corporation and Sichuan Litong Food Group have established a company and carried out a red chilli contract farming project in 2021. One of the six model farms of the project is in Multan. Muhammad Sajjad's nursery is among thousands of acres of model farms where the company teamed up with locals for contract farming of Chinese chilli varieties, with an aim to export the crop back to China after harvest and earn foreign exchange for Pakistan. Talking to China's state-run Xinhua news agency, Muhammad Adnan, Executive Manager of the company, said that local farmers' interest in cultivating Chinese chilli is increasing due to its better yield and strong resistance to diseases.

"Local chilli is highly vulnerable to diseases and farmers are hesitant to grow it, but the Chinese varieties are robust, easy to pick and are sold at a higher price directly to Chinese companies from farms, without any involvement of middleman, making it highly popular among local farmers," he added.

In a conversation, Zhao Jianhua, a Chinese agronomist of the company with 27 years of experience in chilli cultivation, said he has trained over 20 Pakistani agricultural technicians in the past years, who can help the farms independently.

"We are not only bringing cultivation technology to local farmers but also working together with Pakistani agronomists to promote the development of the chilli industry by combining technology with the advantages of both Chinese and Pakistani chilli varieties," he added.

Muhammad Irfan Ahmad, Assistant Executive Manager of the company, said that many techniques like nurturing plants inside the tunnel, modern ways of transplantation, and providing sufficient nutrients to the crops are some of the methods that local farmers are using instead of relying on primitive methods.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2397877/interest-in-cultivating-chinese-chilli-growing>

The Nation

CPEC to help improve livestock sector in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Various projects initiated under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will prove beneficial in promoting trade between the two neighbouring countries in the livestock and agriculture sectors, WealthPK reported.

China will help Pakistan to establish farms for the cultivation of high-yield chillies. China will also help Pakistani farmers to produce embryos of cows with a larger quantity of milk. The joint initiative has an initial export potential of \$500 to \$550 million. The Chinese government has chosen two companies for the CPEC projects in the agriculture and livestock sectors. Litong has been chosen for agricultural projects and Royal Company for those in the livestock sector.

It has been planned to improve technical exchange and seed production, animal and poultry breeding, agriculture product processing and post-harvest management under the CPEC projects.

Dr Saiful Mujjahid, an economist, told WealthPK that poor seed quality, a lack of modern agricultural practises, low yields and a shortage of qualified farm labourers were affecting the agriculture and livestock sectors in Pakistan. He said that the country needed agricultural and livestock research to boost the production of goods and improve their quality for the purpose of export. China has more expertise in agriculture than Pakistan. Pakistan should get benefit from it by incorporating farming methods and raising awareness among local farmers to boost yields of different crops and vegetables.

Compound planting and greenhouses are Chinese agricultural innovations that are ideal for Pakistani crops. Pakistan should use green pesticides and organic fertilisers to reduce pollution caused by agricultural sources. The country needs to enhance the genetic diversity of the cows used for dairy farming. It requires better embryos for high-yield milk and the long lives of animals.

“Pakistan offers perfect conditions for growing chillies. We should cultivate more chillies in a smaller space with the aid of Chinese businesses by utilising better farming methods, the most recent research and better seeds. This might open up further export opportunities for Pakistan,” said Dr Saif.

He said that under the CPEC framework, Chinese companies in collaboration with Fauji Fertiliser Corporation would set up factories to produce pesticides as well as livestock and poultry feed in Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone in Faisalabad. “It will increase collaboration between China and Pakistan on food, livestock and agricultural research and development. Pakistan’s economy will improve if Chinese technology is adopted. It will help to increase irrigation efficiency and agricultural production, encourage innovative technologies and produce high-value crops,” he said.

He said that poor infrastructure was a major barrier to both the development of agriculture and sustained economic growth in Pakistan. CPEC projects will improve the infrastructure for agriculture by giving farmers access to modern technology.

CPEC will promote foreign investment in the agriculture sector, increasing employment prospects for graduates in the long run.

“Through road, rail and marine connections, CPEC will assist farmers in reaching larger markets where they can export their goods at profitable prices. CPEC projects include the expansion of farms to increase production using the newest tools and methods. It will improve Pakistan’s economy and increase its Gross Domestic Product,” Dr Saif told WealthPK.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-01-28/page-8/detail-4>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ ملک میں ترقی کی رفتار کو تیز کرے گا: رپورٹ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کا دوسرا مرحلہ ملک میں ترقی کی رفتار کو تیز کرے گا، سی پیک کے تحت ملک میں بنائے گئے پاور ہاؤسز سے 10 ہزار میگا واٹ سے زائد بجلی پیدا کی گئی، 1,200 میگا واٹ کے تین مزید پاور پراجیکٹ جلد مکمل ہو جائیں گے، پاک چین مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی ڈیڑھ سال کے بعد دوبارہ فعال، چین سے لائٹ میٹرو فیکچرنگ یونٹس کی منتقلی پاکستان میں صنعتی تبدیلی کو فروغ دیگی، ریشمی اور علامہ اقبال خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پر نمایاں پیش رفت، چینی حکومت کا پاکستان میں اقتصادی ترقی کو بڑھانے اور ملازمتیں پیدا کرنے کے لیے اربوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا وعدہ، جو اسٹوٹینچر کی سہولت کے لیے بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کے تحت ایک سرمایہ کار فورم تیار ہے۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کا دوسرا مرحلہ ملک میں ترقی اور پیشرفت کی رفتار کو تیز کرے گا۔ چین نے دونوں ہمسایہ ممالک کے درمیان اقتصادی تعلقات کو مضبوط کیا ہے۔ گیم چینجر منصوبہ دونوں ممالک کے لیے بہت اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ سی پیک میں طویل مدتی، درمیانی مدت اور مختصر مدت کے منصوبے ہیں۔ منصوبہ بندی کے سیکریٹری سید ظفر علی شاہ نے بتایا کہ سی پیک کے پہلے مرحلے کے آغاز کے بعد سے پاکستان کو اس سے بہت فائدہ ہوا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-27/page-6/detail-0>

