



Online International Conference Report
"China's Efforts to Combat COVID-19 and Humanitarian Aid to the World"



Organized by
Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad
23rd April 2020

BRIEF OF THE EVENT

On Thursday, 23rd April 2020, the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized an Online International Conference on the topic “**China’s Efforts to Combat COVID-19 and Humanitarian Aid to the World**”. Keeping in view the current situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan and around the world, CGSS organized an online international conference to share China’s experience in dealing with the spread of the coronavirus and becoming the first country to control it.

CGSS, through the Online Conference, provided a platform to update the experts from Pakistan regarding the effective measures adopted by China to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

The session was attended by twenty-five participants, out of which four were panelists. The conference was moderated by Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director CGSS. The panelists included:

- Ms. Pang Chunxue, Deputy Head of the Mission, Embassy of China, Islamabad
- Mr. Mudassir Tipu, Director General, China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan
- Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah, Executive Director, CPEC Center of Excellence, Government of Pakistan
- Ms. Wang Qianting, Senior Correspondent, China Media Group, Beijing, China

Opening Remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M) (Retd), President CGSS



The Online International Conference was commenced by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery (Retd). Major General Jaffery (Retd), in his opening remarks, extended gratitude to all the participants for taking out time to address the important issue of impacts of COVID-19 on the CPEC project in Pakistan. Furthermore, he acknowledged the continuous support provided by the Chinese government to Pakistan during this health emergency.

Major General Jaffery (Retd), explaining the purpose of the respective online international conference, mentioned that it is organized to update the experts from Pakistan regarding the measures taken by the Chinese government to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Moreover, Major General Jaffery (Retd) highlighted the opportunity that has emerged, during this difficult time, for the Chinese government. He stated that the Chinese government now has an opportunity to win the hearts of the people of Balochistan by providing them the medical assistance they need at this time to control the spread of coronavirus.

Ms. Pan Chunxue, Deputy Head of the Mission, Embassy of China, Islamabad



Ms. Pang Chunxue, at the start of the discussion, stated that human history is full of events where mankind had to fight against the unknown infectious diseases and disasters. Every time, humankind dealt with a disease or a disaster, it emerged stronger and more resilient than ever.

Ms. Chunxue, elaborated on the measures taken by the Chinese government, mentioned that the Communist Party under the leadership of President Xi Jinping has brought together various ethnic groups of China to launch a people's war against the coronavirus. She further stated that with a strong sense of responsibility towards the Chinese public and the world in general, the Communist Party under President Xi Jinping has tirelessly been working for the well-being of its people. It is because of the massive efforts and enormous sacrifices that the Chinese government has been able to control the domestic spread of the coronavirus. Furthermore, she acknowledged the support received by China from the international community.

Ms. Pang also informed the panelists about the active role played by China to safeguard the International Public Health Security. According to Ms. Pang, a transparent national system has been set up by the Chinese government to control the outbreak of the coronavirus in the shortest possible time. Furthermore, outbound travel has been suspended by the government. To further curb the spread of the virus, strict measures have been taken by the government to ensure the detection, reporting, quarantine, and treatment at the early stage.

Moreover, Ms. Pang mentioned that due to the tireless efforts of the Chinese government, China has become one of the first countries to contain the coronavirus. Hence, the travel bans in the Hubei province and Wuhan city have now been lifted. In addition to controlling the spread of the coronavirus, the

Chinese government has continuously been trying to restore the national economy. As a result, 98.6% of the big industrial plants have now resumed production and 89.9% of the employees are now back to work. This has led to the recovery of the Purchasing Manager's Index by 16.3% in March. Ms. Pang believed that the early opening of China's national economy will ease the strain on the medical supplies. It will also help in restoring the global economy.

Ms. Pang further informed the participants regarding the close collaboration between WHO and China in this difficult time. Being the first country to get affected by the virus, China informed the world about the corona spread at the earliest possible time. Also, after identifying the genome of the sequence of the virus, China did not delay in sharing the information with the rest of the world. During the COVID-19 pandemic, China has served as a defense line for the world. To further provide the required assistance to the other countries, an online knowledge center has been established by China which is accessible to all countries. Additionally, editions of diagnostics and therapeutic protocols and 6 containment plans have been published by China.

