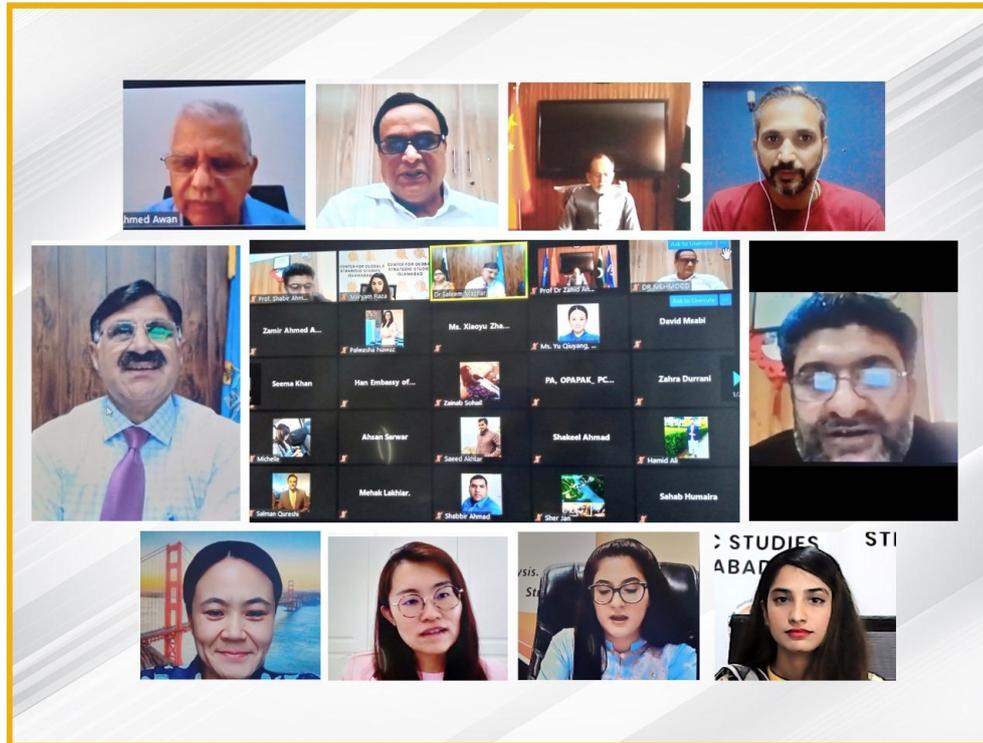




Online International Conference Report

“PAKISTAN-CHINA ALL-WEATHERS FRIENDS: 70 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL PARTNERSHIP”



Organized by
Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared
Future, Communication University of China, Beijing, China on
27th May, 2021



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CONCEPT NOTE

Pakistan and China established their diplomatic relations on 21 May 1951. However, the attachment of true friendship date back to centuries-old trade relations, when Chinese traders travel through the sub-continent for business trips to Europe, Middle East, and the world's other parts via the ancient Silk Route. Both countries are enjoying strong cordial ties since the commencement of diplomatic relations. The relationship bloomed into an 'all-weather cooperative partnership' with many projects of inclusive economic development.

Pakistan considers China one of the closest partners, and China termed the relationship with Pakistan as Iron Brothers. Both countries have shared weal and woe, established an all-weather friendship and carried out all-round cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Both nations adhere to certain fundamental principles to sustainably maintain their relationship. For instance, equality, sovereignty, mutual trust, respect, win-win cooperation to collectively pursue progress and inclusive development, decision-making based on joint consensus, and close cooperation-coordination in major international and regional issues, ensuring the collective interests. Therefore, an effort has been made through this international conference to laud and recall the journey of seventy years of dynamic friendship between Pakistan and China. Moreover, to build blocks for a shared forward-looking spirit for more cooperative patterns and countering common menaces together.



BRIEF OF THE CONFERENCE

On 27th May 2021, an Online International Conference on PAKISTAN-CHINA ALL-WEATHERS FRIENDS: 70 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL PARTNERSHIP was organized by Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China, Beijing, China. The aim of the Conference is to highlight the significant contours of exceptional partnership between China and Pakistan. Both countries are all-weather friends and cooperating with each other in almost every domain for the past seventy years. Therefore, this conference aims at integrating experts and scholars to discuss the dynamics of this significant partnership and analyze the existing potential with an integrated holistic approach by both countries. The conference was attended by expert analysts from Pakistan and China.

The session was moderated by Ms. Maryam Raza, Deputy Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future.

