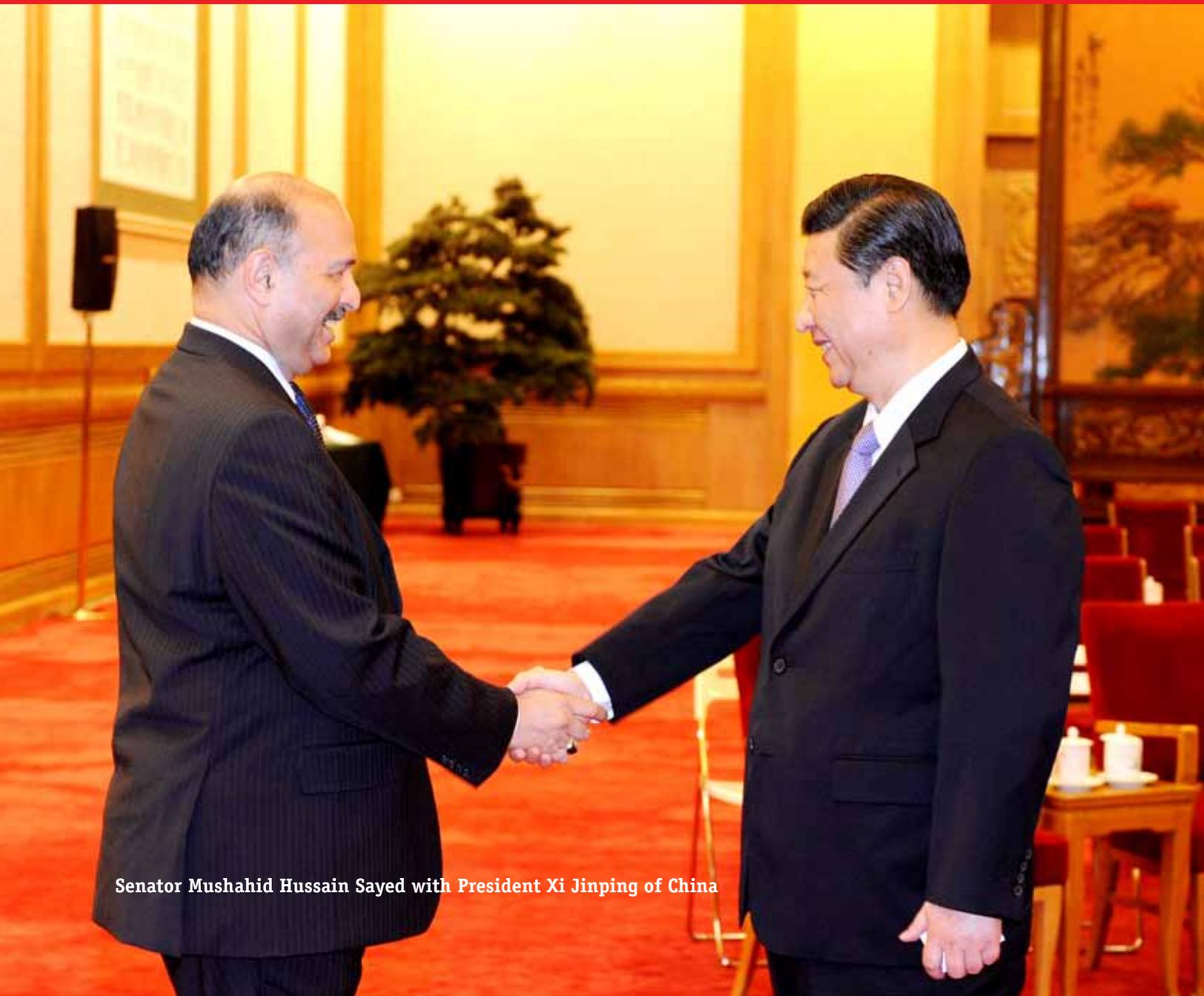




Pakistan-China Institute

Annual Report 2013





Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed with President Xi Jinping of China



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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

I am pleased to present this Annual Report based on events organized by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) in 2013. These include Roundtables referring to the exchange of Prime Ministers' visits between Pakistan and China in the summer of this year, which resulted in the decision to establish a Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, as well all other significant events.

Under the initiative taken by PCI, two international events were organized in Beijing in August, in cooperation with think tanks of Afghanistan and China. This document features reports of these events, held in collaboration with the Chinese Institute for International Studies (CIIS), a think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, which, for the first time, organized a trilateral dialogue between prominent opinion leaders and think tanks of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

I am personally grateful to the Tsinghua University, China's premier centre of academic learning based in Beijing, that honoured me with a special award for 'Contribution to Public Diplomacy' during the first China-Pakistan Think Tanks conference in the Chinese capital. The award is conferred every four years.

The Pakistan-China Institute has emerged as the principal non-governmental platform to promote people to people relations between Pakistan and China and in 2013, this relationship has reached new heights. For our part, PCI will continue to play its role in promoting this relationship at all levels and at all fora. Apart from seminars and conferences, we have continued with our regular publications, which are the daily English newsletter, Nihao-Salam, and the monthly Youlin (Good Neighbours) Magazine. Youlin also has a successful online version in Chinese and English, www.youlinmagazine.com, a website devoted to culture and promoting people-to-people understanding.

The Pakistan-China Institute was also the first to host the youthful new Ambassador of China to Pakistan, His Excellency Sun Weidong, introducing him and his charming wife to old friends of China in Pakistan. Our book project on 'Pakistan-China Relations: A History of Friendship' is also almost complete, and is now ready to go into print as the first definitive and authoritative account of our bilateral strategic partnership. It will be published both in Pakistan and China, in three languages.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to our competent and committed team at the PCI led by Ms. Aiza Azam, which has played a pivotal role in pushing forward ideas and initiatives for meaningful cooperation between our two peoples and countries.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

Chairman
Pakistan-China Institute



Shun Hing Square/ Diwang Tower Shenzhen China 2nd tallest building in Shenzhen.

Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dcmaster/6122750815/>

MISSION STATEMENT

The Pakistan-China Institute was launched on October 1, 2009, as a non-governmental, non-political and non-partisan platform with the express objective of addressing the people-to-people dimension in bilateral ties.

As a frontline advocate for the pivotal bilateral relationship between the two countries, we strive to disseminate knowledge, conduct research, develop cognizance with history and civilization, generate awareness on contemporary society and culture, and facilitate networking and interaction between the Pakistani and Chinese people. Within a short span, PCI has emerged as a credible institution in both countries, and premier entity which different sections of both societies turn to for advice, assistance and information.

By solidifying the stake of both the countries in each other's future, PCI aims to strengthen one-to-one ties across the border and bring this dimension at a par with the strategic state-level partnership that the two neighbours share. In doing so, it intends to act as a driving force for both the countries in Track II diplomacy, and contribute towards regional peace, development and security.

PAKISTAN-CHINA PRIME MINISTERIAL VISITS: AN APPRAISAL

A Roundtable discussion to analyze the Prime Ministerial visits of Premier Li Keqiang and Nawaz Sharif in May and July 2013, respectively, was held at the PCI office on July 9, and was attended by Chinese and Pakistani academicians, think tank and media representatives, as well as officials from the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. Chairman PCI, Senator Mushahid Hussain, briefed the participants on the significance of the visits.

Senator Mushahid spoke on the geo-strategic importance of Sino-Pak relations and the strength of bilateral ties and cooperation, reiterating that the peaceful rise of China was a source of strength, peace and stability for countries like Pakistan and for the greater South Asian region. He emphasized that China was a source of national unity in Pakistan, as various institutions, political parties, and the general public viewed China as a close friend and a reliable partner, considering the relationship in the same vein

as the other key issues on which the country stands united, such as support for democracy, Kashmir and nuclear power.

Remarking on the MoUs that had been signed during the official exchanges, he stated that while they had opened important new avenues of cooperation, the need for ensuring implementation of existing projects along with the new ones was critical. He, however, referenced the lack of tangible progress with regards to previous agreements owing to bureaucratic red-tape. He further stressed that Pakistan was a strategic partner and a staunch supporter of China, and had always extended unconditional diplomatic and political support at various fora, including China's key concerns such as Taiwan, Tibet and border issues with India.

The Chairman spoke of the evolving nature of the bilateral relationship in accordance with the political





landscape; regional factors such as elements which appeared keen to contain the peaceful rise of China, he emphasized, demanded closer cooperation. He stated his belief that the instability in Pakistan and the reprehensible attacks on Chinese projects and citizens were linked with the phenomenon of the so called 'New Great Game' that certain regional actors seemed to have embarked upon. China, he stated, favored an inclusive political consensual approach towards the resolution of the Afghanistan conflict, a factor crucial to the internal security of China.

Citing the example of the attacks on Chinese nationals at Nanga Parbat, he felt it was time the Pakistani government began making tangible efforts to improve the internal security of the country and made it feasible for Chinese investors and engineers to operate in Pakistan. The main area of focus, he said, should be Baluchistan and the Gilgit-Baltistan region, owing to their strategic locations. He proposed the creation of an Industrial Security Force (ISF) to secure Chinese installations and citizens across Pakistan, which would be in close coordination with domestic intelligence agencies in order to ensure maximum preventive measures.

The Chairman concluded with the statement that Pakistan needed to restructure bureaucratic procedures that prevented the streamlining and implementation of major projects and suggested

the setting up of a separate ministerial level coordination committee to oversee the progress and implementation of the proposed joint projects. He also lauded Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's decision to create a monitoring cell at the Prime Minister House to oversee the outcomes of implementation of the projects with China.

In the discussion that followed, Executive Director of the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), former ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, shed light on the importance of Pak-China relations in the international political arena, highlighting China's unflinching support. Mr. Du Gengqi, First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, stated that China wanted to build ties with all political parties of Pakistan, but it was difficult as there was no single unified platform with which to communicate with them effectively. Prof. Zhou Rong from the Guangming Daily stated that institutional flaws within Pakistan acted as obstacles in the socio-economic development of the country, and agreed with Senator Mushahid on the need to reform bureaucratic procedures. He added that there was a need to increase people to people contact; stressing the significance of promoting the learning of the Chinese language, he suggested that every study center in Islamabad and across Pakistan should have a Chinese learning center.

ROUNDTABLE #2

PAKISTAN AND CHINA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

A Roundtable conference to discuss economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, and to deliberate on potential new avenues that could be explored to develop the relationship further was held at PCI on July 17. The meeting, chaired by Editor-in-Chief of Express Tribune, M. Ziauddin, was attended by Pakistani and Chinese think tank representatives, corporate sector representatives, academicians and media.

The session Chair spoke of the developments in Pak-China relations as a good omen, citing the willingness of both countries to deepen ties through cooperation in the economic and energy sectors, areas which had previously received less attention. Mr. Fazal-ur-Rehman, Director Strategic Studies Institute Islamabad (SSII), briefed the guests on the strategic importance of the Kashgar Special Economic Zone, highlighting the fact that China had invested in Kashgar with the aim of developing it as a financial and cultural hub. He stated that there was a strong need for a separate industrial policy that both countries would follow, which would help in streamlining their economic ties.





Mr. Martin, the COO of Huawei, discussed the challenges that Chinese companies encountered in Pakistan. He stated that the major challenges for Chinese investors were high tariffs, taxes, and inflation, all of which had consequently affected Chinese investment in the country. He underscored the issue of the law and order situation which he felt caused major impediments in delivering effective outcomes.

Mr. Amir Azam, CEO of PCI's Shenzhen Office, spoke of the opening of the Pakistan-China Institute office in Shenzhen, and discussed the work it had undertaken to increase co-operation in the technology sector. He highlighted factors Pakistan needed to focus on in attracting Chinese technological investment, and suggested areas of complementarity that both countries could mutually benefit from.

Senator Mushahid Hussain enumerated the problems that hindered economic cooperation between the two countries, citing bureaucratic red tape as a major issue as demonstrated in cases such as the Thar coal project and the Nandipur power project. He talked on the emergence of a greater South Asia, quoting the example of the planned railway link from Kunming to Rangoon to Chittagong, and said that with the changing regional dynamics, Pakistan stood in an advantageous position as the impetus for

the new regional order was driven by economy and energy initiatives.

In the discussion that followed Executive Director PCI, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, spoke on the trade imbalance between the two countries, pointing out that actual figures lagged far behind the rhetoric of cooperation, which had not translated into higher GDP or HDI for either country. Former Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi lauded Chinese support in Pakistan's quest for nuclear power, and referred to the fact of Pakistan being one of the few countries that possess an extensive peaceful nuclear program which was aimed at future application in medicine, agriculture and energy. M. Ziauddin commented that the list of Pakistani exports to China was painfully narrow and limited largely to primary products, while China's exports mainly included machinery, which had resulted in widening the trade imbalance.

The Roundtable ended with recommendations by the participants. Most notably, Group Captain Hali proposed the establishment of a Pak-China Investment Fund which would help in aid cooperation, and M. Ziauddin stated the need for Pakistan and China to commercialize and institutionalize their relationship and create a concrete economic partnership.

ROUNDTABLE #3

BRIEFING ON CHINA- AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN TRILATERAL DIALOGUE

On 26 August 2013, PCI held a briefing by Senator Mushahid Hussain, the purpose of which was to disseminate knowledge on the proceedings of the Trilateral Track II Dialogue held in Beijing on August 6, 2013, by think tanks from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Discussants for the in-house briefing included Mr. Raza Rumi, Director of the Jinnah Institute and former Ambassador Mr. Akram Zaki.

Senator Mushahid introduced the PCI led initiative of holding a trilateral dialogue between Pakistan, China and Afghanistan at a non-governmental level. The first dialogue was held at the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) office in Beijing, where Dong Manyuan and former Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Zhou Gang, represented the Chinese

delegation, while Sayed Hamed Gilani and Dr. Davood Muradian represented the Afghan delegation. The delegation from Pakistan, led by Senator Mushahid, included Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob and former Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi.

The Chairman PCI stated that the balance of economic, cultural and political power was shifting from the West to the East, with the 21st century generally perceived as the Asian Century. He spoke on the emergence of a '*Greater South Asia*' which includes the South Asian states with broader integral inclusion of China, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Iran, knit together by trade, investment, culture, as well as cooperation in energy, economy, and education. Emphasizing the need for trilateral cooperation among the three countries, he stated that as a

Former Ambassador to China, Akram Zaki, chairing the Roundtable





neighbour of both Pakistan and Afghanistan, China was a pivotal, strategic stakeholder for stability in the region, particularly in the post-2014 phase of the NATO/US withdrawal from Afghanistan. *"The Pakistan-China Economic Corridor,"* he said, *"was a new model of economic development, which could also benefit new emerging regional cooperation in a Greater South Asia, driven primarily by economy, energy, building pipelines, ports, roads and rail infrastructure, all which can transform the lives and future of the region."* In addition, he pointed out that a major factor of concern was the lack of an institutionalized peace process in Afghanistan. Referring to the Beijing dialogue between China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said that while China opposed American bases or an American troop presence in Afghanistan beyond 2014, the Afghan delegate in Beijing had disclosed that Kabul and Washington were close to an agreement under which 20,000 American troops were likely to stay on in Afghanistan indefinitely.

Raza Rumi, Director of the Jinnah Institute in Islamabad, asserted that there were three critical dimensions to the regional relationship, which had a relatively unexplored framework. The first dimension was the crucial need for energy. He explained that to sustain a high growth rate, China would be looking towards the vast untapped resources of the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, which made it a crucial stakeholder in the region post 2014. He felt that it was important not to exclude India, which would also be competing for energy supply in the region. Also, he assessed that as a large sector of the populations of both India and Pakistan were under 30 years of age, 3 million jobs would need to be generated in the next fifteen years to match the employment needs of the young demographic. The

second dimension, he stated, was extremism and terrorism, and that the dilemma faced by Pakistan was how to control and maintain peace and stability at its ungoverned borders. The third dimension that he highlighted was the future of the Gwadar port. This energy corridor, he stressed, would not only be crucial for Pakistan and China, but was also critical towards the larger concept of Greater South Asia. He identified obstacles such as the Baluch unrest and lack of infrastructural facilities, and also suggested that Iran be added to the dialogue of finding a solution to the regional problems.

Ambassador Akram Zaki discussed how the current situation in the region had evolved. *"With the disintegration of the Soviet Union,"* he informed the participants, *"the proposal for an Economic Corridor had come under discussion and in November 1992, in a conference in Islamabad, all six Central Asian countries as well as Afghanistan decided that the corridor must be built."* However, he said, the efforts hadn't materialized. At present, he felt, stabilization in Afghanistan appeared difficult and if the turmoil continued, the situation would become exacerbated.

An interactive discussion followed in which various topics were touched upon, including as the role of Russia, the United States military presence in Afghanistan, the feasibility of the future economic corridor in the region and security instability within Pakistan.

The Chairman also informed the guests that PCI would be hosting the Second Trilateral Conference between the three countries in Islamabad in May 2014.

CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

The Pakistan-China Institute, in collaboration with the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), held a symposium in Beijing on August 5 at CIIS. It was attended by leading scholars and experts on China-Pakistan relations from both countries.