پاکستان نے گروپ 77، چین کے ویانا چیپٹر کی سربراہی سنبھال لی

میں اقوام متحدہ کے دفتر میں (UNoV) اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) پاکستان نے گروپ 77 اور چین کے ویانا چیپٹر کی سربراہی سنبھال لی۔ پاکستان نے ویانا منعقدہ پروتار تقریب میں مراکش نے گروپ 77 اور چین کی چیئر پرسن شپ پاکستان کے حوالے کی۔ تقریب میں اقوام متحدہ کے عہدیداروں گروپ کے رکن ممالک کے مشنرز کے سربراہان اور سفارتکاروں نے شرکت کی۔ ویانا میں اقوام متحدہ اور دیگر بین الاقوامی اداروں میں پاکستان کے مستقل نمائندے سفیر آفتاب احمد کھوکھر نے 2023ء میں گروپ کی سربراہی کے لیے پاکستان پر اعتماد کرنے پر گروپ کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ دنیا متعدد اور باہم منسلک چیلنجوں جیسے کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی، وبائی امراض، منشیات کی سمگلنگ، منظم جرائم کے ساتھ ساتھ خوراک اور توانائی کے عدم تحفظ سے نمٹ رہی ہے۔ گروپ کا کام آج پہلے سے زیادہ اہمیت اختیار کر گیا ہے۔

گروپ 77 سربراہی

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-27/page-1/detail-32>

January 28, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Industrial zone under CPEC on cards, commissioner informs MCCI delegation

Commissioner Ashfaq Ahmad Chaudhry informed a delegation of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) led by its president Mian Rashid Iqbal that Multan highways would be linked with motorways as part of a plan to set up an industrial zone under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The MCCI president accompanied by SVP MCCI Nadeem Ahmad Sheikh, VP Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, former president and convener government liaison sub-committee Khawaja Muhammad Hussain and assistant secretary MCCI Sajid Ansari, had called on the commissioner at his committee room here Friday, MCCI spokesman said in a statement.

The industrialists and businessmen discussed issues relating to the city and the business activities with the commissioner and both sides decided to work together for the development of the area and resolve problems hindering the uplift process.

Mian Rashid Iqbal emphasized on the need for the earliest possible completion of development projects and requested that the information regarding the development initiatives and status of work be shared with the ace body of industrialists in south Punjab.

The commissioner said that business sector played a vital role in keeping the wheel of economy in motion and reiterated government's commitment to upgrade infrastructure and accelerate growth.

Ashfaq Chaudhry promised that the industrial zone would be set up soon under the CPEC and assured the delegation that the industrial estate fly-over and Nawabpur road upgradation would be fast-tracked. The commissioner said that development projects and Multan road plans would be shared with the media and on social media platforms soon.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/industrial-zone-under-cpec-on-cards-commissioner-informs-mcci-delegation/>

January 29, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Power Cement to use Thar Coal in cement manufacturing

Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Power Cement for the trial of Thar Coal in their cement manufacturing facilities.

Gwadar Pro quoting an official statement of SECMC, reported on Saturday that company's goal is to play a game-changing role in industries other than electricity generation and "proving Thar Coal is crucial for Pakistan at large".

“The initiative is integral in utilizing the richly available indigenous resources of Thar Coal by industries to lower reliance and dependence on expensive imported coal”.

SECMC has termed the initiative a “game-changing start” and has congratulated its entire team on this achievement.

Power Cement Limited of Arif Habib Group has been manufacturing, selling, and marketing cement since 1981.

SECMC is a joint venture between the Government of Sindh and Engro Energy Limited and its partners namely China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), Thal Limited, HBL, HUBCO, and SPI.

The current annual mining capacity of the Thar Block-II is 7.6 million tons and provides lignite quality coal to power producers in the country. The total reserves of block II are sufficient to support 5000MW of energy for 50 years.

<https://pakobserver.net/power-cement-to-use-thar-coal-in-cement-manufacturing/>

Chinese New Year celebrations related event held at Sargodha University

The University of Sargodha (UoS) and the Confucius Institute of the university jointly organised an event in connection with the Chinese new year celebrations, here on Saturday.

The Chinese new year is one of the most important event in the lives of the Chinese people as it takes place with the arrival of spring season and is also known as Spring Festival, a time for the reunion of families and friends with festive atmosphere.

In the Chinese lunar calendar, there are 12 years and each year is depicted by an animal like rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and boar. This year, starting from January 22, is the year of rabbit.

Director Confucius Institute Jane Chen, in his introductory remarks, said that the Chinese people practise the new year traditions since ancient times. She shared information about the traditions of Chinese new year celebrations. She said the Chinese people celebrate the new year with customs and traditions such as making couplets and decorating their houses, preparing special foods such as dumplings and fish which symbolise money and wealth, using firecrackers to celebrate, family and friends reunions and paying new year visits to the loved ones.

Miss Jessica, the Chinese language teacher, shared the information about the traditional event of paper-cutting. She also shared the motives behind this traditional event that Chinese people use paper-cutting as a way to express their feelings of joy and happiness.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-new-year-celebrations-related-event-held-at-sargodha-university/>

Chun Jie Chinese spring festival

Sultan M Hali

CHUN Jie Chinese Spring Festival is the time in China, when nearly all the Chinese nation head towards railway stations, airports or bus depots.

Most of them, who are away from their ancestral homes for education or jobs, return home to celebrate the festival with their parents and other loved ones in a befitting manner.

Spring festival commences with the Chinese Lunar New Year and marks the departure of the outgoing year and welcoming the New Year.

The history of this festival is over 4000 years and is the most important annual festival for the Chinese.

Festivities commence from the first day of the first month of the Chinese Lunar New Year and continue till the 15th.

According to traditions, preparations for celebrating the festival commence from the 23rd of the last month of the outgoing year.

Governmental organizations and offices observe a week's holiday, while educational institutions enjoy a month's vacation as Spring Festival holidays.

This traditional festival is the time to visit your parents and elders and enjoy the festivities with them just like in the West Christians rush home for Christmas or in the Muslim world, the faithful endeavour to go to their ancestral home for Eid holidays.

Since earlier, the majority population of China was pastoral and was engaged in agriculture, hence Spring Festival coincided with the harvesting period, which called for celebrations.

Spring festival is also known as Nian. According to folklore, during the rule of the Song Dynasty (17-11 Century BC), in the mountains, there lived a horrible demon creature named Nian.

Every year, on the first day of the year, the creature would awaken and descend upon the village.

He would eat all the grain and livestock. Thus, every New Year day, people would try to frighten Nian away with fireworks and red colour.

Traditionally, the Chinese decorate their homes and hearth with red, wear red dresses and use fireworks to frighten Nian away.

Every year, in the last week of the outgoing Chinese Lunar year, preparations for the Spring Festival commence.

Children and women prepare red dresses. Delicious food items are prepared. Homes are cleaned inside out, and doors and windows are decorated with red paper cut flowers, dragons and animals.

The Chinese are traditional people and remember their ancestors. Special prayers are held to bless the souls of the deceased after placing their pictures prominently.

All preparations are completed by the eve of the Chinese Lunar New Year, which is known as Choshi.