A few of the other notable efforts made by China to help the world combat coronavirus include the assistance of \$20 million to WHO, 83 video conference of Chinese medical experts with their counterparts from 153 countries, and sending of 14 medical teams to 12 different countries including Pakistan. The Chinese government along with its non-governmental actors are sending medical supplies to various countries in need right now.

Ms. Pan highlighted the need for a unified response to this mutual threat. She further added that China is eager to set up joint response mechanisms with other countries, set up information sharing, and develop cooperation in research and development of medicines and vaccines which will eventually lead to a joint stronger defense against COVID-19.

Solidarity and Cooperation, according to Ms. Pang, are the two most important weapons that are required at this time to fight the enemy that respects no border.

Additionally, Ms. Pang mentioned that cooperation at the macro-level (policies) is necessary to counter the downward pressure on the world economy. The coronavirus has taken its toll on every aspect of global production which is why China plans to work on both, the epidemic control and the socio-economic development. At the global level, China aims to promote coordination in the formulation of macroeconomic policies. Also, China encourages other countries to focus on the Post-COVID19 era and take necessary measures to keep the global demand and supply chain stable.

Another fundamental aspect that was highlighted by Ms. Pang was the importance of multilateralism and the improvement of global governance on public health. China is determined to provide continuous support to the WHO. In combination with this, China aims to stay in contact with the other G-20 countries to support cooperation on anti-epidemic assistance. China has also taken the required steps to boost cooperation under the Belt and Road initiative.

Lastly, Ms. Pang acknowledged the support provided by the Pakistan government and the general public. She stated that China and Pakistan are iron brothers with a history of supporting each other in the hour of need. She appreciated the letters written by President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan to the Chinese leadership extending their support and expressing their confidence that China will soon be able to overcome this pandemic.

She further added that China remembers the assistance provided by Pakistan and wishes to reciprocate it. Hence, China has provided millions of masks, PPE, test kits, and ventilators. Furthermore, China has provided \$4 million to the Pakistan government for the construction of a hospital for coronavirus patients. They have also sent a team of medical experts to Pakistan to share their experience and expertise with the Pakistani doctors and nurses to help them fight coronavirus more efficiently.

Mr. Mudassir Tipu, Director General, China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Mr. Mudassir Tipu praised China's remarkable efforts in containing the COVID-19. He mentioned that despite being a densely populated country i.e. 1.4 billion people, the number of deaths in the country has been low which indicates the effectiveness of the strategies adopted by the Chinese government.

Mr. Tipu further informed the participants about the praised received by China from the rest of the world and the WHO for combating the virus efficiently. According to Mr. Tipu, the world in general and Pakistan, in particular, can take lessons from China's efficient management of the health crisis.

Furthermore, he added that a team of Chinese experts was recently in Pakistan. They visited all four provinces of Pakistan. The Chinese team helped the Pakistani medical experts in the capacity building to accurately deal with the spread of the virus.

Informing about the support provided by the Chinese government, Mr. Tipu added that medical assistance in terms of PPEs, test kits, ventilators, and N95 masks is also being provided to Pakistan by China regularly.

Mr. Mudassir also lauded the Pakistan government for reciprocating the help and support shown by the Chinese leadership. President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi visited China in a critical situation of coronavirus and met with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China. This was an expression of solidarity by the Pakistan government. Both the presidents had a long extensive discussion regarding the deepening of the cooperation not only during the pandemic but also in other areas of mutual interest such as CPEC.

Additionally, he educated about the increase in the flow of traffic between the two neighbors during the last few years. Only last year, around a hundred thousand Chinese visas have been given to Pakistani individuals. Furthermore, around 28,000 Pakistani students are studying in China.

Commenting on the all-weather China-Pakistan friendship, Mr.Tipu said that a great gesture of solidarity was shown by China when a Chinese Pharmaceutical company offered to undertake the clinical trials of the coronavirus vaccine in Pakistan.

In the end, Mr. Tipu extended his gratitude to the Chinese government and especially the Chinese people for the continuous show of support and love especially during this critical time.



**Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah, Executive Director, CPEC Center of Excellence,
Government of Pakistan**



Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah started his briefing by acknowledging the Center for Global and Strategic Studies' (CGSS) effort of organizing the respective online conference to address the important issue of how the CPEC project is being affected by the COVID-19.