Senator Mushahid Hussain led a delegation from Pakistan, members of which included Executive Director PILDAT, Ahmed Bilal and Editor Nihao-Salam, Muhammad Arif. Members of the Chinese delegation included Dong Manyuan, Vice President CIIS, Lin Dajian, Vice Director General of the Department of International Cooperation at the National Development and Reform Commission, former Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Zhou Gang, and Mr. Liu Pengfei from the Department for Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid, was the chief guest on the occasion. Ambassador Khalid said the Corridor would transform Pakistan into a hub of trade and commerce as the project envisaged establishing several economic zones and physical links. A task force and secretariat had been established, he added, while a team from Pakistan would visit China to further discuss the project. He mentioned that this was both a long term and short-term strategic plan envisioned by the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, a mega project that would be a cluster of industrial parks and economic zones. He further added that the recent Prime Ministerial exchanges

between the two countries highlighted the interest and strong political will of the two governments to implement this strategic project.

Senator Mushahid spoke on the contemporary geo-strategic situation in the region. He stated that China was a driving force of the Asian century and the China-Pakistan Economic corridor would initiate a new of era of strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries. The road and rail links, he added, would further strengthen the existing bond of brotherhood.

Ahmed Bilal, Executive Director PILDAT, said that the Corridor was a new strategic hallmark of the Pakistan-China all weather friendship that would expand regional cooperation, boost trade activities, and generate employment opportunities.

Dong Manyuan stated that the Corridor from Kashgar to Gwadar would integrate the economies of the two countries and serve as an important network of road and rail links from Xinjiang to Gwadar port. Lin Dajian highlighted the security issues and bureaucratic challenges that could impede the progress of the project. She emphasized that the project would help investment and boost trade and commerce not only in China and Pakistan but also in the region. Zhou Gang spoke on Pak-China brotherly relations and stated that the Corridor would open multiple new doors of strategic cooperation in the 21st century.



BEIJING TRILATERAL DIALOGUE: CHINA-AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN



The Pakistan-China Institute hosted a trilateral dialogue between think tanks in China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the first of its kind, jointly with the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) on August 6 at the CIIS in Beijing. This track-two dialogue, a major public diplomacy project, was attended by diplomats, strategists, scholars, foreign relations experts, media persons and researchers from China, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain, Dong Manyuan, Vice President of CIIS, and Sayed Hamed Gilani, Deputy Head National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), jointly chaired the session.

Dong Manyuan presented a brief on the political and security situation of the region, discussing the significance of the presence of NATO forces in Afghanistan and its influence in the region, also bringing to the fore Chinese concerns on the post ISAF withdrawal scenario. He noted that the withdrawal process had direct implications for the security of China, particularly in the Northwestern region.

Sayed Hamed Gilani, leader of the Afghan delegation, spoke on his country's current political scenario. He established that Afghanistan would be a focal point of global policy making in the next decade because the fragile security situation there would continue to impact all other countries in the region and the world unless absolute peace was achieved. He expressed his hope for the 'new' Afghanistan that had emerged in the last decade, one that wanted change, peace, stability and prosperity on its soil. He said that the days had gone when kings, foreign hands and dictators ruled over the will of the people of Afghanistan, and the Afghans were ready to rebuild their country with a renewed vision and define their own future. He brought to the awareness of the participants that the Taliban had been invited to participate in the upcoming elections in April 2014, and said it was important for them to be part of the reconciliation process. On Afghanistan's role in trilateral cooperation, he spoke of the Afghan people's appreciation for Pakistan's historic role in welcoming 5 million Afghan refugees on its soil during the 1980s, and said that the bonds

of brotherhood between Pakistan and Afghanistan had become permanent since the two neighbors were determined to forge a future together. He further elaborated that in the age of the new Afghanistan, the Afghan people needed the support of Pakistan to help strengthen bilateral relations with China, and expressed appreciation for the work being done by the Pakistan-China Institute in enhancing people to people contact with China through bilateral exchanges in the areas of education, media, public diplomacy, youth, women empowerment and skill development programs. On the future of trilateral cooperation, his view was that Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan could devise a comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism, extremism and separatism, the common threats to the security, stability and prosperity of all three neighbouring countries.

Expressing his views on trilateral cooperation between China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Senator Mushahid Hussain emphasized the fact that the balance of economic, cultural and political power was shifting from the West to the East, with the 21st Century generally perceived as the Asian Century,

one in which China is Asia's strongest driving force of progress, stability and development. The world, he noted, was witnessing the emergence of a greater South Asia which featured the South Asian states and a broader integral inclusion of China, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Iran, all knit together by trade, investment, culture and cooperation in energy, economy, and education. Emphasizing the need for trilateral cooperation between China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said that as a neighbor of the latter two countries, China was a pivotal strategic stake-holder for peace, security and stability in the region, particularly in the post-2014 phase of the NATO/US withdrawal from Afghanistan. *"The Pakistan-China Economic Corridor,"* he stated, *"a new model of economic development, can also benefit emerging regional cooperation in a Greater South Asia, driven primarily by economy, energy, building pipelines, ports, roads and rail infrastructure, all which can transform the lives and future of the region, including China, Afghanistan and Pakistan."* He also spoke of *"a new great game (which is) also unfolding in the region, particularly in Southwest Asia with India, egged on by the US, acting as the*





vanguard of the containment of China." Senator Mushahid emphasized the need for Western policy makers to abandon the Cold War mentality and said the time had come for Asian hands to shape the destiny of Asia in the 21st Century since the decision regarding the future of the region would no longer be crafted in Washington, London and Brussels but in the region itself. Elaborating on the socio-cultural aspects of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan, he added further that all three neighbors have stakes in the peace and stability in the region, and apart from geography, they had a shared heritage. He welcomed the proactive role of China in Afghanistan and added that all neighbors of Afghanistan were committed to promoting and protecting its independence, unity and territorial integrity.

Dr. Daud Muradian, Director General Afghan Institute of Strategic Studies, spoke on the current security and economic situation of Afghanistan, stating that Afghanistan was the cross roads between China and Central Asia. China, he stated, did not share only a long border with Afghanistan but also a history

and culture owing to the silk route links established centuries ago. Detailing the current situation in Afghanistan, he announced that the signing of a bilateral strategic agreement between the USA and Afghanistan was almost complete and would provide the legal framework for the permanent deployment of 20,000 American troops in Afghanistan. He revealed that similar agreements were in the offing with the UK, Germany, Norway and other NATO countries, and explicitly stated that in 2014, there would be only a drawdown of NATO forces, not an exit. He added that the Afghan national security forces were responsible for security, peace and the law and order situation in the country with the support of NATO forces, but poor infrastructure development and lack of well-trained police made security more fragile. He emphasized that Afghanistan was committed to developing good neighborly relations with China and Pakistan.

Stating his views on the Taliban, Dr. Muradian said he believed they had no political forum, no political identity and no legitimacy in Afghanistan, and that the peace process would be led by the Afghan people

through the constitution of Afghanistan. About the April 2014 elections, he hoped that they would be highly significant in determining the future of the Afghan people who he believed are ready for change. He observed that mutual cooperation with all regional countries would be a top priority for his country and stressed that Afghanistan, like Pakistan, would like an all-weather friendship with China, to which end several fruitful meetings had been held in Beijing. On Afghanistan's role in trilateral cooperation, he argued that besides an abundance of natural resources, Afghanistan had 30 million youth, and that the rich human resource of Afghanistan was looking towards China for investment in all sectors, especially in infrastructure building, roads, bridges, communication networks and capacity building.

Ahmed Bilal, President PILDAT, spoke on Pakistan's relations with the United States and India. He asserted that good bilateral relations between the U.S. and Pakistan existed at the state level but public opinion is unfavorable about the US, particularly in the wake of the Abbottabad incident of 2011. He mentioned that Pakistan and India were working on a composite dialogue process which was aimed at the normalization of relations, but stated that while Pakistani society had evolved and desired better relations with India, the latter still viewed Pakistan from an antagonistic mindset. Speaking on Pakistan's role in trilateral engagement, he stated that the new government of Pakistan was fully committed to enhancing regional and bilateral cooperation,

particularly with all its immediate neighbours. In this regard, he shared that several high level meetings had already been held, while officials had visited Afghanistan to boost confidence-building measures for friendly and brotherly relations. He spoke of the Pakistani leadership's firm belief that a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan was vital for peace in Pakistan, and that it supported an "Afghan-led" peace process. He proposed that PILDAT collaborate with and support its Afghan partners in the area of research and academic development so that cooperation could be established for mutual understanding and better bilateral ties.

Former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Zhou Gang, discussed the problems and challenges after the 2014 NATO withdrawal. He said that the twelve year presence of NATO forces in Afghanistan had created more challenges and problems in that country, taking into account the fact that the security situation today was worse than in 2001. He explicitly stated, "*The U.S. should not maintain in Afghanistan its military presence and military bases in the future.*" He also expressed his concern for the future of Afghanistan, saying, "*Activities of terrorism, extremism and separatism spread abroad threaten the security and stability of Pakistan, South Asia, Central Asian countries, and China, specifically it's Xinjiang Autonomous Region.*" He underlined the need for regional cooperation to combat terrorism and lauded the sacrifices of the Pakistani people against the War on Terror, adding that the U.S. must



acknowledge these sacrifices given by Pakistan.

He spoke on the importance of Russian, Indian and Iranian stakes in Afghanistan being taken into consideration in the wake of the NATO withdrawal, while designing a policy for a peace process in Afghanistan. The Afghans, he said, must be given a choice for the peace process and reconstruction rather than the implementation of foreign dictatorship. China, he said, respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, and he gave his assurance that China would extend its full cooperation in the Afghanistan peace process, not only in countering terrorism but also in the reconstruction and rebuilding process.

Dr. Lan Jiaxue, Assistant Research Fellow at the CIIS, spoke on China's role in trilateral cooperation. He stated that China would enhance cooperation with Afghanistan, particularly in the areas of capacity building of human resource, by facilitating the police and security training, infrastructure development, and enhancing investment as well counter terrorism cooperation. He added that China would collaborate with Afghan think tanks for exchange of information on security and counter terrorism, hold regular dialogues and conferences, conduct exchanges of scholars and researchers for the policy making process, and boost bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors.

Executive Director of CISS in Pakistan, Ali Sarwar Naqvi, expressed his views on the regional context and the impact of trilateral cooperation. He stated that Pakistan and Afghanistan's common desire for development and prosperity could be achieved by developing mutual understanding and trust, and by working together in a new era defined by China's policy of good neighborliness. He emphasized the vital role China could play in the economic development of the region through investment in road links, rail lines, the power sector and technological exchanges.

In the discussion with the audience that followed, several key issues were raised and deliberated upon, including the covert role of the American CIA, India's role in reconstruction work in Afghanistan, the role of the Taliban in the Afghan peace process, concerns of corruption in the Afghan government, as well as the future challenges of cyber security and global

warming and their impact on the three neighboring countries.

In concluding remarks, Dong Manyuan said that China would enhance bilateral and multidimensional cooperation with Afghanistan as a neighbor and good friend and reiterated its belief in a win-win policy for all partners in the region. He expressed China's support for Pakistan's anti-terrorism strategy and stated that as a factor of regional stability and peace, Pakistan must be supported and facilitated in the hour of its economic crisis. Senator Mushahid Hussain summed up that China's emergence as a rising economic power in the 21st Century would integrate the economies of the region, and would also help stimulate trade and investment in the neighbouring countries, paving the way for Afghanistan to achieve economic growth and betterment for its people. He further said that Pakistan could play the pivotal role of an economic hub between East and West Asia, and Central and South East Asia, and that the Economic Corridor was a model of this vision, initiated jointly by Pakistan and China but benefiting the people of the region. He also extended support to the Afghan partners for enhancing bilateral cooperation in areas of public diplomacy, people to people contacts, scholarly exchanges and academic development. Sayed Hamed Gilani expressed the hope and desire for cooperation with China and Pakistan, and stated that despite the fragile political transition and poor security situation in Afghanistan, the business and investment opportunities were immense, and the space for regional and bilateral cooperation was huge. He added that the Afghan people looked forward to their Chinese friends and Pakistani brothers extending cooperation and support for peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR #3

CHINA-PAKISTAN JOINT THINK TANKS ANNUAL MEETING



Senator Mushahid Hussain receiving Public Diplomacy award from China's Tsinghua University



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The annual meeting of the China-Pakistan Joint Think Tanks was held at the Xinjiang Hotel in Beijing on August 31, to highlight the various projects of strategic cooperation between the two countries in the wake of the announcement of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It was organized jointly by Tsinghua University, the International Center for Communication, the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Pakistan, the Chinese Academy of World Agenda, and the South West University of Political Science and Law. The Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, CWE Investment Corporation and GO West International Media supported the meeting.

Professor Li Xiguang, Director of the Tsinghua University International Centre for Communication was the chief moderator of the event, and began by elaborating on key historic aspects of Pakistan-China relations. At the conclusion of his remarks, he invited Senator Mushahid Hussain to receive an award for his *'Outstanding Contribution to Pakistan-China Public Diplomacy'*. In the citation for the award, Tsinghua University listed the singular and proactive role of Senator Mushahid in his capacity as Chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, established since 2009 as a non-governmental, non-political and non-partisan organisation to launch people-to-people initiatives between Pakistan and China. Senator Mushahid thanked the Tsinghua University for honoring him with the accolade and affirmed to the audience his long-standing personal relationship with China, which had begun with his first visit in 1970. He shared that since that first visit he had made over 40 more trips to China and had witnessed its remarkable transformation.

Yang Yanyi, Assistant Minister in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the major features of China's foreign policy based on good neighborliness and cooperation. Focusing on the challenges of the new century, she said that global warming, energy and cyber security were the



most pressing challenges and in order to cope with these, China would join hands with regional nations. Lt. Gen. Muhammad Asghar, Rector NUST, highlighted the significance of universities in transforming societies into progressive and modern entities through information, creation and innovation, and transforming human resource into a knowledge based economy. He expressed his hope the Pakistan-China Joint Think Tanks would strive to bring together the higher education institutions of the two countries by sharing knowledge for mutual cooperation and development, ranging from economy and technology to diplomacy and culture.

The opening remarks were followed by a series of sessions on a number of themes.

Senator Mushahid chaired the first session on Pak-China relations and bilateral cooperation. Prof. Cui Zhiyuan from Tsinghua University's School of Public

Administration elaborated the key features of the Chinese model of development. Referring to President Xi Jinping's Chinese Dream, he stated that the Chinese people believed in experimenting with new trends but would not follow full scale liberalization of the economy, and would maintain a balance between the public and private sector in order to achieve the ideal of social equality. Engr. Dr. M Akram Sheikh, former deputy Chairman Planning Commission of Pakistan and distinguished professor of NUST, and the main architect of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, highlighted the key aspects of future China-Pakistan cooperation. He lauded the Annual Meeting which was materialized by the joint NUST-Tsinghua initiative and an integrated knowledge partnership program which aimed at building knowledge based collaboration for just, peaceful and equitable development in the region and beyond.

Professor Li Xiguang unveiled the Information



Corridor which would supplement the Economic Corridor. A staunch promoter of the Pakistan-China friendship and a dedicated friend of Pakistan, he said that the idea of the Information Corridor had emerged after the announcement of the Economic Corridor in July 2013. Illustrating its key features, he said it was a new technological innovation to track news updates and the latest developments in those areas of the economy, finance, business and diplomacy that were linked with the Economic Corridor.

The following panel of discussants which focused on the future of Sino-Pak relations, was moderated by former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Riaz Khokhar, who spoke of the turbulent security climate around Asia and the need for both countries to avoid postures that might undermine relations. Mr. Zhou Gang, former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, was invited to speak on the strategic significance of the China-

Pakistan relationship in emerging conditions, and touched upon the importance, for the two countries, of safeguarding sovereignty and security interests, firmly protecting internal stability, developing the economy, and opposing the intervention of foreign forces in internal affairs.

Senator Mushahid spoke on Pakistan-China Relations in the Changing Regional Scenario, presenting the regional context of bilateral ties, which he felt was defined by three new realities: the first being the shift in the balance of economic and political power from the West to the East in the Asian Century which was marked by China's peaceful rise; the second being the concept of a '*Greater South Asia*' that included not just the seven sub continental states but countries like China, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Iran, with a new regionalism driven by energy and economy; and the third being the emergence of the "*New Great Game*", what he described as a reversion

to the Cold War mentality, which now focused on the “*containment and encirclement of China*”, with American planes being deployed in Australia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Trivandrum in southern India. He emphasized that China posed no threat to any country and a belief in the new Cold War would only retard Asia’s rise. He also opposed any war in the Muslim World, and condemned the war-mongering over Syria.

Brig. (Retd.) Mujahid Alam, visiting Senior Advisor at the UN Peacekeeping Department, moderated the panel on Enhancing China-Pakistan Balanced Strategic Cooperation. He suggested the establishment of various dialogues and frequent consultations, with coordination over issues that comprised major concerns. He expressed his belief that friendly exchanges between parliamentarians, political parties and local governments, as well as civil society members in the fields of economy, science and technology, culture, military, diplomacy, education and finance could promote balanced strategic cooperation between the two countries. Hamayun Gauhar praised the remarkable Chinese progress in the last four decades. He stated that the vision and dedication of the new generation of Chinese leadership had provided an environment conducive for the economy to develop rapidly, and their determination embodied their wisdom and self-confidence. He urged the Pakistani leadership, policy makers and bureaucracy to learn from China to steer Pakistan onto the track of progress and development.