On New Year's Eve, the entire family sits down to enjoy the reunion dinner, for which preparations were being made for weeks.

Various traditional dishes and delicacies are offered. There are red envelopes for the children containing monetary gifts.

It is known as Hóngbào. Special dumplings are also prepared and served as part of the New Year's Eve dinner.

In some dumplings, coins are placed. Anyone who finds the coin is considered very lucky. The whole family waits for midnight, when the old year terminates, and the New Year begins.

People come out in the streets to enjoy the festivities. Fireworks light up the sky. While people rejoice at the commencement of the New Year, simultaneously, they recall the achievements and losses of the past year, including the loved ones who departed to the next world.

In modern China, especially in urban centres, most Chinese instead of cooking traditional Chinese cuisine at home, visit restaurants to celebrate the Spring Festival and enjoy New Year's Eve dinner.

People offer special prayers for the New Year. Numerous colorful festivities are organized on New Year's Day.

Flower exhibitions, traditional Chinese dances like the fan dance, dragon dance, and lion dance.

People visit friends and relatives to wish them on the New Year. Emails, Tweeter, SMS and We Chat messages have prevailed in the modern era.

Gong hei fat choy is the most common Chinese New Year greeting in Cantonese, which is spoken in parts of southern China and Hong Kong.

It directly translates to "wishing you great happiness and prosperity." In Mandarin, the same greeting is gong xi fa cai (pronounced gong she fa tsai).

Yuán Xiāo Jié: Lantern Festival is observed on the fifteenth night of the first month of the Chinese Lunar Year.

Closely connected with the Spring Festival, the Lantern Festival is the first grand celebration following it. The day is not a public holiday since the events related to the Lantern Festival are held at night.

It is also known as Yuán Xiāo which is a traditional Chinese dish. On the night of the Lantern Festival at the stroke of midnight, since it is the 15th night of the moon, there is moonlight everywhere.

The Chinese people light their lanterns and let them rise in the sky. Within minutes, the whole sky is lit up with gaily coloured lanterns of all shapes and sizes. People amass outside their homes in droves to enjoy this beautiful scene. The tradition of the Lantern Festival is also more than two thousand years' old.

On this night, the Chinese celebrate and participate in numerous activities. According to tradition, besides lighting lanterns and setting them free in the sky, there are fireworks,

people solve riddles, there are cultural events of song and dance and people partake of the delicacy of Yuán Xiào.

There are numerous folktales regarding the origin of the Lantern Festival. According to one legend, some hunters caught and killed an animal belonging to the Jade Emperor.

Upon being informed of the incident, the emperor got furious and ordered the whole town to which the hunters belonged, to be burnt to the ground.

The princess heard of this and wittingly devised a rescue plan. Unable to defy her father, she went to look for the army general in charge of the garrison in the town.

As the general also came from that town, he was grateful to be involved in the conspiracy. Together, they rounded up the villagers and told them to hang lanterns everywhere.

The general went back to the palace and told the emperor he had set the town on fire. The emperor saw the flickering lights swaying in the distance and was tricked into believing that the town was already on fire. The ploy had worked and till today, the Chinese honour the kind-hearted princess by hanging lanterns on this day every year. They also gather in gardens to admire lanterns and solve riddles associated with these handicrafts.

The brightest lanterns were also symbolic of good luck and hope. Wishing our Chinese friends a prosperous and healthy new year and spring festival.

—The writer is a Retired Group Captain of PAF, who has written several books on China.

<https://pakobserver.net/chun-jie-chinese-spring-festival-by-sultan-m-hali/>

The Express Tribune

Gwadar port is the future business hub of Pakistan, says Marri

Balochistan's coastal areas will soon receive 100MW of electricity from Iran

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar, where China is building a deep sea port, is the future business hub in Pakistan, according to Balochistan's former caretaker chief minister and prominent businessman Alauddin Marri.

During a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Marri said that the coastal areas of Balochistan, including Gwadar, Turbat and Makran, had yet not been connected with the national grid but soon 100 megawatts electricity would be supplied to those areas from Iran.

He pointed out that the strategic facilities of Gwadar were offering huge business opportunities to both local and foreign investors in many sectors which included different services, fisheries, petrochemical, tourism, trade logistics, oil storage, refining, transport equipment, shipbreaking, food, building material, home appliances, electronics and IT.

“It is a good opportunity for investors to move to Gwadar and take advantage of its economic potential,” Marri remarked and invited an ICCI delegation to visit the port city to explore business and investment opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari assured Marri that ICCI would take a delegation to Balochistan to meet with the chief minister, governor and Quetta corps commander to explore the business opportunities in Gwadar.

“The pace of all development works in Gwadar including the Special Economic Zone and other required infrastructure should be expedited so that business and investment activities could be kicked off,” he emphasised.

Balochistan was endowed with plenty of natural resources, so the government should provide all the required facilities to potential investors to help enhance investment, which would reduce poverty and unemployment as well as bring prosperity to the province, added Bakhtawari.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2398239/xi-to-inaugurate-gwadar-airport>

January 30, 2023

The Express Tribune

Pakistan as a solution to the Chinese demographic problem

Demographic changes in China offer Pakistan opportunities that would need well-informed and thought-out public policy

Pakistan borders two of the world’s most populous countries – India and China. Until a few weeks ago, China had more people than India but then the latter, with a higher rate of population growth, went past China and became the world’s largest country. Does it matter that Pakistan borders these two mega-population countries? I will argue in this article that the demographic changes in China offer Pakistan opportunities it could and should exploit but that would need well-informed and well-thought-out public policy. At this point to would be appropriate to go a bit into history.

Mao Zedong, the founding father of modern China and the country’s supreme leader for 27 years, was apprehensive that at the rate at which the country’s population was growing, China would not be able to feed itself. He had a strong belief in self-reliance. He did not want the country’s population to reach the point at which it will have to depend on imported food to provide enough nourishment to a growing population. In the last few years of Mao’s rule of China, the country’s population was growing at more than 20 million a year.

Under Mao’s stewardship, the country had been through two famines; the first in the late 1950s, a decade after the Communist Party of China had taken full control of the country. Mao was in a hurry to make China an important country on the global scene. He wanted to industrialise the country while remaining self-sufficient in food. The Mao approach resulted in the adoption of the policy the history knows as the ‘Great Leap Forward’. The idea was that the principle of self-reliance would apply not only to the entire country but to individual households as well. Families would produce within the confines of their homes and the small bits of land that had been left with them after collectivisation. The result of the policy was a plunge in food production that had the Chinese go through first of the two famines during the Mao era. Millions of people died of starvation.