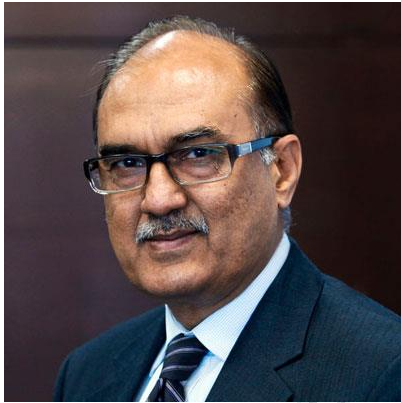
Before explaining the impacts of COVID-19 on the progress of the CPEC project, Dr. Liaqat shared a few of the lessons that Pakistan can learn from China. These

included:

- The timely and accurate detection, reporting, and quarantine of the infected individuals.
- Capacity building in the shortest possible time. The Wuhan hospital for the corona patients was constructed in 10-12 days.
- The impressive strategies adopted by the Chinese leadership. They include the complete lockdown of the Wuhan city and other areas, disinfecting Wuhan city (twice a day), providing basic items such as food, etc to the general public, and taking strict measures to keep the infected separate from the general public.
- Lastly, Self Discipline of the general public. The Chinese public adopted responsible behavior and followed by the instructions provided by the medical experts and their leadership.

Coming to the impacts of the COVID-19 on the CPEC project, Dr. Liaqat mentioned that no substantial impact of COVID-19 has been experienced by the CPEC project. Though slight inconveniences are being experienced, they can easily be tackled. When the Chinese individuals working on the CPEC project traveled back to China on New Year, they could not come back to Pakistan due to the travel ban. Hence, the data was shared by the Chinese employees with the Pakistan embassy in China.

Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi (Retd), Former Federal Minister of Defense and Senior Member Advisory Board CGSS



Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi (Retd) highly appreciated the efforts of Chinese leadership in combating the coronavirus spread. He appreciated the commendable support rendered by the Chinese government to the world.

Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi (Retd) further added that Pakistan and especially its people are grateful for the continuous support and assistance provided by the Chinese government and the public.

Moreover, he mentioned that Pakistan plans to reciprocate the support shown by China and denounces finger-pointing at China by the west.

Lastly, Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi added he hoped to see Pakistan-China friendship emerge stronger in the post-COVID-19 world.

Ms. Wang Qianting, Senior Correspondent, China Media Group, Beijing, China



Ms. Wang Qianting explaining the situation in Beijing mentioned that since China has successfully been able to control the spread of the coronavirus, everything is back to normal now. The public has resumed its daily work. She further added that the situation in most of China including the Hubei province is under control.

Ms. Wang further mentioned that educational institutes for the students who are preparing for their college admission have opened. The students attending schools are being monitored. Before entering the schools, their temperature is tested. They are required to wash their hands

often. They are also asked to maintain distance while in classes or when having lunch together.

Even though life in most of China is back to normal but the general public is still requested to take all the precautionary measures since coronavirus is not entirely eradicated from the rest of the world. People are asked to wear masks when they are outdoors or traveling. The doctors in hospitals still wear protective suits.

Stressing on the importance of resuming the economic activities, Ms. Wang mentioned employment is necessary for everyone which is why 985 of the Chinese companies have resumed their production.

Ms. Wang highlighted another important step taken by the Chinese government to cater to the general public. Coupons are provided to the public through an app that can be used to buy food and other necessary items.

Appreciating the active role played by the Chinese media, Ms. Wang mentioned that teams of reporters were sent to Wuhan city when the coronavirus cases were being reported. The media covered the stories of the infected individuals and shared their experiences with the rest of the country. The media played its due role in educating the masses regarding the seriousness of the situation which eventually helped in combating the virus.

Ms. Wang said that coronavirus is dangerous and highly contagious and so, the Chinese government imposed the complete lockdown in the country. Talking about the Pakistan government, Ms. Wang added that different countries have different situations and the government decides what is best for its country and the public.

**Concluding Remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M)
(Retd), President CGSS**

Concluding the session, Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery (Retd) stated that recommendation has been made to the government of Pakistan by the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) to impose a partial lockdown in the country and educate the public regarding the gravity of the situation. Furthermore, he added that the complete lockdown, at this point, is not possible due to the harvesting season.

Lastly, Major General Jaffery (Retd) stressed the importance of the responsible behavior of the public. The government is playing its due role but the general public is being unresponsive.