Shamshad Ahmed, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, in his talk on post 2014 China-Pakistan cooperation as a factor of regional peace and security, stated that Pakistan and China were the only natural strategic partners of Afghanistan that could genuinely contribute to the peace and security of the region after 2014. Prof. Dai Xu, Senior Colonel at the Chinese Institute of Maritime Security and Cooperation, spoke on China and Pakistan Strategic Cooperation in Asia and Europe. He said that in the changing regional political situation and global foreign policy dynamics, Pakistan and China had always shown convergence of views on issues of core interests, and that friendship with China had been the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy. Strengthening the cooperative partnership, he felt, had always been the top priority for both Beijing

and Islamabad. Prof. Li Qinyuan from CIIS reiterated that China had urged the international community to respect Pakistani sacrifices in the War on Terror, adding that China would continue to provide diplomatic support and assistance to Pakistan. She further said that maintaining healthy bilateral relations with Pakistan and Afghanistan was in China’s core interests and conducive to safeguarding regional security and stability.

A panel discussion was also held on national energy trade, transport, trade and the industrial corridor for national development and regional cooperation. Mr. Wang Shaofeng, Vice General Manager of CWE International Investment, said that investment in the energy sector should be another area of future cooperation between China and Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan was currently passing through an energy crisis and urged Chinese companies to invest in energy, transportation and infrastructure. Mr. Amer Hashmi, Advisor NUST, presented a paper highlighting the vision of cooperative partnership, joint programs, and the economic potential of the planned China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, linking regional mega projects that could foster regional connectivity and economic integration. Prof. Chen Jidong, Executive Director Pakistan Study Center of Sichuan University, asserted that Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Pakistan’s Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had put forward a new economic plan for the Economic Corridor in which China could provide financial and technical support in the construction of a regional railway hub for Pakistan. He said the construction of the railway would connect Pakistan with Xinjiang in China, and enhance the capacity of transportation between the two countries.

Sharing his views on the incentives, prospects and impact of the Economic Corridor, Director Pakistan Research Center of Fudan University, Prof. Du Youkang, stated that the Corridor was ideally located to become a hub for trade, logistics and tourism between Pakistan and China, but its success depended on Pakistan’s internal stability, and the law and order situation. Professor Zhou Rong, Chief Correspondent in Pakistan for Guangming Daily, said that the Gwadar Port served as a natural continental bridge which would benefit Pakistan, China and the Central Asian states. The transit route through China towards Central Asia, he reiterated, offered the most

viable option for international trade to the western part of China, and the project, if handled with wisdom and dedication, would contribute significantly to the development of Pakistan, China and the region as a whole.

Deng Junbing, who had previously served in the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, spoke on ways to increase China-Pakistan economic cooperation, stating that the Economic Corridor was an important component of the multi-dimensional cooperation between the two sides which would be mutually beneficial and held boundless potential. He lamented that in recent years, China-Pakistan economic development had withered as Pakistan's worsening security situation affected the progress of joint cooperative projects. To counter the depreciating bilateral trade, he said, China and Pakistan needed to ensure commencement of the relevant projects as soon as possible, and solicit opinions from the responsible departments and experts. Assistant Director of Center for South Asian Studies in Peking University, Wang Xu, discussed the prospects of and challenges to Sino-Pak economic cooperation. He raised the issue of security, highlighting terrorism as the most crucial threat to the future of the Economic Corridor. He warned that security problems in Balochistan and violent activities in Gilgit-Baltistan needed to be tackled for launching the project, which would not only optimize the distribution of economic interests between China and Pakistan, but would also strike a balance of power in the region.

The next panel discussed cooperation between civil society and educational institutes. Speaking on enhancing educational links between China and Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman proposed the establishment of a Pakistan-China University in Pakistan with the collaboration of Chinese universities. The proposed university would have a technology park and facilitate the development of industries and services, enabling leading Chinese companies to set up industrial units. The University would help Pakistan by providing a rapid increase in technologically trained manpower, while high technological activities would improve infrastructure and provide employment opportunities. Prof. Tanvir Jafri, Director of the China Study Center at Comsats Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), highlighted key aspects of synergizing the Pakistan-

China relationship in education and technology and underlined the need to increase collaboration in the field of basic sciences, including physics, chemistry and mathematics.

Prof. Sun Hongqi of the Pakistan Research Center at Jiangsu Normal University, sharing his thoughts on enhancing educational exchanges, said that China's universities and colleges needed to increase the quota of overseas students from Pakistan, and simultaneously encourage their students to choose Pakistan as their overseas study destination. In the long-run, he believed, promoting educational communication would nurture future mutual political and economic trust. He regretted that the number of scientific and technological cooperation agreements that were entered into by the two countries on an annual basis, were not fully taken advantage of.

In closing, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, H.E. Masood Khalid, lauded the inauguration of the China-Pakistan Think Tanks forum as heralding the opening of a new chapter in people to people relations. He pointed out that the Economic Corridor would be the flagship project for the new economy-centric phase in the bilateral relationship that had been initiated with the Prime Ministerial visits from both countries earlier in the year. Linking the Gwadar port via the Karakoram Highway to Xinjiang, he stated, would make the Corridor a transformational project for the two economies.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR #4

THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE



The Contemporary World Multilateral Dialogue 2013 was held in Beijing on November 8-9, with the theme of 'Global Trends and China in the Coming Decade'. The two day conference comprised of four sessions: Global Economy and Seeking Win-Win Development; Global Politics and Bettering Intra- and Inter-National Governances; Global Security and Tackling Old and Emerging Conflicts; and China's International Strategies in a New Global Setting.

The dialogue had been organized by the China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) and was attended by scholars and experts from more than thirty countries. Leading political figures were also in attendance. Major issues that dominated the conference included global economic development trends, current financial challenges, international security crises, China's foreign policy, economic reforms and investment opportunities in China, the role of new technologies, alternative energy sources, and the need for innovative ideas to cope with the challenges posed by global economic conditions.

In the session he chaired, Senator Mushahid Hussain raised his concerns on whether the US pivot to Asia would mean a reversion to a new Cold War based on the encirclement and containment of what was erroneously referred to by certain elements as the 'China threat'. He stated unequivocally that a rising Asia was not in a position to afford a destabilizing effort from any quarter. He also talked about Afghanistan, urging its neighbors to play a proactive role, and called for genuine national reconciliation involving all factions.

Resident Representative of the IMF in Beijing, Murtaza Syed, spoke of the contribution of the emerging economies, specifically BRICS, to world economic stability and added that capital flowing into these markets enhanced consumption and boosted growth. China's strong economy, he stated, was fueling power to sick economies through investment.

Commenting on the China-European Union economic cooperative partnership, German Ambassador to China, Michael Clauss, presented his view that the next decade would be defined by the USA, the EU, and China, where China had the highest foreign reserves, Europe had the technology and market,

and the USA had its massive economy. Germany, he said, would be a stronger partner of China in the next decade and the two would work together for win-win cooperation.

Elaborating on China's economic policy, Fang Jin, Deputy Secretary General of the China Development Research Foundation, said that the rise of China would open development opportunities and the Chinese economy was a factor of world economic recovery as well as stability. China's peaceful development, he asserted, was a source of integration of regional economies in Asia.

Stjepan Mesic, former president of Croatia, said, "*We live in turbulent times, in unsettled times, when new opportunities and prospects are opened to countries on the rise like China. China will not shun the responsibility placed before it by the circumstances and the ones we can expect in the coming decade. At the end of the decade, China will be one of pillars supporting the world's stability and development.*"

Sodiq Safoev, Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Relations of the Uzbek Senate, discussed the Central Asian States' relations with China, referring to the connections China had established through rail and road links with landlocked Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, facilitating the opening of Central Asia to the world and playing a vital role in regional economic integration. The Silk Road Economic Belt, he stated, would help enhance China's cooperation with Central Asia in energy, trade and the economy.

Ji Ping, Deputy Secretary General of the China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD), suggested the need for greater representation of developing countries in the global governance system. He said that in the next decade, the China-Russia partnership could help to promote the trend toward a multi-polar world, adding that a bigger role by both regional partners could make the international order fairer and more equitable.

Mohammad Zahran, member of the Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs, spoke of non-state actors as a destabilizing factor in the Middle East and North Africa, challenging and weakening traditional power structures.

Andrey Kortunov, Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council, spoke on the role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), urging China and Russia to strengthen cooperation among the member states in various sectors, including agriculture, the economy, trade, finance, technology and energy. He added that the SCO needed to emphasize a multilateral economic and trade cooperation process, and play a role for regional peace, stability and development.

Deputy Director of the CCCWS, Jin Xin, said China was engaging with the world through dialogue and exchanges in all sectors, and that economic development and win-win cooperation with the region and the world would be the main focus of China's policies in the next decade. He added that the Central Asian Economic Belt, the Maritime Silk Road with South East Asian countries, and the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor would integrate the economies of the region and change the destiny of its people.

Wang Jiarui, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) stressed China's willingness to work with its neighbors, the region and the world

to build a positive, cooperative and comprehensive bilateral relationship in 21st century. He also stated that China would enhance strategic dialogue and cooperate in addressing common challenges on all international and regional concerns.

Numerous scholars unanimously emphasized the need for China to focus on soft power to improve its world image alongside efforts in other areas.

Concluding the session, Dr. Yu Hongjun, Director of the CCCWS, spoke of how China's opening up and reforms policy would provide opportunities for win-win cooperation and mutual development to its neighbors, the region and the world. He reiterated China's desire for a stable, peaceful and prosperous world, and added that China was striving to play a constructive role in world affairs on the basis of equal partnership and win-win economic cooperation. His country, he said, would focus on promoting mutual trust, cultural exchanges, and people to people contacts in the next decade. He highlighted China's push for a new type of industrialization, urbanization, the application of information technology and agricultural modernization, and said the country was confident of sustainable and healthy economic growth in next decade.



VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY



Delegations from Tsinghua University and NUST at the Pakistan-China Institute

On November 6, Eminent Dean and Professor Li Xiguang, Director of Tsinghua University's International Centre for Communication Studies and Director of Tsinghua University's Center for Pakistan Studies, held a meeting with the Pakistan-China Institute to discuss potential avenues for collaboration. He was accompanied by a delegation of researchers and scholars that had come with him on a visit to Islamabad.

Prof. Li, a former journalist, is a long time and staunch advocate of Sino-Pak relations. Senator Mushahid lauded Prof. Li as an intellectual and free-thinking person, stating that the "innovative and independent thinker was the first to talk about the Chinese Dream, and is even writing a book on what is now a popular concept globally." Senator Mushahid also congratulated Prof. Li for his landmark initiative in launching the Information Corridor that would supplement the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Recalling his earlier visits to Pakistan, Prof. Li spoke of his close relationships with Prof. Hassan Dani whom he referred to as his mentor and a great friend of China, and Dr. Abdus Salam whom he had facilitated in meeting with Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping in the late 1980s. Referring to the eminent Chinese leader's belief in supporting third world countries, Prof. Li stated, "The spirit of that meeting and those words is important. And I hope that it will be sustained. Though some Chinese elite may feel that China should no longer remain associated with the phrase 'Third World country', given its tremendous progress and fast paced development, I still think we should uphold the banner, and lead Third World countries together towards prosperity."

He felt that China should pursue reinforcing ties with Pakistan more than with any other country. Citing the close economic and political relations of the two countries, he talked of the advantage

Pakistan offered to Chinese exports which at present rely on a tortuously long and time consuming route. *"Historically and also currently,"* he said, *"Pakistan has been at the crossroads of China's route to the West. As such, it is uniquely positioned to provide transit for Chinese exports to South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe."*

He laid emphasis on the need for addressing security concerns in China in order to attract Chinese business and investment. He talked about a workshop he had recently organized to facilitate interaction between Chinese and Pakistani business people, and to which several keynote speakers from the Chinese corporate sector had been invited to deliver talks on how to bring foreign business in China. However, a suddenly exacerbated security situation at the time had resulted in the cancellation of the event.

Prof. Li also spoke of the need for both the Chinese and the Pakistani media to lay greater emphasis on the positive stories coming out of Pakistan without sacrificing objectivity. He expressed disapproval for the trend of imitating stories or themes from Western publications, stating *"Both China and Pakistan should see each other neutrally, objectively, factually."*

Prof. Li concluded by congratulating the Pakistan-China Institute on its work, and expressed his belief that the institute was playing a significant role in understanding China.

PCI and Tsinghua University agreed to sign an MOU to enhance institutional cooperation.

Tsinghua University's Prof. Li Xiguang gives interview at PCI offices



LAUNCH OF CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSOCIATION PAKISTAN

On November 19, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Sun Weidong and Senator Mushahid Hussain launched the Chinese Language Teaching Association Pakistan (CLTAP) at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in Islamabad. The ceremony was also attended by Chinese Cultural Counselor Zhang Yingbao, Rector NUML Major General (Retd.) Masood Hasan, DG Brigadier Azam Jamal, and representatives of various academic institutions.

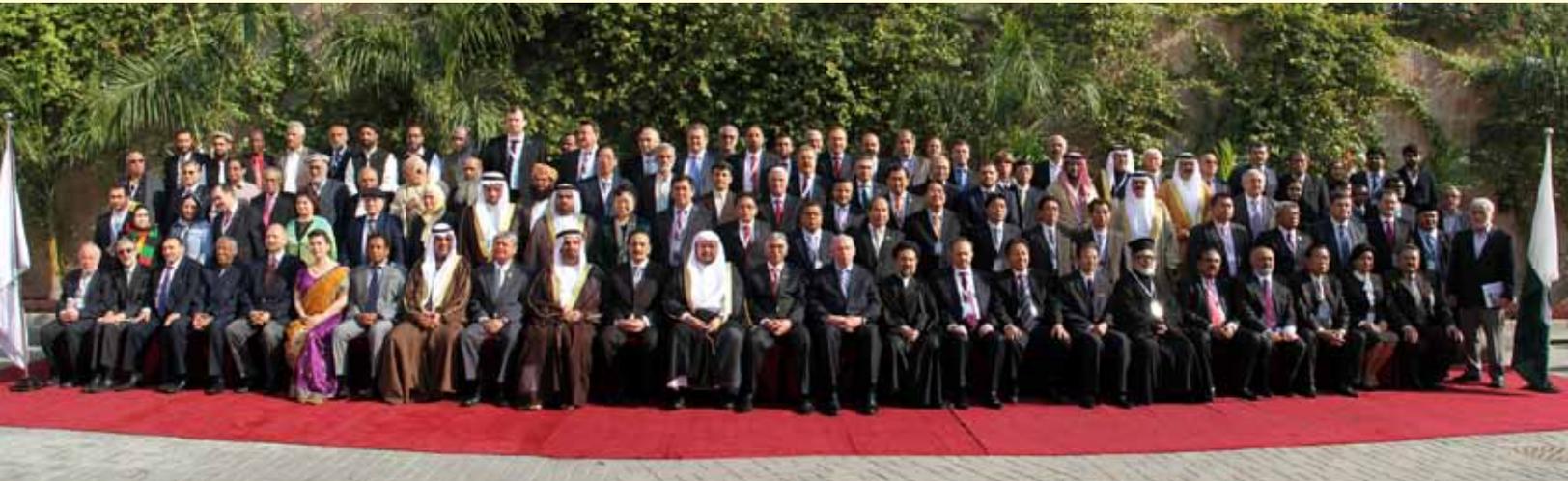
Ambassador Sun Weidong stated his belief in the role of each student who had learnt or was learning the Chinese language at NUML, in guaranteeing the continuation of Pakistan and China's durable and time-tested relations in the future. He said that CLTAP would facilitate teachers and students in sharing resources, exchanging ideas, and contributing towards the strengthening of bilateral relations.

Addressing the audience, Senator Mushahid stated he considered the launch of CLTAP as a positive initiative and stated that NUML was the ideal place to undertake it, terming it *"a nursery for the promotion, dissemination, and diffusion of the Chinese language and culture."* He spoke of the Pakistan-China Institute's *"modest contribution to Chinese language learning as well as broadening understanding of China"* through such publications as Nihao-Salam, Youlin Magazine, and PCI's bilingual website youlinmagazine.com (English and Chinese). He mentioned the Chinese language classes program which PCI had facilitated launching in cooperation with the Roots School System. He also expressed appreciation for the services of Professor Zhou Rong, an eminent Chinese scholar and journalist, who had been giving voluntary lessons on the Chinese language to PCI staff.



Senator Mushahid Hussain launches Chinese Language Teaching Association Pakistan at NUML, 19 Nov 2013

HOSTING THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



Senator Mushahid Hussain was Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 6th Plenary of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, held in Pakistan from December 8th to 10th. The theme of the APA was ‘Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy & Environment’, and it was attended by representatives of thirty-one countries and five international organizations.

In his address at the official opening of the APA, Senator Mushahid remarked on the representative aspect of the APA, pointing out it boasted “representation from the length and breadth of Asia, from Palau to Palestine, from Kyrgyzstan to Korea, from Saudi Arabia to Sri Lanka and from

Tonga to Tajikistan.” He spoke on the possibility of transforming the APA into a fully fledged Asian Parliament, recalling the transformation of the Association of Asian Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP) in 2004 into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. He also observed that the conference was particularly pertinent in the face of the challenges faced by Asia, giving added significance to the theme of Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment.