Mao reacted to the crisis by adopting what came to be called the ‘one child policy’. No Chinese couple could have more than one child. Second pregnancies were aborted. Abortion became common and with the strong preference for male children, the Chinese aborted girls leaving the country with a highly skewed gender imbalance. In 2022, China had a sex ratio of 104.69 men to every 100 women. It reached a point where it began to import girls from neighbouring countries the Chinese men could marry.

The one child policy produced results Mao would have appreciated. On February 17, 2023, China’s Bureau of Statistics announced a decline of 850,000 people, bringing the total population to 1.4118 billion – the first such decline in 60 years. The birth rate reached its lowest level on record, 6.77 per 1,000 people down from 7.52 in 2021. The last time China’s population declined was in 1961, after three years of Mao’s disastrous ‘Great Leap Forward’ industrial policy. Although long predicted, the decline in population arrived sooner than expected. Leading Chinese scholars and the United Nations estimated as recently as 2019 that the downward trend would not begin until early in the 2030s. The decline in the rate of growth of population results in its ageing. This has serious economic consequences as experienced by Japan over the last couple of decades. Japan is now the oldest society in the world with 29% of the country’s population over 65. With a comparably contracting work force, China too could fall short of the ambition to become a global leader.

Even though experience has shown that state policies directed at changing population growth rates seldom produces the intended results, the Chinese cities are attempting to increase the rate of population growth. For instance, Shanghai last year gave mothers an additional 60 days of maternity leave on top of state-mandated time off; paternity leave was extended to 10 days. Shenzhen on January 17 became the latest Chinese city to give out almost \$1,500 for couples who had a third child. Beijing, in other words, has come a long distance when Mao, the Supreme Leader, attempted to drastically reduce the birth rate.

There is now an urgency being attached to bringing change in demographic trends as President Xi Jinping’s policy of ‘national rejuvenation’ depends on a large, growing and well-educated population. He has sought to tackle the long-term economic and social pressures from a shrinking, ageing society by lifting the limits on family size imposed by some of the country’s earlier leaders. He has taken steps to build a strong social safety network and announced a new phase of high-quality growth less dependent on legions of cheap, abundant migrant workers from the countryside. “The population issue is the most important issue for the future but is the one that is most easily neglected,” Ren Zeping, a former chief economist for the Evergrande Group, a massive housing developer, who has studied the looming demographic crunch, wrote in widely circulated comment after the population numbers were released on February 17.

One of the options available to China to address the worker-shortages it has begun to experience is to import people from the neighbouring countries, from a country such as Pakistan which has one of the youngest populations in the world. As is well known, China built its economy initially by exporting labour-intensive products to the West. However, rapid development has resulted in higher wages. Several Chinese enterprises have moved their operations to labour-surplus countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia.

Chinese enterprises have not come to Pakistan as they consider the general public is not welcoming. Some of the anti-China sentiment that has been created is the result of Indian endeavours where articles are written and sold to Pakistani authors who are prepared to publish them under their names.

However, the country is experiencing another kind of worker shortage. With its technological sector rapidly developing, China needs large number of well-educated and trained workers. With a concerted effort that is made by the government working with the private sector, Pakistan could produce the well-trained and educated work force the Chinese need. Japan with worker-shortages that are also the result of demographic change has begun to import Indian workers who have graduated from the well-known science and technology institutions the country has established over the last six decades. Pakistan could follow the Indian example.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2398329/pakistan-as-a-solution-to-the-chinese-demographic-problem>

K2 Daily



[Dailyk2 E-Paper | Issue=NP ICT&Date=2023-01-30](https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Date=2023-01-30)

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January 31, 2023

Daily Times

Revival of tourism in China a positive signal for Pakistan

“The opening of China’s tourism is a very positive sign for Pakistan. Pakistan has made extensive preparations to welcome Chinese visitors,” said Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, Gwadar Pro reported it on Monday. From January 8, 2023, China resumed outbound tourism after downgrading COVID-19 management measures from Class A to B.

According to the 2023 Spring Festival Travel Summary Report released by Ctrip, domestic and foreign travel orders of Chinese tourists increased by four times compared with the Spring Festival of last year. The popularity of Spring Festival tourism is only a start, and Chinese tourism market will see a remarkable recovery this year.

“International flights within the Asia-Pacific region will recover faster than intercontinental flights for other regions. We plan to gradually expand our international routes,” said Qin Ye, deputy general manager of Pudong Passenger Service Center of China Eastern Airlines.

“This year is the year of Pakistan-China Tourism Exchanges. We’re completely focused on this. Pakistan has everything it takes to become one of the world’s best travel destinations.

The government of Pakistan also identified tourism as a key priority,” said Ghulam Qadir, commercial counselor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China. He revealed that numerous tourism-related activities will be happening between the two neighbors in this year.

“Roadshows will be held with all of the cultural festivities, showcasing some of Pakistan’s tourist attractions. We want our Chinese brothers and sisters to experience Pakistani cuisine and fashion from our trendy brands in Pakistan.

We’ll come up with a complete guidebook to facilitate travel from China to Pakistan, and vice versa.” Ghulam added. “We’ve seen new highways, highways, and side roads from south to east to north, and improving the road network is critical for tourism promotion.” Aftab ur Rehman Rana said. He stressed the important role that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has played in transforming Pakistan’s tourism. “CPEC not only improved access to various business hubs and cities in Pakistan, but also facilitated access to various tourist sites. With improved accessibility, there will be a slew of new developments in the coming years, including the establishment of tourism zones, new hotels, and tourist resorts along the CPEC routes.”

Ghulam also noted that as CPEC enters its second phase of high-quality development, more partnerships, joint ventures, and travel are required. “CPEC is an excellent example of the two countries’ friendship. We are constructing highways that will connect Pakistan from north to south, down to Karachi and ports, and a railway project will be implemented very soon.”

“We have such a long, brotherly, wonderful relationship, and we must capitalize on it. I think with the revival after the Covid-19 pandemic, Chinese people must be looking forward to going out of their homes and traveling to Pakistan.” Ghulam added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1057419/revival-of-tourism-in-china-a-positive-signal-for-pakistan/>

New Chinese Year

Muhammad Asif Noor

The Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year, is a significant cultural event celebrated by Chinese communities worldwide. This 15-day celebration begins with the new moon and is characterized by fireworks; traditional cuisine; the wearing of red clothing; the giving of gifts to children, and the decorating of homes and streets with festive decorations. The New Year is an opportunity for families to come together, reunite, and honor their ancestors.

The Chinese President traditionally extends his greetings and best wishes to the Chinese people for a prosperous and successful year ahead. This year, the Chinese people will welcome the Year of the Rabbit, symbolizing agility and energy, as they participate in the various customs and traditions that make the Chinese New Year such a vibrant and meaningful occasion.