SPEAKERS & SPEECH TOPICS

1. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan**
Topic of Speech: Multilateral Civilizational Patterns, Cultural Integration and People-to-people contacts under China-Pakistan Strong partnership



2. **Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmed Khan, Director, Area Study Center (Russia, China, & Central Asia), University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan Lahore**
Topic of Speech: A Journey of Historical Friendship: China Pakistan Iron Brothers



3. **Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan, Member Board of Experts CGSS & Regional Geopolitical Analyst, Pakistan**
Topic of Speech: Significant Contours of Inclusive Economic Partnership between China and Pakistan under CPEC



4. **Professor Zamir Awan, Deputy Director (R&D), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan**
Topic of Speech: The Changing Dynamics of the regional socio-political discourse and New Developments in China-Pakistan Relations



5. **Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan**
Topic of Speech: Pak-China All-Weather Strategic Partners: Benefits of 70 years of Diplomatic Relations



6. **Mr. Shakeel Ramay, Advisor, Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, Consultant SDPI & Member Board of Advisors, CGSS, Islamabad, Pakistan**
Topic of Speech: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Role of China-Pakistan at International Platforms



7. **Dr. Yu Qiuyang, Leading Expert, Pakistan Research Center of School of International Studies, Communication University of China, Beijing, China**

Topic of Speech: Collaboration in China-Pakistan Film Industry: Bright Potential to Elevate People-to-people Communication & Understanding



8. **Lecturer Zhang Xiaoyu, Leading Expert, Pakistan Research Center of School of International Studies, Communication University of China, Beijing, China**

Topic of Speech: Progressive Grounds for Enhanced Academic Networks under the concept of building a community with shared Future for mankind





Introduction:

The Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) organized the online international conference on 'Pakistan-China All-Weathers Friends: 70 years of Exceptional Partnership' on 27 May 2021. The conference brought together a distinguished panel of veteran subject experts, leading academicians, and international scholars to discuss the significant contours of Pakistan-China significant partnership. Both countries are all-weather friends and cooperating in almost every domain for the past seventy years. Therefore, this conference integrated national and international experts to analyze the existing potential with an integrated, holistic approach by both states. The report represents a detailed analysis of the collective views and speeches of the panelists presented during the online international conference. The conference focused on the contemporary dynamics of the bilateral relationship between China and Pakistan. The experts identified a wide range of core areas where China and Pakistan are cooperating under the changing dynamics of the world. The valuable speakers highlighted the pivotal role of both countries in socio-economic and political development of the region and beyond with new developments. The scholars explored the prospect for mutual benefits to achieve collective foreign policy objectives and potential means to enhance academic cooperation. The discussion has built future foundation for a shared forward-looking spirit for more cooperative patterns to counter common menaces together.

A Brief Prelude of a Journey of Historical Friendship between China-Pakistan Iron Brothers

Pakistan and China established their diplomatic relations on 21 May 1951. However, the attachment of true friendship date back to centuries-old trade relations, when Chinese traders travel through the sub-continent for business trips to Europe, the Middle East, and the world's other parts via the ancient Silk Route. Both countries are enjoying strong cordial ties since the commencement of diplomatic relations. The relationship bloomed into an 'all-weather cooperative partnership' with many projects of inclusive economic development. Pakistan considers China one of the closest partners, and China termed the relationship with Pakistan as Iron Brothers. Both countries have shared weal and woe, established an all-weather friendship and carried out all-round cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Both nations adhere to certain fundamental



principles to sustainably maintain their relationship including, equality, sovereignty, mutual trust, respect, win-win cooperation to collectively pursue progress and inclusive development. China and Pakistan's decision-making is based on joint consensus, and close cooperation-coordination in major international and regional issues, ensuring the collective interests.

China is integrating and engaging all countries through its grand visions of cooperation and inclusive economic development. China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), its mega flagship project China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and many other potential projects are the clear manifestation of President Xi Jinping's integrating visions. These initiatives of grand alignments always acquired full support from Pakistan. Pakistan has remained one of the best allies of China in every leap and bound. China and Pakistan contribute to regional peace and security through the narratives of significant alignments. In this regard, Beijing's exceptional ideas such as 'Dialogue of Civilizations' and 'Building a Community with Shared Future' result in achieving mutual benefits and prosperity. Therefore, Pakistan is also working closely with China to establish an integrated framework of cooperation and grand regional alignments to find solutions for the common challenges. Marking the 70th anniversary of a highly prosperous relationship between China and Pakistan is unprecedented. Colossal efforts, cooperation in many areas and assisting each other in all leaps and bounds have paved the way for future cooperation and profound diplomatic ties.

China has provided significant assistance to Pakistan in developing nuclear and missile technology within the ambit of Missile Technology Control Regime. China should rest assured that Pakistan will not become part of any western propaganda against China for its containment. Moreover, the iron brothers are playing an important role in the regional integration and development process, particularly in the Afghan peace process.

Significant Contours of Inclusive Economic Partnership between China and under CPEC

The diplomatic relationship between Pakistan and China have forged an all-weather friendship and enhanced cooperation in every domain. A clear manifestation of the exceptional partnership is the commencement China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). From Karakorum Highway to CPEC, both countries left no stone unturned to



cooperate with each other and maintain great friendly ties. CPEC has become an icon of successful commercial diplomacy, durable economic partnership, effective tool of energy generation, means of new jobs creation and industrialization in the country. As an important flagship project One Belt One Road Initiative, the CPEC has been bearing fruit. Therefore, a new inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), joint venture formation of special Economic zone, immense infrastructural development, road-super highways, agricultural development, science & technology and educational cooperation have been further enhanced after the operationalization of the CPEC. In 2020, phase two of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement was started. It has allowed Pakistani manufactures, business people, and traders to export around 313 new products to the Chinese market with zero duties. Moreover, CPEC provides China with a great opportunity to access the Middle Eastern and European market through Pakistan's Gwadar port.