Chairman of the Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, stated that the hosting the APA was “a well-deserved honour because Pakistan today is a dynamic democracy as the recent democratic transition has ably demonstrated.”



Senator Mushahid Hussain with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Dec. 2013

In his address to the participants on the 10th, Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif stated that the Asian Parliamentary Assembly could play a pivotal role in bringing Asian countries closer together and in speeding up efforts for overcoming regional challenges faced. The exchange of parliamentary delegations and the strengthening of standing committees, he felt, were essential for facilitating the Asian nations in jointly confronting challenges of peace, economy, environment and energy.

10th February

Chinese Embassy hosts PCI at Chinese New Year celebration

25th March

Executive Director PCI address conference at CIIT, speaking on Rise of China's Soft Power

26th March

CIIT and PCI sign MoU for institutional collaboration

28th March

PCI signs MoU with Pakistan Studies Research Center from Jiangsu Normal University

25th April

PCI sponsors visit of famous travel writer Mustansar Hussain Tarar to Xinjiang province of China to write first ever Urdu travelogue on Xinjiang

8th May

PCI scholars address the Forum on China-Pakistan Cooperation: Transportation Infrastructure and Strategic Decisions, at Shanghai University



29th May

Chairman PCI visits Xian to attend conference on Building a Beautiful Asia and Promoting Green Development, organized by CPC International Department

5th June

Chairman PCI is leader of Pakistan delegation to

attend the China-South Asia Expo and Friendship in Business Forum at Kunming

6th June

Chairman PCI visits headquarters of China Radio International in Beijing

29th June

PCI hosts Welcome dinner for new Chinese Ambassador H.E. Sun Weidong



11th July

PCI holds briefing on Pakistan-China Prime Ministerial Visits

22nd July

PCI holds Roundtable on Pak-China Economic Cooperation

1st August

PCI inaugurates its office in Shenzhen in collaboration



with the SISTB, a High-Tech Venture Park. Mr. Amir Azam is the CEO of the office.

5th August

Chairman PCI attends international seminar in Beijing on opportunities and challenges of China Pakistan Economic Corridor

6th August

PCI Hosts First Trilateral Think Tank Conference between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan in Beijing (The second trilateral conference will be hosted by PCI in Islamabad, in May 2014)

31st August

Chairman PCI attends China-Pakistan Joint Think Tanks Annual Meeting in Beijing

31st August

Chairman PCI is honored by Tsinghua University with Award for *“Outstanding Contributions to Public Diplomacy with China”*

2nd September

PCI holds In House Briefing on Trilateral Conference co-hosted in Beijing

21st September

Chairman PCI delivers keynote speech at International Day of Peace 2013 & China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum in Kunming

1st October

Chairman PCI celebrates China’s National Day with H.E. Ambassador Sun Weidong and the President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain



29th October

Chairman PCI meets with Wang Zhengwei, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference; both agree to hold Parliamentary Security Dialogue in Kashgar in July 2014



November 2nd-9th

Eminent journalist and staunch advocate of Pak-China friendship, Prof. Zhou Rong gives voluntary course in the Chinese language to PCI staff. Prof. Zhou is an Honorary Fellow of PCI.



November 6th -7th

Executive Director PCI addresses international workshop on Doing Business With China at CIIT

8th November

Chairman PCI presides over seminar on China and the World in the Coming Decade in Beijing



8th-9th November

Chairman PCI attends the Contemporary World Multilateral Dialogue in Beijing.

19th November

Chairman PCI launches Chinese Language Teaching Association Pakistan at NUML with H.E. Ambassador Sun Weidong





1

1) Chairman Pakistan-China Institute meeting with Dr. Yu Hongjun, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CCCPC and President of China Center for Contemporary World Studies, November 8, 2013

2) PCI members at dinner hosted by former Ambassador Liu Jian at the Embassy to celebrate the Chinese New Year, 2013

3) Executive Director PCI, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, addressing workshop organized by CIIT on Doing Business with China, November 2013



Co-Organizers



2

International Workshop on "Doing Business with China"

November 6-7, 2013
Islamabad, Pakistan

COMSATS
Pakistan Ministry
Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)

Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy & Environment



1) Senator Mushahid with H.E. Wang Zhengwei, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CCCPC and Director of the State Ethnic Affairs Commission

2) Senator Mushahid Hussain with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, December 2013

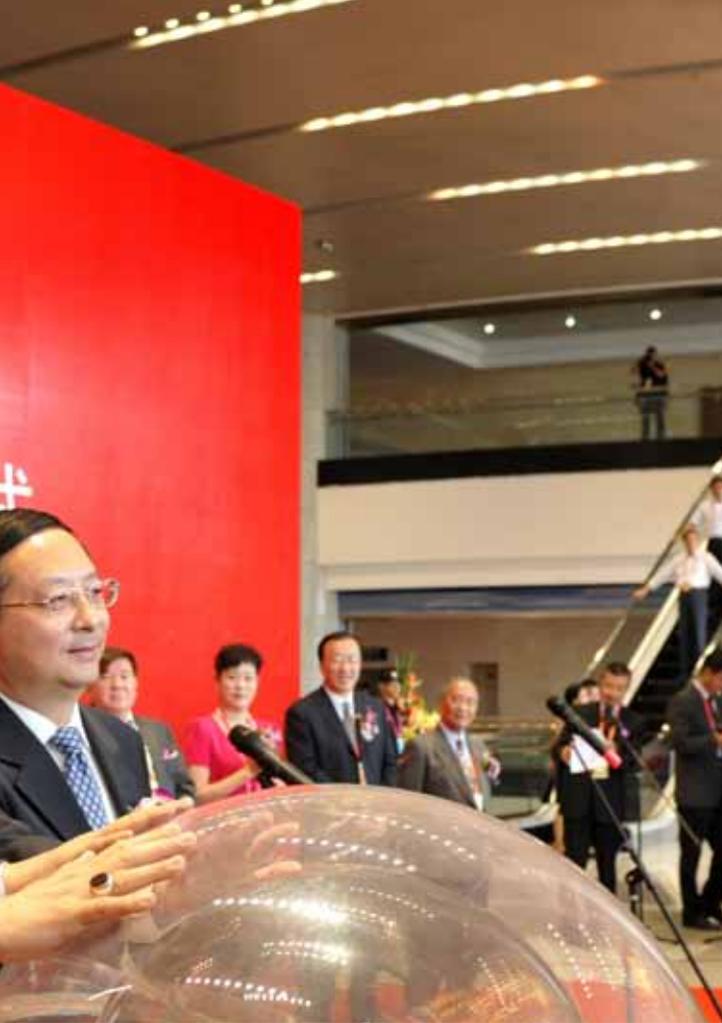
3) Senator Mushahid at the China Eurasia Expo with Mr. Ding Xiaolun, Chairman Youlin Editorial Board, Urumqi, and Expo participants

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1) Senator Mushahid inaugurating the China Eurasia Publications Expo

2) PCI scholars address the forum on China-Pakistan Cooperation: Transportation Infrastructure and Strategic Decisions, at Shanghai University

3) Senator Mushahid addressing the participants at the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, December 2013



3

ASIAN
PARLIAMETARY
ASSEMBLY (APA)

Asian Century:
Cooperation in Economy,
Energy & Environment



1



1) Meeting with the Shenzhen International Science and Technology Business Platform, June 2013

2) Chairman PCI with Faisal Mushtaq and delegation from Urumqi at the launch of Youlin Magazine in Islamabad

3) Meeting Chinese Entrepreneurs at PCI's Shenzhen Office

4) Senator Mushahid Hussain meets with China's Vice President Li Yuanchao on the sidelines a conference "Building a Beautiful Asia and Promoting Green Development" in Xian, China.





APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

CHAIRMAN PAKISTAN-CHINA INSTITUTE ON PAK-CHINA RELATIONS

KASHGAR MUST NOT MAR TIES

Mushahid Hussain Sayed

Published in Dawn, 9th August 2011

The recent events in the ancient Chinese city of Kashgar and their possible fallout need to be examined in three broad contexts: China's concerns, Pakistan's track record in combating anti-China terrorists and extremists, and the emerging 'Great Game' in a region in which the strategically located, mineral-rich province of Xinjiang is a geopolitical centre of gravity.

Xinjiang, bordering Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics, has 17 per cent of China's land mass producing roughly 40 per cent of its oil, coal and gas. The province's economic underdevelopment has been reinforced by a cultural chasm between the Muslim Uighurs of Turkic origin and the Han Chinese population. Xinjiang saw the first signs of organised armed groups emerging soon after the end of the Afghan jihad in 1990. The biggest outbreak of violence was in July 2009 when rioting in the provincial capital, Urumqi, led to over 200 deaths and some 1,700 were injured.

Following the Urumqi riots, in May 2010, the Chinese central government announced the launching of a major modernisation and development plan for Xinjiang, with plans to pump in almost \$100bn over a five-year period, with its centrepiece being the Special Economic Zone for Kashgar (similar to the one in Shenzhen, close to Hong Kong) to link the province economically closer to Pakistan and the seven other neighbouring countries that border Xinjiang. The Chinese initiative for Xinjiang also has two interrelated objectives: development and stability.

After the recent violence in Kashgar, local authorities referred to a leader of this terror group having been trained in Pakistan, a claim echoed in the semi-official English-language China Daily of Aug 2 which said "The leaders of the group learned terrorist techniques in Etim camps in Pakistan before they penetrated into Xinjiang". The East Turkestan Islamic Movement (Etim) was formally declared a terrorist outfit by the United Nations Security Council in 2002.

The subsequent official statement of China's foreign ministry on Aug 3 made no mention of training camps in Pakistan, focusing only on a positive note of "continued close anti-terror cooperation between Pakistan and China". And, in an unprecedented comment, the ISPR chief, Maj Gen Athar Abbas, underlined on Aug 5, the "Pakistan Army have been and would continue operations against Etim, and our cooperation (with China) in the field of operations and intelligence will continue against the common threat of terrorism". It is, therefore, no coincidence that the head of ISI has visited China twice in five weeks.

Given the relatively free movement of people between Pakistan and China, concerns have been raised by

Chinese leaders about border crossings by Uighur extremists. For example, when President Zardari visited China in February 2009, China's minister of public security especially flew from Beijing to Shanghai to discuss these issues with him.

That this irritant hasn't been able to spoil Pakistan-China relations so far is largely because of Pakistan's consistently close cooperation with China on this count, key aspects of which have included:

- Capture and extradition of Xinjiang suspects from Pakistan on at least three occasions, 14 in 1997, seven in 2002 and nine in 2009;
- Killing of Etim leader, Hasan Mahsum, by the Pakistan Army in October 2003, as well as the death in a drone attack of his successor Abdul Haq Turkestani in January 2010, on information provided by Pakistan;
- Joint counterterrorism military exercises between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army of China in 2004 in Xinjiang, in Abbottabad in 2006 and in July 2010 in the predominantly Muslim Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Several hundred troops, including elite commandos from both sides, took part in these military drills, whose preparations do not preclude the possibility of joint operations against anti-China terror groups on the Pakistan-China border, should the need ever arise.

Since Xinjiang, and Kashgar in particular, would be the hub of regionalism spawned by economy, energy, road and rail communications (a feasibility study for a railway line from Havelian in Pakistan to Kashgar is under way), geopolitics also casts its shadow over the region.

While China is vital for Pakistan's security, stability, economy and energy, and is also now a factor for national unity given across-the-board national consensus on close ties with our time-tested neighbour, Pakistan's importance too has increased since it protects China's troubled '*soft southern underbelly*' (Tibet, Xinjiang). With the Dalai Lama operating out of India, the '*Tibet card*' could now be played in coordination with the '*Xinjiang card*' as the World Uighur Congress has its headquarters in Washington.

Containing China's rise and viewing China as the '*new threat*' seem to be key ingredients of an emerging Great Game which has two other components: cobbling an anti-China coalition of Asian countries like India, Japan and Vietnam, and exploiting China's ethnic fault lines.

In fact, such thinking is not new among influential circles in Washington. A famous Op-Ed which the prominent establishment writer, Leslie Gelb, provocatively titled '*Breaking China Apart*', in The New York Times on Nov 13, 1991, stated that "*a threat to the territorial integrity of the Middle Kingdom*" could become the "*ultimate sanction*" if Beijing did not behave. He added, somewhat ominously, that "*Americans and others may take extraordinary measures*" including "*kindling separatism*" to pressure China.

Notwithstanding such a mindset of others regarding China, the primary onus is on Pakistani policymakers, both in mufti and khaki, to take the fallout of Kashgar seriously for its recurrence can be detrimental to our bilateral bond.

For starters, they have to ensure no part of Pakistan is used by any group against any of our neighbours. The excuse of '*lack of control over ungoverned spaces*' no longer holds, more so, if such spaces can be used with impunity by forces destabilising both Pakistan and its friendly neighbours.

Earlier, Iran had voiced similar complaints, so the quicker and more competently we act, the better it would be for Pakistan's interests and that of our relations with the region as a whole.

PAKISTAN AND CHINA: STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

Published in News, 1st May, 2012

Today's arrival in Islamabad of China's Foreign Minister, Yang Jiechi, comes at an important time of change looming large in the region where the two best friends are located. The visit of China's most seasoned and top diplomat comes in the backdrop of 12 visits by Pakistani leaders, President and Prime Minister, to China in the last four years.

All through 2011, the people of Pakistan and China were busy celebrating 60 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two fraternal neighbours. Both governments had announced that 2011 would be the year of Pakistan-China friendship, to commemorate what has emerged as a truly unique model relationship in contemporary international relations.

The enthusiasm, energy and vigour with which these celebrations took place, underlines both the importance and the resilience of this bond which, both leaders cite as *"higher than the Karakorams, deeper than the oceans and sweeter than honey"*.

Linked by a natural border that includes some of the world's tallest and most beautiful mountains, Pakistan and China have a long history of friendly exchanges. Taxila was the centre of Buddhism 2500 years ago where the world's first Buddhist University attracted Chinese scholars and monks, who carried back to their country the Buddha image carving and sculpture techniques that are so popular today. Around the same period, silk and tea from China reached present day Pakistan via the Silk Route, which became a popular trade route eventually becoming a bridge with the West for promoting commerce.

What is it that makes Pakistan-China relations so special, so different and so unique? This is largely a friction-free relationship between two neighbours, different in size and social systems. Underlining the bilateral intimacy are mutual interests and a shared commitment to preserve, protect and promote security and stability in the region, with foreign forces in neighbouring Afghanistan poised to exit beginning 2014. While Pakistan hosts over 2 million Afghan refugees and has been feeling the fallout of instability from its western neighbour, China too shares a vital border with Afghanistan and has the biggest foreign investments there, largely in minerals and energy.

Pakistan-China relations are also time-tested because they have withstood the vicissitudes of domestic, regional and global developments. Such changes have not affected the quality and the strength of Pakistan-China relations.

What is also unique is that both sides have stood by each other in times of trials, tribulations and crises. There is almost a moral dimension, bordering on altruism, to the relationship since neither side has attached any conditions or the traditional *"give and take"* to such cooperation which is based on reciprocity, equality and non-interference in internal affairs.

At crucial moments, China, like a good neighbour, has offered sincere and frank counsel to its close friend: in 1971 (not to alienate an entire populace through military action), in 1999 (urging a withdrawal from Kargil) and, more recently, in December 2011, China's central leader, Dai Bingguo, during his candid conversations with his Pakistani hosts urged taking the long view in relations with conflicted countries. Promoting development at home and defusing tensions in foreign policy doesn't mean giving up principled

positions on contentious questions. Over time, such a patient approach helps in protecting key interests by building a country's strength. China's own example in handling Hong Kong, Macau and relations with India is instructive on this regard.

Pakistan-China relations have become more broad-based and developed greater depth with strategic dimensions no longer confined to diplomacy and defence but the areas of close cooperation now include economy, energy, culture, education and counter-terror cooperation. China has helped in construction of the Gwadar Port, which has the potential to become the energy corridor for landlocked Central Asia, as it is the resource-rich region's closest outlet to the sea. With a bilateral trade of \$ 10.6 billion, China has become Pakistan's biggest trading partner, largest exporter and among the top 5 importers. 7000 Pakistani students now study in China, while the Chinese language is fast becoming the most popular foreign language among students in schools in Pakistan. Joint counter-terrorism military exercises between the Pakistan Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army are also a regular feature, with the threat of extremism and terrorism more real given the conflicts in our vicinity.

The potential for the strategic partnership has become greater in the current scenario with the 21st Century being rightly proclaimed as the "*Asian Century*". The balance of economic and political power is shifting inexorably from the West to the East with the peaceful rise of China being perceived by countries like Pakistan as a source of strength and stability for Southwest and Central Asia in particular, and Asia as a whole.

It is, therefore, no accident that both Pakistan and China oppose policies that are emanating from an outmoded Cold War mindset that sometimes talk of "*containment*" by trying to conjure up a so called "*Chinese threat*", which would actually mean an attempt to revert the region to a new era of 'Great Game' machinations.