The international community also joins China in its New Year celebrations as the Secretary General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, extended his felicitations to Chinese people wishing energy and agility with reference to rabbits. He relates these much-needed traits for human personality to grow with Chinese efforts to become a normal country after Covid, where agility and energy become helpful in achieving arduous tasks. Other felicitations include the best wishes from heads of UNESCO, the International Olympic Committee, and the International Monetary Fund. The Prime Minister of Pakistan and various heads of numerous other states remember the Chinese people with their best wishes.

The unique element of New Year felicitations is the association of charm, luck, wholeness, and intra-relationship with traditional cuisine.

Chinese Lunar Year of Rabbit began with festivities believed to offer success, longevity, and prosperity. The lunar year marks the fortnight celebrations and one-week public holiday across China. The festivities begin with cleansing the houses with a belief of expelling bad omens and luck away and end with the lantern festivals, hanging them in temples, and carrying them in night parades. Dragon is yet another feature of Chinese celebrations which people carry along for good fortune in the streets.

Chinese New Year gets global attention because millions of people, including Chinese expats, return to their parents and families in China from all around the world. Chinese people with cultural consciousness coincide their visits to China with New Year celebrations, where a long week of public holidays adds value.

Moreover, around two billion travelers are expected inside China for the family reunion burdening the transport, health, and municipal infrastructure. Amid mass mobilization, President Xi expressed his concerns over the welfare of millions of people, especially the elders. He fears the fate of the elderly population, who may get exposed to the virus during family holidays and mass greetings.

President Xi Jinping's father-like concerns over the health of the elderly and farmers in rural areas are more critical because of relatively weak health facilities as he expects their extra care. President Xi interacted with representatives of the Chinese community from all walks of life and spoke his heart about Chinese culture, health, economy, and society who participated in the realization of the China Dream. He virtually addressed Chinese people working in health, home welfare, oil field workers, railway officials, travelers, vendors, and customers of the wholesale markets and ethnic minority groups in China at the Great Hall. It reflects the conscious effort of Chinese leadership to directly engage with the public to wish for the New Year and make them proud of being part of Chinese culture.

Chinese New Year is unique in several ways to any major culture around the world. The foremost is the one-fifth global representation where Chinese people collectively celebrate the lunar year in all corners of the world. The other distinct feature is the representation of the New Year with zodiac signs such as the Year of Tiger i.e., 2022 is ending, and the Year of Rabbit is set to commence, where each animal exhibits a different understanding among Chinese people. The unique element of New Year felicitations is the association of charm, luck, wholeness, and intra-relationship with traditional cuisine. This includes whole steam

fish as a sign of surplus, entire chicken as a sign of togetherness, dumplings reflecting more wealth, and Nian Gao reflecting a higher year.

The Rabbit year is the first full-swing celebration year after the global pandemic coronavirus and Chinese people could not be more excited. But being responsible citizens, they are expected to take due self-care by not exposing the elders to a larger audience, monitoring the health of all family members, and immediately reporting to a relative health center in case of a health emergency. To this end, Chinese health officials relaunched a campaign to vaccinate people in rural areas as a preemptive measure. Although China is performing well in pandemic management, Chinese society and health infrastructure remain stressed.

The writer is Founder (Friends of BRI Forum).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1057264/new-chinese-year/>

The Nation

Pakistan-China red chili project to help uplift Pakistan agriculture sector

BEIJING - A red chili farming project launched by Pakistan and China under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework would help Pakistan's agriculture sector, experts said. Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while the new phase expands to the fields of agriculture, livelihood, etc.

Echoing the CPEC's cooperation in agriculture, China Machinery Engineering Corporation and Sichuan Litong Food Group have established a company and carried out a red chili contract farming project in 2021, and one of six model farms of the project is in Multan. Muhammad Sajjad's nursery is among thousands of acres of model farms where the company teamed up with locals for contract farming of Chinese chili varieties, with an aim to export the crops back to China after harvest and earn foreign exchange revenue for Pakistan.

Talking to China's state-run Xinhua news agency, Muhammad Adnan, executive manager of the company, said that local farmers' interest in cultivating Chinese chili is increasing due to its better yield and strong resistance to diseases. "Local chili is highly vulnerable to diseases, and farmers are hesitant to grow it, but the Chinese varieties are robust, easy to pick, and are sold at a higher price directly to Chinese companies from the farms, without any involvement of middleman, making it highly popular among local farmers," he added. Adnan said that in the near future, primary and deep processing units for value-added services of the crop will also be established in Pakistan, adding more value and jobs for locals.

The most crucial time for the crop is in January as the seedling process is underway in tunnels and the plants are easily rotten because of disease or low temperatures. However, local agriculture technicians at the project are handling the sowing process on the advice of Chinese experts. In a conversation, Zhao Jianhua, a Chinese agronomist of the company with 27 years of experience in chili cultivation, said he has trained over 20 Pakistani agricultural technicians in the past years, who can help the farms independently. "We are not only bringing cultivation technology to local farmers but also working together with Pakistani

agronomists to promote the development of the chili industry by combining technology with the advantages of both Chinese and Pakistani chili varieties,” he added.

Muhammad Irfan Ahmad, assistant executive manager of the company said that many techniques like nurturing the plants inside the tunnel, modern ways of transplantation, and providing sufficient nutrients to the crops are some of the methods that local farmers did not adopt previously, as they relied on primitive methods of farming in the past.

“With the assistance of Chinese agronomists, we tell people how to plant chilies and how to take care of them in a scientific way,” he added. Ahmad said that the yield time of the chili is around June usually. Still, due to early monsoon patterns in Pakistan which started in June 2022, some of the plants got affected, so by applying new techniques, they will reap the chilies in May this year to avoid the monsoon season.