Furthermore, the energy generation through CPEC projects has paved the way for the boom of Pakistan micro economy and social activities. It has enabled the country to embark on the path of clean and green development. Many CPEC projects have been completed as it has been entered into its second phase. The corridor has brought \$25.4 billion in Foreign Direct Investment to Pakistan and created more than 75,000 new jobs for the population. It is also substantial to point out that the CPEC has entered into a new stage of high-quality development, focusing more on industrial agriculture and socio-economic cooperation. The government of Pakistan plans to develop nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the country to promote massive industrialization. In this regard, the Rashakai Special Economic Free Zone in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), pushing forward its construction, inviting businessmen and investor by establishing its first factory. The game-changer project CPEC has attracted many other regional states like Iran and Central Asian Republics (CARs), showing profound interests to align with this corridor. BRI and CPEC enhance people-to-people connectivity and enabled to integrate on progressive grounds for joint ventures for better social, economic, and cultural understandings.

Joint collaboration in the film industry can elevate people-to-people understandings and communications between Beijing and Islamabad, which has already been consolidated by joint projects under CPEC. In November 2020, the first Pakistani



movie was released in China mainland after more than three decades. This has achieved the landmark in the history of collaboration between two countries film industry. China is the world's leading economy and has strong film industry sector. Therefore, it could be a huge potential market for Pakistani films and the entertainment industry. Undoubtedly, these exposure for Pakistani movies would open doors for future collaboration and foster cultural integration in this domain. Therefore, such constructive collaboration in different fields will galvanize China and Pakistan march towards a shared and prosperous future.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): Role of China-Pakistan at International Platforms

The advanced mechanism in international relations has been going through a profound transformation and evolutionary development. New regionalism or regionalization has emerged as a significant trend in international affairs. Now, countries have deepened cooperation among other states and regions. On the other side, technological transformation in various areas, i.e., transport, communication, information sharing and inclusive economic development projects, contributes to establishing a cohesive global community of states countering common global issues. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a great hybrid model of extensive partnership and regionalism. Regional integration via SCO would pave the way for supranational regulatory systems and a flexible model of future alignments. The SCO sets its ultimate goal for the prosperity of its people. Its structure was originally conceived with three fundamental pillars, a) Regional security and stability, b) Trade and economic activities, c) Establishing humanitarian and cultural ties.

China and Pakistan are the permanent members of the SCO. China has been strengthening the global structure through its projects of economic development and integration. The organization (SCO) has manifested that the member countries have gained numerous economic advantages, enhanced production capacity, technological competencies and financial potential. Thereby, these mutually complementary aspects establish an integrated platform for extended trade and economic cooperation for China and Pakistan. There are many other organizations such as G20 or G7 that are promoting common goals of economic development. SCO holds great potential as it gave a new dimension to the enhanced partnership among countries and the international system. In the multipolar



world order, the effectiveness and prestige of any international or regional institutions have been measured by the pragmatic approach or steps that bring tangible results in one sphere or another. In this regard, SCO has been implementing its projects in multiple fields and has extended cooperation in many diverse domains, i.e., agriculture, Information Technology (IT), Tourism etc.

Prospects for Cooperation/Recommendations

Following recommendations and prospects to foster integration between China and Pakistan emanated from the expert deliberations during the online international conference.

- Academic and intellectual collaboration would strengthen the 70 years of the exceptional partnership between China and Pakistan. In this aspect, cultural exchange programs, teacher-students exchange programs, scholarships, and the execution of smooth scholarly interactions should be facilitated.
- A united approach towards academic collaboration is the key to develop regional connectivity. Therefore, the significant role of academia cannot be ignored. Therefore, Pakistan's multiple academic channels, especially, University of the Punjab is putting much efforts into the academic domain. In this aspect, two significant organizations have been established to strengthen existing diplomatic ties. One is "Confucius Institute". The second is the "Institute of Languages and Linguistics".
- The Urdu literature and teaching centers in China should be facilitated by research or academic networks. Language teaching and conducting joint academic researches would benefit China and Pakistan for smooth cultural exchanges and learnings.
- The trade-energy transit corridors provide great opportunities for the countries to increase socio-economic development. In this regard, the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline can also become the Iran-Pakistan-China pipeline, diverting it parallel to the proposed pipelines from Gwadar. Thus, making Pakistan an energy transit corridor between both neighboring states.
- The visa regime should be further relaxed for smooth traveling and exchanges between Pakistan and China. It will enhance academic, media, culture and scholarly exchanges. The broader alignment will lead towards increased people-



to-people contacts, business partnership and connect the future economic and strategic goals of both countries.

- The essence of diplomacy is the dialogue process. The integrated regional platform such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) must enhance its sphere of the dialogue process.
- The SCO should enhance its economic linkages outside the ambit of the SCO platform with other countries as well. In this aspect, China and Pakistan should extensively work to integrate more nations. Moreover, BRI and CPEC could also help to develop good economic linkages with other countries.