The fact is that today the contours of a 'Greater South Asia' are emerging, which includes not just the geographically slotted South Asian sub-continent but a broader region that includes China, Afghanistan, Iran and Myanmar with cooperation pushed by a new regionalism driven by economy and energy. Pakistan's quest for membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its Presidential participation in the upcoming SCO Summit in Beijing in June are pointers to this process, which also provides a much-needed platform for Islamabad to build a closer rapport with Moscow.

In the early part of the special relationship in the 60s and 70s, Pakistan was perhaps China's sole political outlet to the outside world, with PIA being the only non-communist airline to fly into China. Today, Pakistan has the potential to emerge in a position to provide an energy gateway to China, and landlocked Central Asia as well, via the Arabian Sea port of Gwadar.

Three things make China unique as a Third World country, from which lessons can be learnt. First, through its policies of opening up and reform initiated in 1978, China has been able to transform the lives of its people by lifting 500 million people out of poverty within a generation. It's a far cry from the China, indeed a country transformed beyond recognition, I first visited as a teenager in 1970, still in the throes of the Cultural Revolution, struggling to provide basic necessities of life to its people.

Second, China is about to pass the torch to the 5th generation of its leadership at the upcoming 18th Congress of the ruling Communist Party of China later this year. In 2003, China's top leaders made an historical decision to voluntarily retire upon reaching the consensually agreed upon age of 70, something which is quite rare and extraordinary in the annals of contemporary politics. That pattern of parting with power continues, providing continuity, stability and smooth transition of leadership for 21st century China.

Third, China is also a unique example in history of a country that has risen peacefully through soft power, rather than the deployment of hard power, in marked contrast to the historical norm in most other cases. This role is receiving recognition as is evident from the recent BBC World Service public opinion poll of different countries, in which China emerged as more popular than the United States and the European Union largely because of its economy, products and services. In the same BBC World Service poll, announced on May 10, 2012, amongst 22 countries of the developed and developing world, Pakistan ranked at the top of the countries where China's popularity rating is the highest.

It is in pursuance of these objectives which are vital to bringing the region together for a better tomorrow that recently Pakistan and China have agreed on a currency swap agreement under which trading will be facilitated through the yuan and rupee. China itself has announced the launching of a Special Economic Zone in Kashgar, the Chinese city closest to the border with Pakistan and a popular trading centre of the fabled Silk Route. The Kashgar Special Economic Zone will be modeled on the pattern of the highly successful example of Shenzhen in China's southeast, close to Hong Kong, and China has plans to pump in \$ 100 billion in a five year period to make Kashgar a trading and commercial hub serving neighbours like Pakistan and the Central Asian states. There is also a 'cultural connection' of China with this region: of China's 56 nationalities, 10 are Muslim, and history and heritage are serving as force multipliers for greater regional cooperation, of which the Kashgar special economic zone would be a principal pivot.

As the visit of Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi indicates, Pakistan's resilient relationship with China has helped to foster a greater self-confidence and a broader scope of autonomy for Pakistan as it grapples with its role and location in the most sensitive region of the world, which has been in the '*eye of the storm*' for the past three decades. The region apart, our China relationship helps to balance and reinforce Pakistan's foreign relations by covering its flanks internationally as well, knowing that its interests would be well protected, whether it's the UN Security Council, the G-20 or the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

In these times of turbulence, an important lesson which Pakistan can derive from China's success story, is in clarity of prioritising national objectives around harmony and development, by synchronisation of foreign with domestic policy. That harmony is a central pillar of China's foreign policy is evident from its track record. China has peacefully signed border agreements with 12 out of 14 of its neighbours, barring Bhutan and India. China's contribution to a harmonious foreign policy started with Premier Zhou Enlai's enunciation of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, adopted at Bandung in 1955, forming the essence of present-day Asia's worldview. Then, President Hu Jintao's speech to Yale University in 2006 was premised on harmonious coexistence among countries and civilizations to develop the global economy. As the great reformer Deng Xiaoping rightly pointed out in 1992, '*peace and development, two major problems of the world, are linked to harmony*'.

PROFILE: AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR MUSHAHID HUSSAIN SAYED

Aiza Azam

Published in Youlin Magazine, July 2012

How did the concept of a Pakistan-China Institute emerge? Why was the need for it felt, and what was the vision that drove its objectives?

Let me provide you a brief context. My personal relationship with China has been a long-standing one. I first went there in 1970 as a young teenager, when I was still a student in FC College. Since that time, over a period of 42 years, I have made over forty visits to China. Since the onset of the 21st century, particularly from 2004 / 2005 onwards, I felt that there was the need for a dedicated institution, devoted to promoting Pakistan-China relations at the people-to-people level in different areas like diplomacy, defense, education, energy, economy and culture; an institution that would focus on those segments of society which are not as active in this otherwise robust state to state interaction. These included the youth in general (students in particular), women, young entrepreneurs and others who are interested in learning more about China, as well as learning the Chinese language.

I first raised the possibility of forming a special China institute, which would be taking practical measures and influencing policies, rather than focusing on academic research only, in April 2006. It was when I led a goodwill delegation to China and broached the idea to some Chinese friends, one of whom was Mr Ai Ping, who was then the Director General of the South Asia Department in the CPCC's International Department. I also discussed it with some Chinese think tanks which showed a great deal of interest. The idea took another three years to mature into reality, and, in 2009, I decided to launch the Pakistan-China Institute. It was formally inaugurated on October 1st that year, in a function held at the Islamic International University. Choosing that particular university was an apt decision, because it has the largest Chinese student population of any Pakistani educational institution. The then Chinese ambassador, Mr Luo Zhaohui, was the chief guest on the occasion.

You have had a close association with China and the Chinese people, one that is almost four decades long. Is this Institute the realization of a long held ideal or is it a step towards achieving a broader objective?

Speaking as a Pakistani, a citizen looking at the future of his country, I believe it is imperative that we look at things within a broader strategic level, in the context of where we are located, with a rising China at the helm of an Asian century in which the balance of economic and political power is shifting from the West to the East. I feel that Pakistan's political stability, economic strength, and the prosperity of its people is inextricably intertwined with our relationship with China, given that it is our closest friend and also our most reliable partner. In fact, I would also say that in terms of domestic Pakistani politics, China constitutes a factor today for national unity and cohesion. Because if there are three issues on which all Pakistanis agree, I would list them as the nuclear program, the Kashmir question, and our bond of friendship with China, all of which are above any controversy; this is a stance that cuts across party lines as well.

The track record of Pakistan-China relations bears testimony to what I have stated, because on all the occasions we have needed China's support, it has always been forthcoming in an unreserved and unconditional manner. Moreover, China has never interfered in our internal affairs, and it has never sought to provide any assistance to Pakistan with any strings attached.

What ventures did PCI begin with, and what are some of its key projects?

We started off with a number of seminars, in which we invited distinguished guests from Pakistan, as well as visitors from China and other countries, including some from the U.S., all of whom shared a keen interest in Pak-China relations and in the region as a whole. Soon after our launch, we were honored to receive His Excellency Li Zhaoxing, the former foreign minister of China and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National People's Congress. And he accepted to become the honorary Chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute.

We also hosted various delegations from China, including such distinguished participants as Professor Wang Jisi, the dean of International Studies at Peking University; Mr Ai Ping, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China; Mr Shu Zhensui, the Secretary General of the China Foundation for Peace and Development; Professor Tang Menshen, Director of the Pakistan Study Center at Peking University; and Mr Li Xiguang, Head of the Pakistan Center at Jinhua University.

We launched our own website as well, nihao-salam.com, which also features a daily newsletter that quickly grew to be very popular.

In September 2010, I led a delegation of the Pakistan-China Institute to Urumqi to attend the Eurasia Expo. Our visit there had a second purpose as well: to find teachers for our recent initiative to start teaching the Chinese language to students at the Roots School System, a leading private institution which is now partnered with the Pakistan-China Institute. Thanks to the cooperation between PCI and the RSS, we now have over 3000 students studying Chinese at the school level in Islamabad alone.

Then, we also launched two initiatives in film-making, which yielded two finished projects. One is a forty-minute documentary called *Rising China*, which we filmed on location in China, and for which we visited Beijing, Urumqi and the 2010 Shanghai Expo. The second one was also a documentary, produced by the energetic head of the Cultural Wing of PCI, Miss Saadia Haseeb, in 2012. It is a thirteen part documentary called *Journey of Friendship*, and its focus is on portraying the life of the average Chinese citizen for Pakistani audiences.

In July 2011, the Pakistan-China Institute had signed an MoU with the Xinjiang Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and in February 2012, we received a high level delegation from this organization in Islamabad. During this visit, we launched another PCI website, pakistan-china.com. The key event of this occasion was the launch of the first Pakistan-China joint venture in magazine publishing in the form of a monthly periodical, *Youlin (Good Neighbours)*. And in July 2012, PCI launched the magazine's website, youlinmagazine.com, the first website in Pakistan which is in both Chinese and English, and which is fast becoming the principle platform to promote the culture of the two countries and facilitate social and informational exchanges.

In 2012, PCI also signed an MoU with the China Foundation for Peace and Development, which includes, among other areas of cooperation, a book project. I am compiling the book as Editor, and it features several distinguished writers. With their contributions, this book will, Inshallah, become an essential and authoritative background book on the history of Pakistan-China relations, and we hope that we can launch it to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the historic March 1963 Boundary Agreement that was concluded between Pakistan and China.

PCI is also in discussions with prominent Chinese think tanks such as the China Foundation for International Studies, a delegation from which we hosted in Lahore a few months ago, and which was led by its president

Mr Zhang Deguang, former Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; and the China Association for International Friendly Contact, a delegation from which we received at PCI this same year.

In early September, I led a delegation of the PCI, which included the Editor of the Youlin magazine and website, Dr Dushka H. Saiyid, the Managing Director of Oxford University Press in Karachi Mrs Ameena Saiyid, and the Associate Editor of the Youlin magazine and website, Aiza Azam, to attend the first Eurasia Publications Expo. I, along with our Chinese hosts, was nominated as one of the keynote speakers for the event. And it was also the occasion on which we published five books jointly with our counterparts in Urumqi.

PCI has been established for a very short time; how do you measure its success in terms of its stated objective of encouraging people-to-people contact between the two nations?

With regards to what PCI has achieved, I would say we have a very philosophical long term approach, shall we say one that mirrors the successful Chinese approach to all important affairs. There is a Chinese saying that *'the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.'* And in three years, while our achievements may be modest, whatever we have done has been solid, substantive, and sustainable work that will have a long term impact.

The PCI has emerged today as the premier people-to-people platform that is non-governmental, that is non-political, and that is non-party. It is the platform to which different sections of society in both China and Pakistan turn for advice, assistance or guidance. For instance, I am pleased to report that as a consequence of PCI's initiative to launch Chinese language classes in collaboration with the Roots School System, and only a year after the first classes had begun, the government of Pakistan took the historic landmark decision of introducing Chinese as a compulsory language in all schools in the province of Sindh. And, furthermore, we have been inundated with requests from other private schools for help in recruiting Chinese teachers and launching Chinese language classes as part of their programs.

Our biggest challenge is to have an outreach to a Chinese audience in the Chinese language, which we hope to achieve through our Youlin website. The monthly Youlin magazine is also popular among those interested in learning more about China and in particular about Xinjiang.

Recently, I met with His Excellency Li Changchun, the head of Media and Culture in China and a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, when he visited Islamabad on October 17th 2012. In that meeting I proposed on behalf of PCI that ventures be undertaken in order to broaden Pakistan-China relations in the field of media, education, and economy. For example, some productive initiatives I suggested were to conduct training programs for media persons, including journalists, photographers and cameraman; to establish a Pakistan-China University; and to create a young entrepreneurs forum in the fields of business, science and technology.

The Pakistan-China Institute is also reaching out to leading Chinese business concerns in Pakistan. We have signed an MoU with the federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry for promoting cooperation between Pakistan and China in business, trade and investments. We have also undertaken a joint venture with Miltronix, a leading telecommunications provider headquartered in Islamabad, to open an office together in Shenzhen.

We have also signed an MoU with ZONG, China Mobile's first overseas subsidiary, as well as with Chinese media organizations such as CCTV and China Radio International.

Ambassador Liu Jian states that ties between his country and Pakistan have “gone beyond bilateral dimensions and acquired broader regional and international ramifications.” It is true that the enduring strength of Sino-Pak relations has created a new paradigm of sorts, within which concerned states calibrate their perceptions, responses and policy decisions. The evolution in bilateral ties has provoked something of an alarmist reaction from certain countries, largely from India and the US, which, together with Pakistan and China, form a complex quadrangle of relationships, in which developments in one set of bilateral relations is always measured in terms of its political and strategic significance for the other two states.

How do you view these reactions?

Pakistan and China today are a source of strength for each other, cooperating on issues at regional and international fora. This is based on the track record of our bilateral relations and on the mutuality of interests. At the regional level, Pakistan and China are keen to promote regional economic cooperation, which includes a relationship driven by economy and energy plus pipelines and communication links, as well as a common quest to see the prevalence of peace, security and stability in south west Asia post US withdrawal. Pakistan is a strategic source of strength for China covering its ‘soft southern underbelly,’ particularly Tibet and Xinjiang. Pakistan is also a window for China on the Muslim world. And it firmly believes that a rising China is a source of strength for all of Asia and it rejects any notion of ‘containment of China,’ since that would mean a reversion to the Cold War.

China also provides Pakistan with strategic support at various international fora, including the United Nations Security Council, the G-20, and institutions like the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). This convergence extends to international issues including the Iranian nuclear standoff, or the Syrian crisis.

How do you feel deepening Pak-China relations have impacted, and continue to impact, both their relations with India and the US, as well as Indo-US bilateral ties?

If there is a common convergence between Pakistan and China about their regional and global world views, a convergence is also discernible between the US and India, with an unstated desire of a section of officialdom in Washington to prop up India as a possible counterweight to rising China. For instance, the Indo-US nuclear deal was not about the nuclear issue, since India gets only 3% of its energy from nuclear sources; rather, it was a strategic step to cobble a new relationship with a strong China-centric component. Then, it is no accident that of late, especially after the announcement in November 2011 by President Obama during his visit to Australia of an Asian Pivot (and in the wake of Secretary of State Hilary Clinton’s article on ‘America’s Pacific Century’). Then, pursuant to this talk, there have been tripartite defence discussions between India, the US and Japan, running concurrently with an invitation from Vietnam to Indian oil companies for oil prospecting in the disputed waters of the South China Sea. There has also been talk from Washington of beefing up US military presence in South East Asia and strengthening defence ties with countries that may be at loggerheads with China on the issue of territorial disputes.

For countries like Pakistan, there is therefore a genuine concern that these steps could be the opening salvos in a new Cold War in Asia: while the US prepares to retreat from Southwest Asia, it plans to return in a big way in Southeast Asia.

Do you feel it is possible to change these perceptions, and how?

Yes, it would be possible to change these perceptions if the approach is less ideological and more realistic, and more in congruence with the emerging realities in Asia, which do not allow for a new kind of Cold War. After 9/11, the US pursued an ideological foreign policy, pushed by the neo cons in Washington that tried to reshape the region according to its interests and objectives. The invasion and occupation of Iraq was a classic example, because that invasion had nothing to do with the tragic events of 9/11 or Al Qaeda or Osama Bin Laden. Simply put, if we look at the emerging economic realities, it'll be difficult for the US economy to sustain a new confrontation with an ascendant China. As it is, US-China trade now totals almost \$540 billion annually, and the same applies to Japan and India, with Japan's trade with China topping \$250 billion per annum, and India's trade with China totaling almost \$75 billion every year. So the hope is that economic realities will take precedence over the priorities pushed by an empowered military industrial complex in the United States.

Both Pakistan and China have major stakes in Afghanistan. In what areas do their interests coincide and how they can cooperate towards achieving them? What direction can Sino-Pak cooperation viz-a-viz Afghanistan be expected to take, post 2014?

I feel that in the coming years, Afghanistan will increasingly become a centerpiece of Pakistan-China convergence of interests in the region. Both are neighbours of Afghanistan and both will be amongst the first to feel the fallout of any conflict there. Continued violence and instability in Afghanistan can spill over into Pakistan's FATA region and Baluchistan province, while, at the same time, an Afghan civil war could spawn violent extremism in China's Xinjiang province, which could be de-stabilizing for China's Northwest region. Therefore, it is not surprising that at the end of September 2012, one of the top Chinese leaders, Zhou Yongkang, member of the Standing Committee for the Central Committee's Politburo of the Communist Party of China, visited Afghanistan in the first such high-level visit in 456 years, and signed the first security accord between Kabul and Beijing, whereby China will train Afghanistan's police for the first time. And China is already the biggest foreign investor in Afghanistan. And Pakistan is already hosting 2.5 million Afghan refugees. So both have a strategic stake in durable peace and stability in Afghanistan.. And if a vacuum has to be prevented in the aftermath of the US/NATO exit from Afghanistan, then it is imperative that the six neighbours of Afghanistan, particularly Pakistan and China play a lead role in diplomacy to promote peace in Afghanistan and preserve its territorial integrity and national unity.

There is a school of thought in Pakistan that advocates a more nuanced Pakistani approach to relations with China, believing it must be conditioned by the view that any support China extends to Pakistan is done with care that it does not affect Sino-US relations, Sino-Indian relations or Chinese core interests, and that, in corollary, should Beijing and Pakistan find their interests to be out of alignment on a particular issue, Beijing will not hesitate to explore other options. What is your view on this?