Muhammad Ejaz, a farmer who was preparing his land, located right next to the nursery, for transplantation in the coming days, said that their hopes are high regarding the project, and they believe it will bring socio-economic prosperity in the region. The best thing about this crop is that it takes only six months for yield, unlike local chili, which takes eight to 10 months, so by planting Chinese chili and following the experts’ guidance, we can now timely harvest the chili and sow another crop following that to earn more money,” Ejaz said while looking at the lush chili beds in the nursery. Local experts and farmers believe that the project has a bright future as more and more farmers are getting interested in it, and it will gradually expand to other parts of the country due to increasing demand from farmers.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-01-31/page-9/detail-0>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک نے پاکستانی سیاحت کو تبدیل کرنے میں بھی کردار ادا کیا: آفتاب الرحمان

لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان ٹورازم ڈویلپمنٹ کارپوریشن کے چیف ڈائریکٹر آفتاب الرحمان رانا نے کہا ہے کہ چینی باشندوں کی جانب سے سیاحت کا آغاز پاکستان کے لیے ایک بہت ہی مثبت علامت ہے، پاکستان نے چینی زائرین کے استقبال کے لیے وسیع پیمانے پر تیاریاں کی ہیں۔ ایک انٹرویو میں انہوں نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری نے پاکستان کی سیاحت کو تبدیل کرنے میں بھی کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ اس نے نہ صرف پاکستان کے مختلف کاروباری مراکز اور شہروں تک رسائی کو بہتر بنایا بلکہ مختلف سیاحتی مقامات تک رسائی کو بھی آسان بنایا۔ بہتر رسائی کے ساتھ آنے والے سالوں میں کئی نئی پیش رفتیں ہوں گی جن میں سی پی ای سی کے راستوں پر سیاحتی زونز، نئے ہوٹلز اور سیاحتی مقامات کا قیام شامل ہے۔ جیسا کہ سی پیک اپنے اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کے دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو رہا ہے اس کیلئے مزید شراکت داری، مشترکہ منصوبوں اور سفر کی ضرورت ہے۔ سی پیک دونوں ممالک کی دوستی کی بہترین مثال ہے، ہم ہائی ویز بنا رہے ہیں جو پاکستان کو شمال سے جنوب، نیچے کراچی اور بندرگاہوں سے جوڑے گی اور بہت جلد ایک ریلوے منصوبہ نافذ کیا جائے گا۔ ہمارا اتنا طویل، بردار اور شاندار رشتہ ہے، اور ہمیں اس سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ میرے خیال میں کرونا وباء کے بعد بحالی کے ساتھ چینی لوگ اپنے گھروں سے نکلنے اور پاکستان کا سفر کرنے کے منتظر ہوں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-01-31/page-6/detail-12>

Chinese Newspapers

January 18, 2023

People's Daily

CPEC unfolds substantial opportunities for Pakistan, says parliament speaker

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is linked with the long-lasting economic benefits and sustainable development for the people of Pakistan, Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said.

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 18 (Xinhua) -- Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said Tuesday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has unfolded substantial opportunities for Pakistan, promising a prosperous and peaceful future for the Pakistani people.

CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is linked with the long-lasting economic benefits and sustainable development for the people of Pakistan, the speaker said at the launching ceremony of Sustainable Development Report 2022 of the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association.

He said CPEC has played a significant role in promoting the in-depth development of the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and the high-quality development of the BRI, which has grabbed attention in Pakistan and around the world.

"It meets the people's aspirations, wins the people's hearts and benefits the people's livelihoods. With the joint efforts of the two governments, enterprises and all sectors of society, CPEC cooperation has achieved fruitful results and made great contributions to Pakistan's national construction and regional interconnections," Ashraf said.

The speaker emphasized that despite numerous obstacles, Pakistan has witnessed economic development in the region as projects under CPEC made major progress over the past few years.

"CPEC has shown strong resilience against the challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic ... The staff and workers of the two countries working on CPEC projects have worked dedicatedly hand-in-hand to overcome the difficulties and written a new moving story of Pakistan-China friendship," he said.

Ashraf believed that the high-quality development of CPEC would certainly provide significant opportunities for the development of Pakistan and countries along the BRI route, helping them implement the global goals for regional prosperity.

The speaker also reaffirmed the National Assembly of Pakistan and the parliamentarians' role and commitment to ensuring the smooth advancement of projects under the framework of CPEC.

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

Speaking on the same occasion, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Aisha Ghaus Pasha said that CPEC projects have unleashed opportunities for socio-economic development for the people of Pakistan.

"CPEC will supplement Pakistan's socio-economic development as the tremendous human capital of the region is its biggest asset. CPEC has resolved issues and helped Pakistan prosper," she added.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0118/c90000-10197593.html>

Xinhuanet News

Interview: Pakistan-China cooperation crucial for regional peace, prosperity, says Pakistani president

Pakistan and China enjoy a unique, close and mutually beneficial relationship, which is built on the strength of economic achievements and has been thriving with each passing day and year, said Pakistani President Arif Alvi.

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 18 (Xinhua) -- Enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is crucial for regional peace, development and prosperity, Pakistani President Arif Alvi has said.

The bilateral relationship is "a very different kind of relationship based on mutual trust and win-win cooperation rather than vested interest," he said here during a recent interview with Chinese media.

Pakistan and China enjoy a unique, close and mutually beneficial relationship, which is built on the strength of economic achievements and has been thriving with each passing day and year, said the president.

As the year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI, as well as the 10th year of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the BRI launched in 2013, Alvi said the initiative has been promoting socio-economic development in Pakistan and improving people's livelihood.

Highlighting the major achievements under CPEC over the past 10 years, the president noted that the construction of the economic corridor has promoted energy and transportation infrastructure critical for Pakistan's economic development, and helped develop Pakistan's Gwadar Port to boost trade and regional connectivity.

Noting that thousands of megawatts of electricity has been added to the national grid through various power projects including water, solar and coal, he said that as CPEC moved to the second phase of high-quality development, the Pakistani government is looking forward to

further enhancing cooperation with China in the fields of agriculture, science and technology, and poverty alleviation.

"Pakistan has a lot to learn from China's experience in development fields, and the second phase of CPEC is geared towards improving Pakistan's health and education sector, reducing poverty, and social development to make the country prosperous and flourishing," Alvi said.

Regarding China's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, he said, "China has played a vital role in preventing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic at home and abroad by sharing timely information, knowledge and data with the world besides cooperating with countries around the globe including Pakistan."

Being an iron-clad friend of Pakistan, China has assisted Pakistan and enhanced its COVID-19 response by supporting with vaccines and medical supplies, and sending teams of medical experts, he added.

Thanking China for its substantial assistance to Pakistan during the recent climate-induced catastrophic floods, the president said that among all aids the international community has offered to help handle the crisis, China's assistance has been the biggest.

On the challenging issue of climate change, Alvi said, "China has especially helped Pakistan and cooperated in the provision of solar energy to the country."

"Pakistan and China have long-lasting cooperation in this area," the president said, adding that a number of important initiatives proposed by China including the Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative have a global perspective and are of great significance to the international community in addressing climate change, pandemic prevention and control, and peaceful development.

As the Lunar Year of the Rabbit is approaching, Alvi, on behalf of the Pakistani people, extended his greetings and best wishes to the Chinese people. "Happy Chinese New Year, and a happy Year of the Rabbit!"

<https://english.news.cn/20230118/8b33173f332f40278cfd83c7330479da/c.html>

January 21, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Interview: Bilateral trade with China to reach new heights, says Pakistan's FM

By Martina Fuchs

DAVOS, Switzerland, Jan. 20 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's foreign affairs minister told Xinhua at the World Economic Forum (WEF) that the bilateral trade relationship with China is expected to flourish further, thanks to the win-win cooperation between both countries in the fight against climate change and investments in renewable energy.

Over the last 71 years, successive generations of leaders have nurtured bilateral ties between Pakistan and China, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said in an exclusive interview this week.

"Our relationship is based on mutual respect, trust and understanding. Both countries support each other on issues of core interest. Pakistan and China believe in promoting regional peace and stability and share a common dream of national development and prosperity," he said.

Pakistan-China relations have also grown thanks to new initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by China in 2013, the minister said.

THE FULL SPECTRUM

Zardari emphasized that Pakistan and China today have a multi-faceted partnership.

"We have robust strategic and defense cooperation. Our economic and trade relations are rapidly advancing, ... entering a new phase with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Our financial, investment and industrial sectors maintain close links," he said.

"China has become the top destination for Pakistan's students and there are strong links between our people nurtured by artists, academia, the scientific community and the media," he said.

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

With investments in the country's modern transportation networks including roads and railways, energy projects, ports and special economic zones, the CPEC has provided the opportunity for Pakistan to promote development and economic growth.

TRADE, INVESTMENT FOCUS

Regarding the bilateral trade outlook between China and Pakistan, Zardari said: "Economic relations are the centerpiece of the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership."

Trade relations with China have exceeded pre-pandemic levels, he added.

"China is among our top export markets and the largest source of foreign direct investment. Both our countries also have an extensive Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) that is contributing to our wide-ranging economic relationship."

Since 2013, the CPEC has added a new dimension to the two countries' multifaceted economic relations, especially in energy, infrastructure, trade and investment, the foreign minister said. This cooperation has expanded to include the areas of agriculture, socio-economic development, science and technology and IT, he added.

In the future, CPEC will not only provide opportunities for China and Pakistan, but also for third parties from around the world.

Zardari said he is also keen to expand cooperation with China on renewable energies and the fight against climate change.

"In renewables, Pakistan and China have undertaken a number of major solar, wind, and hydroelectric projects. We also welcome Chinese enterprises to join Pakistan's Solar Power

Initiative, which seeks to respond to human-induced climate change, notwithstanding Pakistan's own negligible contributions," he said.

The Annual WEF Meeting 2023 was held in Davos, Switzerland, from Jan. 16-20, under the theme of "Cooperation in a Fragmented World."

<https://english.news.cn/20230121/3f0c6429ec134a6690285ac5c303ef04/c.html>

January 23, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Chinese volunteers give warmth to Afghan refugee kids as winter descends in Pakistan

"We keep on coming to the refugee camp to help them with supplies used in education as we believe that education is the most powerful tool for them to improve their living condition and financially empower them in the future," Ma Bin of the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community told Xinhua.

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 23 (Xinhua) -- As winter descends in Islamabad, five-year-old Khaula living in a refugee camp in the Pakistani capital was haunted by the thoughts of going to school every morning in cold weather without any warm clothes until she got a set of warm clothes from Chinese volunteers.

Khaula and many kids of her age are living in a bad shape in the refugee camp in which their clay and stone-built houses are not enough to provide them warmth and protect them from the freezing cold.

Many kids, whose fathers are laborers in Islamabad's vegetable market, and whose mothers are housewives, have to miss school in winter due to illness in extremely cold weather.

Chinese volunteers were no less than a blessing for the kids shivering in temperatures slightly over 3 degrees Celcius, when they gave the woolen coats to them.

"We keep on coming to the refugee camp to help them with supplies used in education as we believe that education is the most powerful tool for them to improve their living condition and financially empower them in the future," Ma Bin of the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community told Xinhua.

He added that the warm clothes were donated by people from China for the students to make their lives easy so that they can focus on their studies.

Housed in the refugee camp where thousands of refugees are living, the four-room school is the only hope for a better future for the refugee kids who have seen extreme poverty since their birth.

Talking to Xinhua, Sahib Shah, headmaster of the school, said 220 students from grades one to five are studying in the school, and after completing their education here, they will join the Pakistani government-run schools for higher classes.

He said that the kids are from poor families, with some of them being even homeless so the timely help by the Chinese volunteers is a great help for the kids whose families are unable to provide them with warm clothes.

"It is a very commendable activity and we are so happy to receive help. They are very poor and the season is very cold," Shah said, adding that the Chinese volunteers consistently help the kids who eagerly wait for them.

"They help with clothes, food items, uniforms, stationeries, and other things. It shows that they feel the kids close to their heart and always try to help them for making their life easy," he added.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are over 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

<https://english.news.cn/20230123/bbdcc6c10c6f44fb8074e168d4e8f85e/c.html>

Across China: Spring Festival travel rush in the eyes of a Pakistani

LANZHOU, Jan. 23 (Xinhua) -- Having been living in China for over 10 years, Muhammad Faisal, a Pakistani, experienced the Spring Festival travel rush in quite a special way.

Wearing a railway uniform and holding a detector, Faisal conducted safety checks for travelers entering Tianshui South Railway Station. Some travelers looked at him in surprise when realizing that he was a foreigner, and he responded with a warm greeting in fluent Chinese.

"I feel lucky to participate in China's 'chunyun' in this way," he said. He works as a railway staff member -- doing safety checks, answering inquiries and organizing boarding and disembarking.

The 29-year-old comes from Islamabad, Pakistan. In 2012, he came to China to go to university. After graduation, he found a job in Tianshui City in northwest China's Gansu Province and decided to live there. He likes shooting short videos about his daily life in China and has gained many fans on his social media account.

As a fan of China's high-speed railway, he has traveled to many Chinese cities by high-speed railway. "I've been to Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an and some other cities. High-speed railway trains are fast and steady. The railway stations are very modern," he said.

Although he has spent a long time in China, Faisal previously barely had the chance to fully experience "chunyun." He described chunyun as "vigorous" and "well-organized."

The Spring Festival travel rush, also known as "chunyun," began on Jan. 7 and will last until Feb. 15 this year, during which many Chinese people will travel to reunite with their families for the Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on Jan. 22, 2023.

According to an official media conference, the number of passenger trips during this year's Spring Festival travel rush is expected to surge by 99.5 percent compared with the same period last year -- to reach nearly 2.1 billion.