I feel that this concern is unfounded, because the issues and problems that Pakistan-American relations face, or for that matter Pakistan-India relations, they predate our strategic bonding with China. In fact, it was after the 1962 American embrace of India in the aftermath of the Sino-Indian border conflict, that Pakistan chose to befriend China as an alternative to the United States, and as a counterweight to India in a new sort of balance of power for South Asia. In other words, Pakistan-China relations have become a relationship that stands on its own merits, as a relationship with depth and substance, irrespective of the ebbs and flows in Pakistan's ties with either the US or India. It is now generally accepted in Pakistan that Islamabad's intimacy with the US is seasonal, and that Pakistan-India relations remain accident prone,

linked to events and developments that can suddenly cause fluctuation in these ties. Conversely, Pakistan-China relations are all weather and therefore more solid and stable, having a resilience of their own, irrespective of the changes in the region around them.

How do you feel the US re-positioning towards the Asia-Pacific region will impact relations between Pakistan and China?

Pakistan has been through this process a couple of times in the past, where geopolitics drew certain lines in Asia and Pakistan was asked to choose between friendship with China and its ties with the then superpowers, but Pakistan took a position that was clear and consistent. At the height of the Cold War, it was the US which tried to put pressure on Pakistan, especially in the context of the 1965 war with India, to stop *“flirtation with China,”* but Pakistan declined, with President Ayub Khan famously telling President Johnson of the US, in Washington in November 1965, that *“If we break with the US, we may lose our economy, but if we break with China, we will weaken the country.”* And in 1969, when the Soviet Union, floated the concept of Asian collective security to isolate and counter China in Asia, Pakistan was one of the first and foremost strident opponents of this concept , rejecting it as something detrimental to Pakistan’s vital security interests, giving primacy to our relations with China. So in the current context too, Pakistan’s response will be predictable. Pakistan will stay out of any new schemes that talk of *‘containing China.’*

In your view, what challenges will Pakistan-China relations face ahead, following the leadership transition in China and the expected election of Xi Jinping to China’s highest office?

I believe that our policy makers must focus on three particular areas. Firstly, we must work towards eliminating bureaucratic red tape and address allegations of corruption, as these are two issues that can adversely affect Chinese investment in Pakistan and could prove economically harmful. Secondly, we must work towards ensuring greater security for the Chinese expats working here, with particular reference to the experts and technicians who are working on 130 different projects across the country. And thirdly, we must address the Chinese concerns with respect to the roots of violent extremism, which they often believe emanate from Pakistan’s contentious border region with Afghanistan. These are three key challenges that Pak-China relations will face in the time to come.

ANALYSIS: WHAT DOES TRANSITION IN CHINA MEAN FOR PAKISTAN?

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

Published in Express Tribune, 14th November 2012

The party congress, held every 5 years, brings together 2,000 top leaders to decide on future policy and leadership. Significantly, the current Congress will select a new party boss, 59-year-old Xi Jinping, son of a prominent Communist Party revolutionary and reformer who was purged by Chairman Mao during the Cultural Revolution and rehabilitated later by Deng Xiaoping.

When his father was removed from office, Xi Jinping spent seven years in the countryside for '*ideological reorientation*', living and working with peasants. Later, Xi Jinping rose to become a successful chief executive of two coastal provinces of China, marrying a famous artist and a major general in the People's Liberation Army.

Last year, I had the privilege of an hour-long meeting with Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Speaking without notes in an uncharacteristically candid manner, he modestly laid out his largely economic vision of China for the next 50 years: prosperity for the people, stability at home and peace abroad.

Unlike the past, the Communist Party chief is now a first among equals, presiding over a collective leadership of 9 (or 7, as it may be decided today) persons, members of the apex Standing Committee formed out of the 25 member Political Bureau which, in turn, is elected from amongst 350 members of the Party's Central Committee.

Under Xi Jinping, China will face challenges in economy, politics and foreign affairs: a growing wealth gap, combating corruption which President Hu Jintao termed in his opening day speech '*fatal for the nation*', and managing China's rise without irking other Asian countries, or a cautious West.

Relevance to the region

On the eve of the party congress, visits by top leaders of China to Afghanistan and Pakistan indicate both the centrality of this region for China, and the paramount importance of security and strategic issues on its north-west. Proactive diplomacy apart, the region will also see China's '*soft power*' – culture, media, language and education – being exuded in a more robust manner to counter what many view in Beijing as a Washington-driven containment strategy with India roped in as its '*silent partner*'.

While Pakistan's importance for China has increased lately as it continues to be a window to the Muslim World, serving as its '*reliable rear*' by protecting China's '*soft southern underbelly*' (Tibet and Xinjiang), Pakistani policy-makers will have to fast-track their homework in three areas that could retard the growth of Pakistan-China relations.

First, bureaucratic red tape and allegations of corruption, which have successfully managed to scuttle economic ties with Chinese companies pulling out on this count, as happened on the Thar Coal project in 2004 or the Nandipur power plant earlier this year.

Second, security of the 15,000 Chinese technicians, experts and engineers working on 130 projects in Pakistan, given recurring incidents of kidnapping and killing of Chinese experts. A major Chinese investment

project on energy in Sind, said to be in the vicinity of \$19 billion, was called off on security grounds.

Third, Beijing feels roots of violent extremism in Xinjiang often have footprints traced to Afghanistan and Waziristan.

Finally, Xi Jinping's China will be a more assertive China which has arrived naturally in the international stage, with its rise being viewed as part of the emerging "Asian Century." This is a China which will no longer accept being pushed around and which sees its peaceful rise as an historical reassertion of global power realities that existed 250 years ago.

SIGNIFICANCE & IMPACT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN-CHINA RELATIONS: AN APPRAISAL

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

Published in News, 14th July 2013

Introduction

The two visits of the Prime Ministers of China and Pakistan to each other's countries within a span of 6 weeks have resulted in a significant strengthening and broadening of the strategic partnership between the two neighbours. These were visits with a difference, due primarily to the vision and will of both sides to give a practical shape and concrete follow-up within a stipulated time-frame and an institutional mechanism established to ensure speedy implementation.

The guiding principles remain the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourly Relations between China and Pakistan, signed in April 2005.

Significance

Pakistan has banked its economic revival, resolution of energy crisis, strengthening the Federation through linkages based on road and rail infrastructure and, more broadly, progress and prosperity of the people of Pakistan in the short & medium term (5-10 years) on the time-tested, reliable and resilient relationship with our Northern neighbour.

China has developed an institutional stake in the stability, security and progress of Pakistan by generously providing its 'all weather friend' all available avenues and opportunities for development and expertise considering the 'relationship with Pakistan (was) always a matter of highest priority in its foreign policy', and in appreciation of 'Pakistan's long-term staunch support on issues concerning China's core interests.'

- (A) Establishing, for the first time, a Ministerial level Joint Cooperation Committee, with secretariats in both countries, for fast-track planning and execution of agreed projects, reflects a serious approach on both sides to ensure follow-up and implementation.
- (B) Pakistan has wholeheartedly supported China without reservations on China's 'core interests' including its border issues linked to its territorial integrity & unity, seeing its peaceful rise as

a source of stability and strength for Asia and the region, the role of the Communist Party as the leading political force in Chinese society, Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang, with Pakistan's PM strongly endorsing China when he said: *'We regard ETIM as our common threat and stand united in combating this menace.'*

- (C) The regional and global context also reinforces this bilateral bond as the Joint Statement says: *'This relationship had acquired growing strategic significance in the emerging dynamics of 21st century' and it was therefore necessary to 'deepen the Sino-Pakistan strategic partnership in the new era.'* From maritime cooperation to UN reform to their *'opposition to the weaponisation and an arms race in outer space'* and non-discrimination on nuclear issues, both share a convergence of interest on a wide range of issues.
- (D) Two regional factors also impinge on this convergence of interest between China & Pakistan. First, while not explicitly referring to the opening of the Taliban office in Doha, China has signalled a more proactive role on this issue, given Afghanistan's situation having *'great implications for regional peace and security'*, and endorsed Pakistan's line of *'inclusive political reconciliation as a key step for peace.'* Second, China's warmth with Pakistan has coincided with a *'war of words'* with India: a prominent Chinese military leader even publicly rebuked India for trying to *'stir up trouble and provoke new problems'* on the eve of their Defence Minister's arrival in Beijing.

Successful follow-up depends on Pakistan taking 3 decisive steps:

- 1) There have been well-founded complaints from the Chinese side regarding Pakistan's failure to implement what is decided due to a slow and sluggish bureaucracy which works on a long red-tape, often coupled with loud whispers of graft allegations. Nandipur and Thar coal are testimony to this unfortunate reality. Such a negative official work culture has to change in Islamabad if this vision is to be given practical shape.
- 2) Since these projects will involve the presence of a large number of Chinese personnel, almost 15,000 in over 120 different projects, their safety and security has to be paramount, with the Government responsible for preventing any recurrence of kidnapping/killing incidents.
- 3) Ensuring a somewhat stable and peaceful environment in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan, the two pivotal points of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor, are among the preconditions to promote this broadened strategic partnership.

Conclusion

China has also emerged as a factor of national unity with Pakistan, with broad support of the people for relations with China all across the political spectrum, ranking in this regard alongside such popular issues as support for democracy, Kashmir and the nuclear issue. Hence, the reference in the Joint Statement to *'friendship with China (was) the cornerstone of its foreign policy, enjoying a national consensus.'*

AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING PREMIER LI KEQIANG'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN

22nd - 24th May 2013

MoU on Maritime Cooperation

MoU on Cooperation for Long Term Plan on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Marine Science and Technology

Agreement on boundary management system between China's Xinjiang province and Pakistan's Gilgit Baltistan

Agreement on economic and technical cooperation

Agreement on Sino-Pak border posts and their management system

Agreement on satellite navigation

Agreement on the establishment of a Confucius Institute at Karachi University

AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING PAKISTANI PREMIER NAWAZ SHARIF'S VISIT TO CHINA

3rd – 8th July 2013

MoU on local Home Solar Solution Project

MoU on setting up communication links via optic fiber

MoU for cooperation between Institute of Strategic Studies and China Institute of Contemporary Studies

MoU for cooperation and exchanges between Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Communist Party of China

Agreement on establishment of Pak-China Economic Corridor from Gwadar to Kashgar

Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation

Letter of Exchange on training courses for textiles, flood relief and disaster management

Letter of Exchange on provision of equipment for eradicating polio

PAKISTAN-CHINA TRADE STATISTICS

Pakistan-China Trade (Value: US \$ Million)			
Year	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
2005 - 06	437	1,843	- 1,406
2006 - 07	548	2,321	- 1,773
2007 - 08	685	3,029	- 2,344
2008-09	661	2,708	- 2,344
2009-0	1,211	3,284	- 2,073
2010-11	1,645	4,145	- 2,500

Source: (i) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. (ii) State Bank of Pakistan.

PAKISTAN'S EXPORTS TO CHINA

Product Increase (Values in "000"\$)			
Products	JULY-JUNE		
	2011-12	2010-11	VAR.
Cotton Yarn	1,086,385	914,594	171,791
Cotton Cloth	269,062	137,339	131,723
Rice Other Varieties	147,724	1,174	146,550
Raw Cotton	126,116	75,319	50,797
Leather	56,292	47,862	8,430
Plastic Materials	44,215	40,290	3,925
Guar & Guar Products	40,973	9,858	31,115
Marbles And Stones	34,899	30,677	4,222
Petroleum Products	33,200	18,067	15,133
Other Chemical	21,051	21,037	14
Surgical Goods,Medical	6,088	3,194	2,894
Ready Made Garments	5,523	2,654	2,869
Art Silk & Synthetic Tex.	5,503	2,035	3,468
Cotton Waste	5,427	2,904	2,523
Leguminous Vegetable	3,716	-	3,716
Tex.Made Ups(Exc.T.& Bed).	3,707	3,356	351
Yarn Oth. Than C. Yarn	3,338	1,976	1,362
Knitwears	3,334	1,414	1,920
Other Machinery	2,705	497	2,208
Onyx Manufactured	2,010	1,240	770

Product Increase (Values in "000"\$)			
Products	JULY-JUNE		
	2011-12	2010-11	VAR.
Cutlery	1,587	1,388	199
Foot Balls Complete	1,487	448	1,039
Cotton Thread	1,215	51	1,164
Towels	679	117	562
Crude Animal Material	676	134	542
Animal Hair	595	279	316
Gloves (Sports)	591	568	23
Leather Gloves	335	158	177
Waste Material Of Text.	322	188	134
Raw Wool	177	66	111
Wheat Flour	64	-	64
Books & Printed Matters	54	23	31
Spices(Incl. Chillies)	46	26	20
Oth. Electrical Machinery	41	13	28
Other Footwear	31	14	17
Paper And Paper Board	23	1	22
Carpets Knotted & Other	18	9	9
Auto Parts	6	-	6
Leather Footwear	4	2	2
Canvas Footwear	1	-	1
Jewellery	1	-	1
Other Commodities	171,990	171,110	880
Total	2,081,211	1,490,082	591,129

MAJOR CHINESE CORPORATIONS AND PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN

Infrastructure and Energy

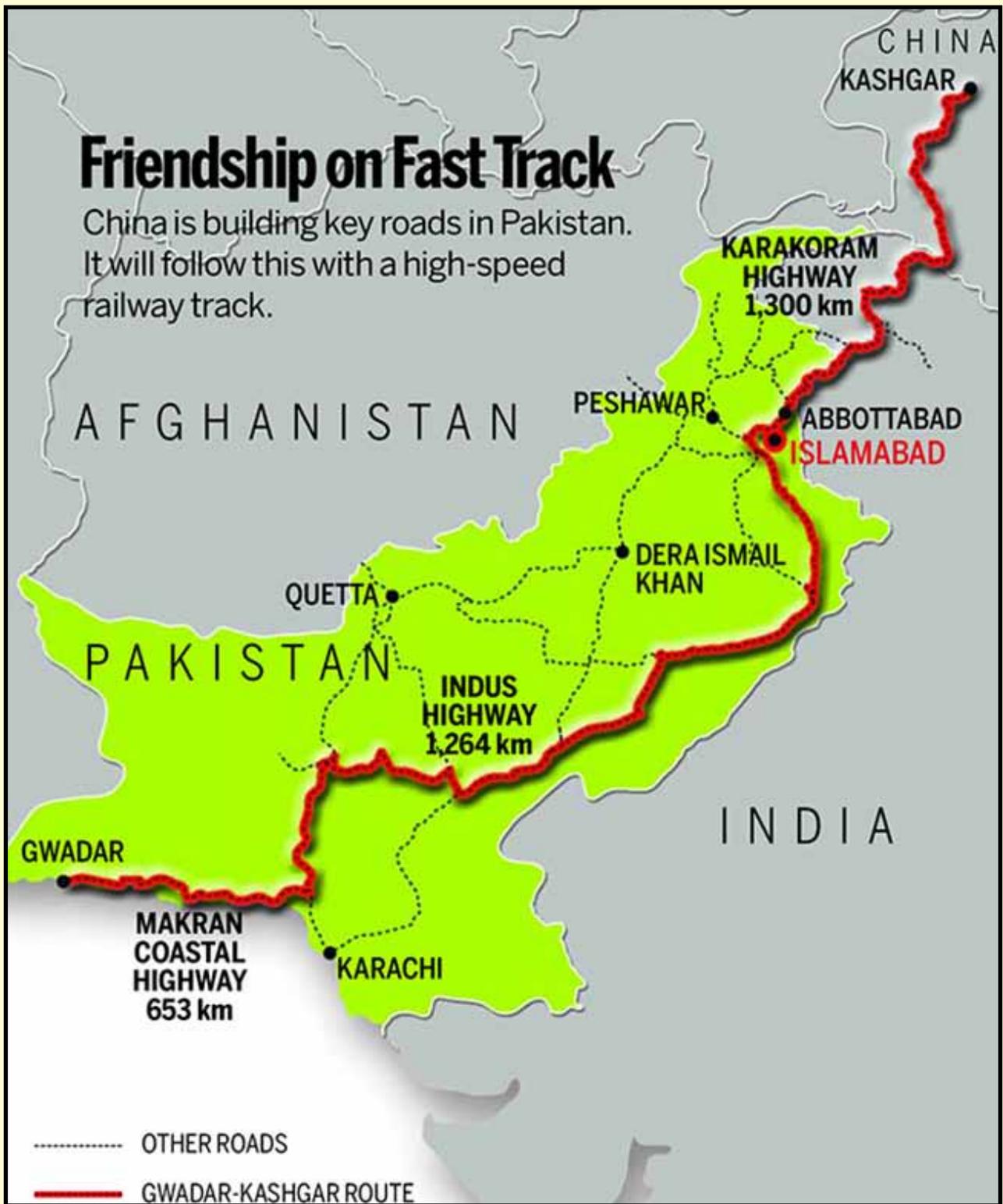
- China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC): Karakorum Highway rehabilitation and expansion project
- China and Pakistan New Energy International Pvt Limited (CPNEI): Solar energy systems and Battery Operated Electric Motor Bikes
- China Zhongyuan Engineering Corporation Ltd: 325 MW Chashma Nuclear Power Project, (Unit I, II) Mianwali
- Shenhua International Ltd: Thar Coal Mine & Power Project
- China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation: 2x275 MW Coal Power Plants at Sando – Jherrak, Sindh
- China National Water & Hydropower Eng. Corporation: Gomal-Zam Hydropower Project-D.I. Khan/ Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
- China International Water and Electric Corporation: Mangla Dam Raising Project
- China Machine Building International Co. (CMIC) & Central China Power Group (CCPG): Satpara Dam
- China Gezhouba Water & Power Company (CGGC) and China Machinery Export Corporation (CMEC): Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project
- China Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Co, Housing Enterprises JV (CWH-HE) and Dongfang Electric Corporation (DEC): Khan Khwar Hydropower Project and DuberKhwar Hydropower Project.
- North Industry Corporation: Solar power plants production