Wang Qiang, deputy director with the passenger transport department of the China Railway Lanzhou Group Co., Ltd., said that a total of 11 measures aimed at ensuring efficient services were implemented during this year's Spring Festival travel rush, including environmental adaptation for the elderly, online catering booking, and a code scanning service providing more transport information.

Seeing people carrying bags and traveling to their homes, Faisal could not help thinking of his family. "I also miss my parents. Whenever I feel homesick, I treat myself with decent Pakistani food," he said, adding that he always purchases rice, spices and teas imported from his hometown.

The Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor have brought benefits to people like Faisal. Now, it is easy for him to buy products from all over the world.

In 2018, a rail and road cargo service opened between Lanzhou, capital of Gansu, and Islamabad in Pakistan, which was the second freight train service launched by Gansu to South Asia.

At the Tianshui South Railway Station, a convenience store displays various imported goods from countries such as Russia, Vietnam, Belgium, and Pakistan. "Many travelers buy imported products here and take them home as gifts for their families," said Zhang Ying, a salesperson.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230123/ab339c015ced43e6bd4f2d797dbdf6b6/c.html>

January 26, 2023

Global Times

Pakistan-China red chili project to help uplift Pakistan's agriculture sector

By Xinhua

On a fine January morning, Muhammad Sajjad was all smiles after seeing thriving saplings of the Chinese sweet chili at a nursery in a remote farming land of Pakistan's eastern city of Multan.

"These saplings are very close to my heart; in their blossom, I can see the future of Pakistan's agriculture industry, which will bloom just like my saplings when modern Chinese technology is applied to it," Sajjad spoke as the morning sun rose from the east behind him.

Launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to the fields of agriculture, livelihood, etc.

Echoing the CPEC's cooperation in agriculture, China Machinery Engineering Corporation and Sichuan Litong Food Group have established a company and carried out a red chili contract farming project in 2021, and one of six model farms of the project is in Multan.

Sajjad's nursery is among thousands of acres of model farms where the company teamed up with locals for contract farming of Chinese chili varieties, with an aim to export the crops back to China after harvest and earn foreign exchange revenue for Pakistan.

Talking to Xinhua, Muhammad Adnan, executive manager of the company, said that local farmers' interest in cultivating Chinese chili is increasing due to its better yield and strong resistance to diseases.

"Local chili is highly vulnerable to diseases, and farmers are hesitant to grow it, but the Chinese varieties are robust, easy to pick, and are sold at a higher price directly to Chinese companies from the farms, without any involvement of middleman, making it highly popular among local farmers," he added.

Adnan said that in the near future, primary and deep processing units for value-added services of the crop will also be established in Pakistan, adding more value and jobs for locals.

The most crucial time for the crop is in January as the seedling process is underway in tunnels and the plants are easily rotten because of disease or low temperature.

However, local agriculture technicians at the project are handling the sowing process on the advice of Chinese experts.

In a conversation with Xinhua, Zhao Jianhua, a Chinese agronomist of the company with 27 years of experience in chili cultivation, said he has trained over 20 Pakistani agricultural technicians in the past years, who can help the farms independently.

"We are not only bringing cultivation technology to local farmers, but also working together with Pakistani agronomists to promote the development of the chili industry by combining technology with the advantages of both Chinese and Pakistani chili varieties," he added.

Muhammad Irfan Ahmad, assistant executive manager of the company, told Xinhua that many techniques like nurturing the plants inside the tunnel, modern ways of transplantation, and providing sufficient nutrients to the crops are some of the methods that local farmers did not adopt previously, as they relied on primitive methods of farming in the past.

"With the assistance of Chinese agronomists, we tell people how to plant chilies and how to take care of them in a scientific way," he added.

Ahmad said that the yield time of the chili is around June usually. Still, due to early monsoon patterns in Pakistan which started in June 2022, some of the plants got affected, so by applying new techniques, they will reap the chilies in May this year to avoid the monsoon season.

In a conversation with Xinhua, Muhammad Ejaz, a farmer who was preparing his land, located right next to the nursery, for transplantation in the coming days, said that their hopes are high regarding the project, and they believe it will bring socio-economic prosperity in the region.

"The best thing about this crop is that it takes only six months for yield, unlike local chili, which takes eight to 10 months, so by planting Chinese chili and following the experts'

guidance, we can now timely harvest the chili and sow another crop following that to earn more money," Ejaz said while looking at the lush chili beds in the nursery.

Local experts and farmers believe that the project has a bright future as more and more farmers are getting interested in it, and it will gradually expand to other parts of the country due to increasing demand from farmers.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1284250.shtml>

January 28, 2023

Global Times

China-imported coaches to help increase revenue of Pakistan Railways: PM

By Xinhua

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said on Friday that the newly imported train coaches from China will help Pakistan Railways to attract passengers and increase revenue.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the formal induction of the China-imported coaches in railways, Sharif said that the Chinese company has provided coaches to Pakistan with new features including WiFi and modern chairs among others.

The coaches will run as Green Line Express train from the capital city of Islamabad to the country's southern port city of Karachi, passing through major cities across Punjab and Sindh provinces.

Friday's inaugurated train consisted of nine coaches, including six new coaches imported from China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) Tangshan Company in late 2022 and three recently refurbished units that were imported from China in 2015.

Sharif said that the inclusion of Chinese coaches in the Green Line service will enhance the image of Pakistan railways and attract commuters.

Speaking at the event, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said that the Green Line Express service was halted due to floods in the country, which incurred heavy losses to railways and affected many tracks.

"Pakistan has resumed the service with the help of Chinese friends, and the service has been restored across the country now," he added.

Rafique said that from the contract to acquire 230 coaches from China, Pakistan has received 46 coaches and the remaining will be manufactured in Pakistan under a technology transfer agreement.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202301/1284329.shtml>

January 29, 2023

People's Daily

Gwadar to act as business hub of Pakistan: traders

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 28 (Xinhua) -- Traders from Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province have said the coastal city of Gwadar will act as a business hub of Pakistan under the project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, an official statement said.

In a meeting with the officials of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) here, the delegation of the traders said that it is the right time for potential investors to consider investing in Gwadar, according to the statement.

Speaking with the ICCI president Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Alauddin Marri, former caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan and a prominent businessman from Balochistan, said that the business opportunities in Gwadar will increase following the inauguration of Gwadar's airport.

Marri said that local and foreign investors should invest in industries including fisheries, petrochemical, tourism, trade logistics, processing and manufacturing industries.

Speaking at the occasion, Bakhtawari said that an ICCI delegation would soon visit Gwadar to see investment prospects and explore business opportunities in Gwadar.

He noted that Gwadar being the business hub of the country will reduce poverty and unemployment, and bring prosperity to the province.

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