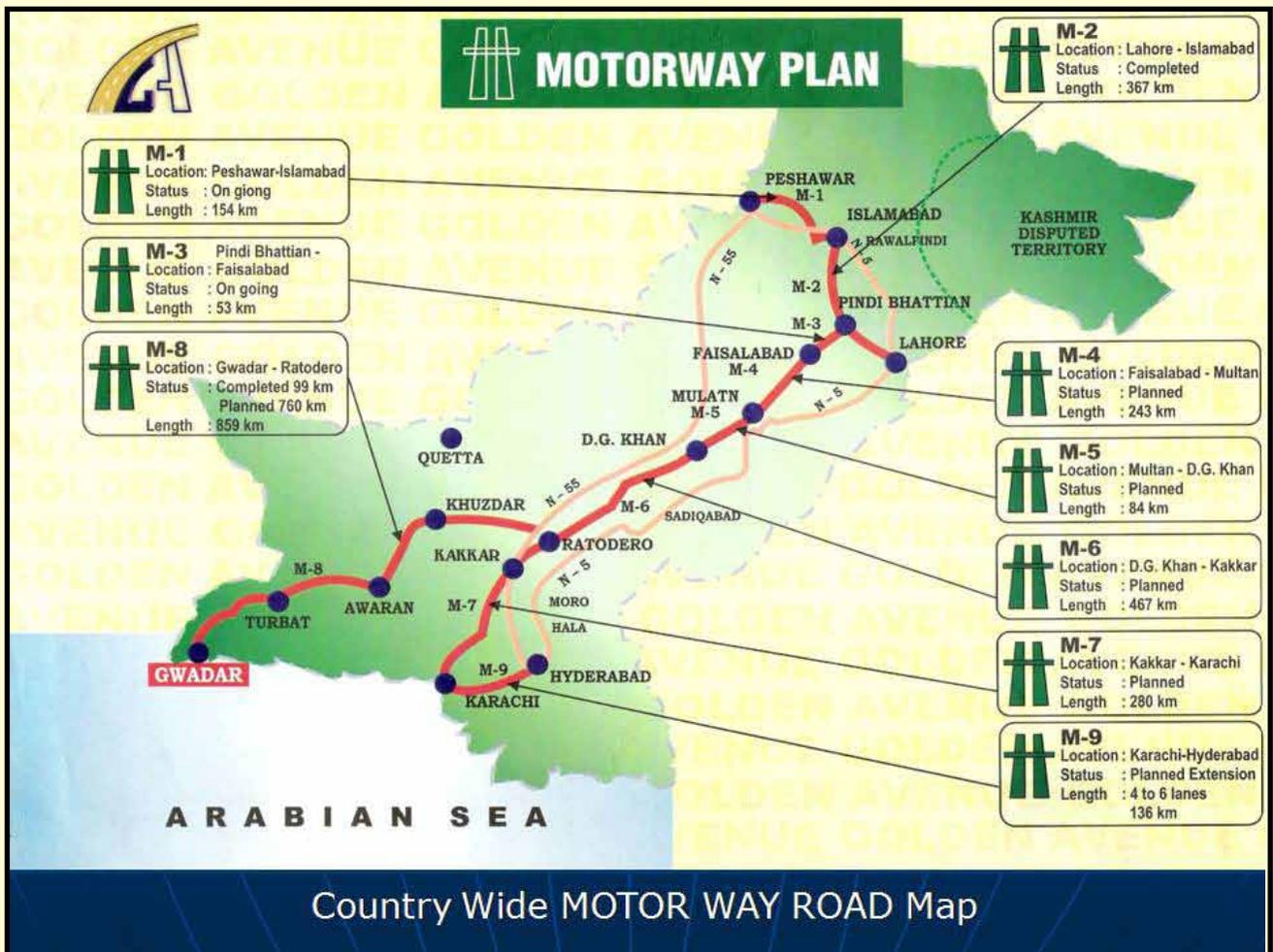
Telecommunication

- Zhongxing Telecom Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd
- China Mobile Pakistan (Zong)
- Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. Pakistan

Airline Carriers

- China Southern Airlines Company limited





The Nation, Islamabad Thursday, November 7, 2013

Mushahid for greater Pak-China co-op

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**OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD**

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee, highlighted the various dynamic regional contexts that will define the Pak-China relationship.

The shift in the balance of power from East to West with the rise of China as a pillar of strength, stability and security has defined 21st century as the Asian century," said Mushahid while addressing a workshop on "Doing Business with China", organised by COMSATS Institute and Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce in his capacity as Chairman, Pakistan-China Institute.

The Senator, in his keynote speech, said that China has emerged as an economic, political and regional power in the world while Pakistan with its friendship with China could also emerge as a powerful country to be a part of this Asian century.

Elucidating his indigenous concept of a "Greater South Asia," the Senator proclaimed that Pak-China economic corridor would play a crucial role in emergence of new regionalism in South Asia. This South Asia, he explained, would include China, Iran, Afghanistan and stretch all the way to Myanmar and will be knit together by cooperation in

energy and economy.

The chairman stated the vision enunciated by the new leadership in China has immense bearing on the region. The Chinese leadership, he said, envisions sharing prosperity, peaceful development and security in the region, particularly its neighbours "Pak-China Economic Corridor, Central Asia Economic Belt and Kunming-Yangon- Chittagong railway are a part of that vision of President Xi Jinping."

He said that there are infinite opportunities for Pakistan's entrepreneurs and businessmen to reap the fruits of such changing regional contexts. Citing the examples of Thar Coal and Nandipur Power Projects, he cautioned that Pakistan must address certain key issues to facilitate a greater Pak-China cooperation e.g. red tapism and corruption in bureaucracy and lack of security in the country.

He said that there should be a special force for industry and protection of foreign workers. "There are currently 13, 000 Chinese workers in Pakistan whose security is of great concern."

The chairman ended on a lighter note by saying that Pak-China friendship is the only issue in Pakistan that has an astoundingly unanimous consensus in Pakistan, be it among political parties, leaders, businessmen or academia.

China – brother from another mother!

Bureaucratic redtapism, corruption, terrorism can slow down Pak-China cooperation: Mushahid

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

The shift in the balance of power from East to West with the rise of China as a pillar of strength, stability and security has defined 21st century as the Asian century. China has emerged as an economic, political and regional power in the world while Pakistan with its friendship with China could also emerge as a powerful country to be a part of this Asian Century. This was said by Senate Defence Committee Chairman Senator Mushahid Hussain on Wednesday while highlighting the various dynamic regional contexts that will define Pak-China relationship during a workshop 'Doing Business with China', organised by COMSATS Institute and Pakistan Federation

of Chambers of Commerce. Elucidating his indigenous concept of a "Greater South Asia, the senator proclaimed that Pak-China economic corridor would play a crucial role in emergence of new regionalism in South Asia. This South Asia, he explained, would include China, Iran, Afghanistan and stretch all the way to Myanmar and will be knit together by cooperation in energy and economy.

The chairman stated the vision enunciated by the new leadership in China has immense bearing on the region. The Chinese leadership, he said, envisions sharing prosperity, peaceful development and security in the region, particularly its neighbours, adding that "Pak-China Economic Corridor, Central Asia Economic Belt and Kunming-Yangon-Chittagong railway are a part of that vision of President Xi Jinping." He said that

there are infinite opportunities for Pakistan's entrepreneurs and businessmen to reap the fruits of such changing regional contexts. Citing the examples of Tarbela and Nandipur Power Projects, he cautioned that Pakistan must address certain key issues to facilitate a greater Pak-China cooperation e.g. red tapism and corruption in bureaucracy and lack of security in the country. He said that there should be a special force for industry and protection of foreign workers, adding that "There are currently 13,000 Chinese workers in Pakistan whose security is of great concern." The chairman ended on a lighter note by saying that Pak-China friendship is the only issue in Pakistan that has an astoundingly unanimous consensus in Pakistan, be it among political parties, leaders, businessmen or academics.



The Nation, Islamabad, Monday, September 2, 2013

Mushahid awarded by Chinese varsity

ISLAMABAD
OUR STAFF REPORTER



Chairman Pak-China Institute, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, was honoured in Beijing by China's top Tsinghua University with an award for his outstanding contribution to Pakistan-China public diplomacy, says a press release issued here on Sunday.

The award was given by Yang Yanyi, Assistant Minister in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Professor Li Xiguang, Director Tsinghua University International Centre for Communication, during a seminar of China-Pakistan think tanks held Sunday in Beijing. In the citation for the award, Tsinghua University listed the singular and proactive role of Senator Mushahid in his capacity as chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, established since 2009 as a non-governmental, non-political and non-party organisation to launch people-to-people initiatives between Pakistan and China.

The Pakistan-China Institute has become the principal non-official platform to promote relations between the two countries in culture, education, youth, women, media, Chinese language promotion as well as other areas of relations between the two peoples. Pakistan-China Institute has a daily newsletter, Ni-hao-Salam, providing information on current developments in bilateral relations, the only organisation providing such a public service on relations with China, and is the first Pakistani organisation to have a bilingual website, youlinmagazine.com, in both English and Chinese, apart from a joint venture to publish a cultural monthly.

Senate to host 6th plenary session of APA on Dec 8

Mushahid says 21st Century to be Asian century

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OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Senate of Pakistan will host the three-day 6th Plenary Session of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) on 8th of the next month.

Chairman Organising Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, stated this in a press conference here on Tuesday.

The APA is an Asia-wide organisation bringing together parliaments from all the Asian countries. About 25 countries, representing parliaments and parliamentarians from all over Asia, have confirmed to participate in this conference, which will include nearly 200 delegates.

The APA, which last met in Damascus in 2010, this time has a very relevant conference theme, namely, "Asian Century: Cooperation in Economy, Energy and Environment", and at the end of the conference, the Islamabad Declaration will be issued to promote this theme of the Asian Century.

By virtue of Pakistan's hosting the APA, the Chairman of the Senate, Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari is expected to be unanimously elected as the new President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, which will be a great honour for Pakistan, testifying to international recognition of Pakistan's role as a vibrant, dynamic democracy.

The conference will be open to media and a special media centre will be es-

tablished at a local hotel to facilitate media coverage of this important conference. The Senate of Pakistan has also arranged live streaming of this conference through its especially dedicated

website: www.asianparliament.org.pk

The Senate of Pakistan has also made arrangements to facilitate media coverage and media interviews of Asian parliamentary leaders during the conference.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said that the conference is being held at a very important moment in the history of Asia when the balance of power is shifting from the West to the East and it is now generally recognised that the 21st Century would be the "Asian Century". In this context, he said it is imperative that the elected representatives of the people of Asia must shape the destiny and future of Asia so that the problems of world's biggest continent can be resolved by Asians themselves.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said that this conference would by grace of God not only enhance the image of Pakistan since Pakistan is playing a pivotal role in the most strategic region of Asia, but also on the pressing issues such as economy, energy and the environment, the APA would seek to present a way-forward.

QUALITY EDU GOVT'S PRIORITY: PRESIDENT

President Mamnoon Hussain said on Tuesday that the government has ac-

corded high priority to the promotion of quality education across the country so as to prepare the youth for the role of future leadership.

Talking to Brigadier (ret'd) Iqbal M. Shafi, Honorary President of Sir Syed Memorial Society, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President said that education could enable the youth make positive contribution towards nation building.

He said that through education, the developed nations had ascended to the heights of glory. He said that the government was vigorously pursuing its six-pronged youth development policy, which would open new vistas of educational and employment opportunities for the youth, besides generating economic activity in the country.

Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri, Secretary Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education, Munir Ahmad Chaudhry and Mrs Razina Alam Khan of Sir Syed Memorial Society attended the meeting. Brig Shafi apprised the President about the various activities, aims and objectives and achievements of the Sir Syed Memorial Society in various areas, especially education and science and technology.

The President appreciated the efforts being made by the society for the promotion of education.

He hoped that the Sir Syed Memorial Society would continue its mission of promotion of education and assured his support to the society in its endeavours in this regard.

Pak, China to hold Parliamentary Security dialogue in July 2014

ISLAMABAD—Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee has proposed to initiate a Parliamentary Security Dialogue between China and Pakistan to discuss and deliberate on the regional situation particularly the new scenario arising out of the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan. He said that the post-2014 situation is important for the countries bordering Afghanistan particularly China and Pakistan.

Senator Mushahid floated this proposal during meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence with the 11-member Chinese Parliamentary delegation headed by Wang Zhengwei Vice Chairman 12th CPPCC

National Committee, and Minister, State Ethnic Affairs Commission.

He said that Pakistan and China have a commonality of opinion on issues of regional and global significance and both are strong strategic partners. Commencement of the dialogue will enable the two to have mutual understanding on dealing with post-2014 situation.

About Pak-China relations Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed remarked that Pakistan enjoys a time tested and all weather friendship with China and expressed the hope that relations between the two neighboring countries would grow in future. He termed the speech of Chinese President as important one which would help boost re-

gional cooperation and people to people contacts.

Leader of the Chinese Parliamentary delegation agreed with the views of Senator Mushahid. He said that the proposal of Parliamentary Security Dialogue would be an important initiative and would enable Pakistan and China to mutually work for security, development and stability. He underscored the need to step up cooperation to eradicate roots of terrorism.

He also highlighted the significance of bilateral cooperation and friendly ties with Pakistan. Mr. Wang also extended an invitation to Senate Standing Committee on Defence to visit China which accepted by the Committee. —AP

Mushahid Hussain Syed
Secretary general of the PML-Q



” Asia must carve a common future of prosperity that is free from hegemony

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, DECEMBER 11, 2013

Islamabad Declaration

APA resolves to protect rights of Asians

Premier says making collective efforts to tackle peace and economy problems

PEER MUHAMMAD
ISLAMABAD

The Asian Parliament Assembly (APA) issued a 20-point Islamabad Declaration at the end of a three-day session pledging to preserve, protect and promote the interest of Asians.

In a joint declaration, Asian parliamentarians resolved to work in unison to promote co-

operation between Asian states in the fields of economy, energy and environment by providing equal educational and employment opportunities.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, while addressing the session earlier in the day, urged Asian states to make collective efforts to tackle challenges including peace, energy and economy. He emphasised that the proper utilisation of resources can ensure economic growth and alleviate poverty in Asia by 2050.

“Pakistan is much keen to work with the regional countries to boost trade and eco-

nomic activities in the region”, he maintained.

The APA in their declaration expressed commitment to promote the pivotal roles of parliaments. The delegations stressed on recognition of regional economic underlying the need for trade, commerce, investment, special economic zones, economic corridors, roads, railways and promoting energy cooperation.

The delegations also affirmed the inalienable right of every country to acquire, develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes

under IAEA safeguards.

The session called upon all parties in the Syrian conflict to agree to a ceasefire and promote a peaceful dialogue in Syria to restore peace in the country. It also condemned all kinds of foreign occupation, interference in internal affairs and violation of territorial integrity and state sovereignty. It denounced drone attacks, spying or telephone tapping, invasion or covert operations, which are not compliant with the civilised conduct of interstate relations based on the rule of law.

Our correspondent

Islamabad

To warmly welcome the new ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China, Sun Weidong and Maizhan Weidong, Chairperson, Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and his wife, Dr. Dostika, hosted a dinner at the Serena Hotel.

The event was attended by many Chinese nationals living and doing business in Pakistan and Pakistani representatives from academia, think tanks, business enterprises, opinion leaders and old friends of China who had contributed in various ways to promoting and strengthening the 'all weather friendship' between the two countries. The young and enthusiastic staff members of the institute as well as the magazines it publishes were also present.

The Zehreshan Hall presented a bright and cheerful look, with flowers and nicely laid tables, making the

Mushahid Hussain Sayed hosts dinner for new Chinese envoy, PCI chairperson

guests even more aware that this was a very special occasion.

Addressing the gathering the host began with welcoming the ambassador and his wife, followed by spontaneous applause from the guests. After saying a few words of introduction about Ambassador Sun, he went on to say, "Pakistan and China have a special friendship. We too want to follow the Chinese dream of a peaceful and progressive country." He talked of China's rapid progress as the second largest economy, his 'romance' with the country since his first visit in 1970 when he was a student and his progressive interest in the country, which he has visited over forty times since then. Referring

to this strong bond of friendship he said it is, therefore, no accident that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's first foreign visit will be to China on July 4, just as Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang's maiden journey abroad was to South Asia (India and Pakistan) and concluded with good wishes for the ambassador's stay in Pakistan.

Setting aside his prepared speech, Ambassador Sun said, he wanted to speak from his heart. Beginning by thanking the hosts for organising the dinner and introducing him to so many friends of China, he said he had come to Pakistan to further the already deep and abiding friendship that existed between the two countries, rejuvenating it with the help of

the young people who are the future movers and shakers. "Pakistan is very special for us," he said. "I have only been here two weeks and I already feel at home." Speaking about the 'new' China and its 'dream,' on the development of peace and the importance of the involving young people to achieve goals, he said, he was looking forward to interacting with the people of Pakistan. To facilitate this interaction a special website has been set up for Pakistanis to share their views.

No stranger to the region, Ambassador Sun has been striving for Pakistan-China friendship since long, having been involved in the South Asian region for the past decade —

visiting Pakistan, serving in India and promoting policy through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing. The comparatively young envoy took us by surprise with his friendly and informal manner, his fluent English language skills and his sense of humour. When asked about the meaning of his name, Ambassador Sun jokingly said he was a product of the Cultural Revolution, literally speaking.

Born in 1966, when Chairman Mao Zedong launched the Cultural Revolution, his father, a distinguished diplomat who visited Pakistan several times, was inspired by Chairman Mao and named him 'Zedong' since it rhymes with that of the legendary leader.

The PCI is a private, non-governmental platform for promoting people to people ties. It has launched an Economic Cooperation Council and Media Forum as well as initiated Chinese language classes with a local school system. It publishes Youjia Magazine, the first such joint venture between China and Pakistan, which has editorial contents from both sides and focuses on culture, education, media, cuisine, history, heritage, youth, women, and other areas of topical interest for readers in China and Pakistan.

PCI also has a bilingual website, youjiamagazine.com which is entirely a PCI product and a daily online newsletter, 'Nihao Sahan' which is a platform for exchange of ideas and expertise between Pakistan and China in the areas of mutual co-operation. The concept behind both the magazine and the website is to bridge the socio-cultural gap between the Chinese and Pakistani worlds.

Asim Yasin

Islamabad

Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has termed two visits of the prime ministers of China and Pakistan to each other countries within a span of 6 weeks, as "visits with a difference" since they gave a "concrete follow up within a stipulated timeframe and an "institutional mechanism" for speedy implementation.

He was speaking at a Round Table Conference organized by the Pakistan-China Institute, participated by representatives of think tanks like Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) as well as scholars and media persons.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said the significance of these visits is that Pakistan's economic

Mushahid terms Pak-China PMs reciprocal visits significant

revival, revolution of energy crisis and strengthening the federation through linkage process of road and rail infrastructure as well as prosperity of the people of Pakistan in the short and medium term have been linked to our strategic partnership with China.

Similarly, he said China too has developed an institutional stake in the stability, security and progress of Pakistan by generously providing all opportunities for development. He said the Chinese new leadership has reaffirmed that Pakistan remains "the highest priority in the China's foreign policy" and this was also a way of appreciation for "Pakistan's long term

staunch support on issues concerning China's core interests".

Senator Mushahid Hussain identified these "core interests" as China's territorial unity and integrity and border issues, viewing China peaceful rise of source and strength and stability for Asia and the region supporting the role of the Communist Party of China as a leading political force which promotes stability in the Chinese society, as well as issues like Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang. He termed it an important formulation by the Pakistan prime minister during his China visit while endorsing the Chinese stand on Xinjiang.

However, in his presentation, Senator Mushahid Hussain said

the successful follow up to these landmark visits between the prime ministers of China and Pakistan depends on Pakistan taking 3 decisive steps in a speedy manner. First, he said, China complaints regarding Pakistan's failure to implement decisions and MOUs as well as bureaucratic red tap blocking projects like Nandipur and Thar Coal have to be redressed. Second, the safety and security of 15000 Chinese personnel, experts and engineers and technicians working in over 120 different projects has to be paramount, with the government responsible for preventing any recurrence of kidnapping or incidents of killing of Chinese citizens.

Pakistan urges collective strategy

By PU ZHENDONG in Xi'an
puzhendong@chinadaily.com.cn

China and Pakistan should work on a comprehensive joint strategy to combat major regional challenges such as disaster relief and climate change, a senior Pakistani politician said on Thursday.

Mushahid Hussain, secretary-general of the Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid e Azam Group), said China and Pakistan, as neighbors and friends, share similar environmental concerns.

"As our two countries face common problems on climate change, poverty and natural disasters, the governments will need strategies and deeper cooperation to respond effectively to crises of these kinds in the future," Hussain said.

"To achieve green development over the world, states have to link to each other on three levels: bilateral, regional and global," he added.

President Xi Jinping vowed last week to set and strictly observe an ecological "red line" that requires all regions to optimize, prioritize, restrict or prohibit their industrial development according to their defined nature. "On issues of ecological and environmental protection, people should not cross the red line or they will get punished," Xi was quoted by Xinhua News Agency as saying.

Hussain applauded the concept of an ecological red line, saying the term shows China's determination to pursue quality development.

Days before Hussain's trip to Xi'an for the International Conference of Asian Political Parties special conference, he also had the chance to meet Premier Li Keqiang in Islamabad.

"Premier Li sent a very clear signal to our country during his visit, calling Pakistan China's good partner and brother," said Hussain. "This is very important in terms of bilateral relations."

China Daily, May 31, 2013

Economic corridor

During his two-day stay in Pakistan, Li agreed on a long-term plan for an economic corridor to further connect central and western parts of China with Pakistan, and also signed 11 cooperation documents covering areas including trade, technology and culture.

China shares a 600-km border with Pakistan. The corridor connects China's vast Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region and Pakistan's Gwadar port at the Indian Ocean through the Karakoram Highway.

Hussain said the construction of the economic corridor will join the markets of South, Central and West Asia, and inject new impetus into regional cooperation. He also hailed the establishment of the special economic zone launched in 2010 in Kashgar of Xinjiang, saying it spurs regional economic growth. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and China soared 17.6 percent to \$12.4 billion last year, with a target of \$15 billion in the next two to three years.

In previous interviews, Pakistani Ambassador to China Masood Khalid encouraged Chinese business communities to be more proactive in exploring opportunities in Pakistan, in agriculture and the halal food industry, to tap the full trade potential.

Hussain is also chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute, a non-governmental think tank promoting people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

He said the relationship between Beijing and Islamabad has transformed into a deep, resilient strategic partnership based on shared values and interests since the 1950s.

"I am very positive about the prospect of a modern Sino-Pakistani relationship," Hussain said.

"It is rare and delightful that two neighbors the size of China and Pakistan can be free of friction," he added.

Prime Ministers of China and Pakistan to each other's countries within a span of six weeks have resulted in a significant strengthening and broadening of the strategic partnership between the two neighbours. These were visits with a difference, due primarily to the vision and will of both sides to give a practical shape and concrete follow-up within a stipulated time-frame and an institutional mechanism established to ensure speedy implementation.

The guiding principles remain the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourly Relations between China and Pakistan, signed in April 2005.



Economic interaction between the two neighbours.

These new developments need to be analysed in the context of the significance of these landmark visits, impact on the region and what are the possible impediments in promoting this bilateral bond in light of our track record.

There is a four-fold significance of these Prime Ministerial visits:

First, Pakistan has bucked its economic revival, resolution of energy crisis, strengthening the Federation through linkages based on road and rail infrastructure and, more broadly, progress and prosperity of the people of Pakistan in the short and medium term (5-10 years) on the time-tested, reliable and resilient relationship with our northern neighbour.

Second, China has developed an institutional stake in the stability, security and progress of Pakistan by generously providing its 'all-weather friend' all available avenues and opportunities for development and expertise considering 'relationship with Pakistan (was) always a matter of highest priority in its Foreign Policy' and an appreciation of Pakistan's long-term strategic support on issues concerning China's core interests.

Third, establishing, for the first time, a ministerial level Joint Cooperation Committee, with secretariats in both countries, for fast-track planning and execution of agreed projects, reflects a serious approach on both sides — ensure follow-up and implementation.

Fourth, Pakistan has wholeheartedly supported China on its 'core interests', including its border issues linked to its territorial integrity and unity, seeing China's peaceful rise as a source of stability and strength for Asia and the region, role of the Communist Party as the leading

Xinjiang, and with Pakistan's PM strongly endorsing China, when he said, 'we regard East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) as our common threat and stand united in combating this menace'.

The regional context that defines this relationship is

cooperation

also noteworthy. The balance of economic, cultural and political power is shifting inexorably from the West to the East with the 21st century generally proclaimed as the Asian Century in which China, is by far, the strongest pillar of progress and development.

The regional and global context also reinforces this bilateral bond as the Joint Statement on this relation-

emerging dynamics of 21st century, and it was deemed necessary to 'deepen the India-Pakistan strategic partnership in the new era'.

Years maritime cooperation to UN reform in their opposition to the weaponisation and an arms race in outer space' and non-discrimination on nuclear issues, the two countries share a convergence of interest on a wide range of issues.

Two regional factors also impinge on this convergence of interest between China and Pakistan: First, while not explicitly referring to the opening of the Taliban office in Doha, China has signalled a more proactive role on this issue, given Afghanistan's situation has great implications for regional peace and

step for peace'.

Second, China's warmth with Pakistan has coincided with a 'war of words' with India. A prominent Chinese military leader even publicly rebuked India for trying to 'stir up trouble and provoke new problems' on the eve of Indian Defence Minister's arrival in Beijing. Obviously, India's increasing closeness to Japan, which Dr Manmohan Singh, visited a week after receiving Li Keqiang, and Vietnam, Iraq Beijing.

In fact, referring to Dr Singh's sojourn in Tokyo, the semi-official Chinese daily, *Global Times*, termed it an effort 'to encircle China'.

However, in order to bridge the gap between rhetoric and reality, it is important that Pakistan takes certain concrete policy decisions that are conducive to the rapid growth of Pak-

island complaints from the Chinese side regarding Pakistan's failure to implement what is decided, due to a slow and sluggish bureaucracy which works on a long-rod-lapse, often coupled with loud whippers of graft allegations. Nandipur and Thar coal are testimony to this unfortunate reality.

Such a negative official work culture has to change in Islamabad if this vision is to be given practical shape.

The Nandipur 425 MW power project, initiated in 2008, was held back because of the Ministry of Law serving as a roadblock to provide clearance for sovereign guarantees. The cost of the project, \$329 million, skyrocketed to \$700 million due to this delay of two years, which resulted in the Chinese company pulling out its 400 experts and returning home.

Had the Pakistan bureaucracy not intervened, this project would have been completed in April 2011 and demerage worth millions due to equipment held up in the Karachi port would have been avoided. Apparently, a commitment was even made

power plant would be cheaper than the electricity produced by the IPPs.

Since these projects will involve the presence of a large number of Chinese personnel, almost 15,000 in over 120 different projects, their safety and security has to be paramount, with the government responsible for preventing any recurrence of incidents of kidnapping and killing Chinese citizens, and ensuring a somewhat stable and peaceful environment in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. The two pivotal points of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor are among the preconditions to promote this broadened strategic partnership.

The answer to the security problems lies in the formation of a special industrial security force dedicated to police the Pakistan-China economic corridor, providing specialised protection to Chinese projects and personnel. The traditional security structures like police, paramilitary or intelligence services would not have the capacity to do this job as has been amply demonstrated by

The answer to the security problems lies in the formation of a special industrial security force dedicated to police the Pakistan-China economic corridor, providing specialised protection to Chinese projects and personnel.

at the level of the President of Pakistan on two occasions to immediately clear this file 'within a month' but it seems that even the highest officeholder was helpless before the lawless of the bureaucracy.

Another example is that of Thar coal where a Chinese company sent 120 experts to prepare a feasibility study for a project to produce electricity from coal. Apparently, there was a difference in agreement on the price which the Chinese insisted should be 5.6 cents per KV while the Pakistani side's bottom-line was 3.3 cents, a difference of 0.3 rupees, with the result that the deal was off and the Chinese company, which is one of the world's top corporate leaders in producing electricity from coal decided to go home. The tariff though would have

the report of the Abbottabad Commission, which sums up the security issues rather graphically.

China has also emerged as a factor of national unity with Pakistan, with broad support of the people for relations with China all across the political spectrum, ranking in this regard alongside such popular issues as support for democracy, Kashmir and the nuclear issue. Hence, the reference in the Joint Statement to 'friendship with China (was) the cornerstone of its foreign policy, enjoying a national consensus'.

A whole new world can potentially open up in Pakistan's relations with China, provided Islamabad can deliver an creating a conducive environment. The ball is now in Pakistan's court and it's a litmus test to

PAKISTAN-CHINA INSTITUTE RECEIVES SPECIAL COVERAGE FROM CHINA DAILY ASIA

Asia Weekly: Building personal and political bridges between Pakistan and China By Sudeshna Sarkar

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When Mushahid Hussain was 13, his father Amjad Hussain, a colonel in the Pakistani military, was posted to Dhaka city, the current capital of Bangladesh which was at that time still a part of Pakistan. Accompanying his father from Lahore, the teen found himself lonely in the new city at first.

This was in the 1960s and the means of entertainment were few. Television broadcasts had just started in Pakistan and were not accessible everywhere. So his father gave him a radio on his birthday to keep loneliness at bay. The shiny new Philips shortwave radio led to a passionate love affair — with China.

"The radio became a close companion," says Hussain. *"I started listening to Radio Peking daily and followed the intense political debates during the 'cultural revolution' (1966-1976). I began subscribing to Chinese periodicals like Peking Review, China Pictorial and China Reconstructs."* Today, the teen has become a stately senator and the radio has been long since replaced by the iPad. But Hussain's passion for China remains as strong.

It led him to establish the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) in Islamabad in 2009, a private, non-governmental platform for promoting people-to-people cooperation between the two countries, as *"a labor of love"*.

"I have always felt an affinity towards China, almost a romance, as our best friend, close ally and strategic partner, whose role is crucial for our prosperity, security, and stability," Hussain says.

To cultivate greater people-to-people links, PCI publishes a cultural magazine, Youlin, meaning good neighbors, in collaboration with the Xinjiang Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

"Since the website is both in Chinese and English, it (can be a) powerful form of communication between the two peoples," says Dushka H Saiyid, editor of the monthly publication.

"Given the long history of cooperation between (Pakistan and China), we have sought to highlight and inform the reader about such mega projects as Gwadar and the Karakoram Highway, and the contribution they have made to Pakistan's economy."

The Karakoram Highway, also known as the Friendship Highway in China, was a major two-decade-long bilateral project connecting both countries which was completed in 1979. Built across the Himalayan ranges at a height of over 4,600 meters, the highest paved international road in the world witnessed the deaths of over 2,000 construction workers in landslides and falls during its construction. They included around 200 Chinese workers.

The port of Gwadar in Balochistan, a key energy trade corridor, was built largely with Chinese assistance. Early this year, the contract to run Gwadar was handed over to the China Overseas Ports Holding Company from the previous manager, the Port of Singapore Authority.

Cultural awareness

Saiyid says Pakistan's vibrant art, music and culture are mostly ignored by the international media. Youlin,

she adds, is trying to rectify that. The publication also boasts an unusual series of interviews with Chinese expats in Pakistan, offering *“a glimpse into their lives and their contribution to Pakistani society and the economy”*. The Youlin portal covers bilateral economic and business activities as well. There are articles on Chinese companies, like Zong, China Mobile’s subsidiary in Pakistan.

PCI also runs an e-magazine, Nihao-Salam, to provide information on commerce, science and technology, education and youth activities. *“We thought it would be a good idea to bring the two countries together through dissemination of news and bridging the gap on access to information,”* Hussain says. Started in 2009, the portal is edited by Muhammad Arif, a 32-year-old now doing a PhD in journalism from Hebei University in the city of Baoding, close to Beijing. The contents come from an army of freelancers and volunteers in China, Pakistan and other countries. *“We have 40,000 to 50,000 subscribers,”* says Arif. *“They are from 59 countries. In a week, we have nearly 800 surfers visiting our site.”* The publications are followed up by different cultural activities.

This year, PCI sent two Pakistani scholars to Shanghai University for *“bilateral brainstorming”* with Chinese peers on culture and other areas. It also facilitated a visit by Mustansar Hussain Tarar, the 74-year-old celebrated Pakistani author, actor and mountaineer, to Xinjiang in Northwest China to write the first travelogue from the region in Urdu, Pakistan’s national language.

Then there have been events like the Pakistan-China Media Forum, and a cultural show hosted with the Chinese embassy in Islamabad. There have also been launches of books on China and even a documentary, *Rising China*.

Besides cultural and political initiatives, PCI encourages Chinese investment in Pakistan for greater economic cooperation. It works as a consultancy for Chinese companies that are setting up business in Pakistan, helping them cope with the different regulations, culture and other aspects. *“The basic issues pertain to security, law and order, bureaucratic red tape which needs to be slashed in order to get things done, promises not kept in time, and, occasionally, allegations of graft,”* Hussain explains. About 15,000 Chinese technicians, engineers and experts live in Pakistan, working in over 120 projects. These include the Gomal Zam Dam built in Waziristan — a rugged mountainous region in the northwest of Pakistan — by the Chinese State-owned company Sinohydro Corporation; and gold and copper mining in Saindak in Balochistan.

Hussain met his first Chinese official in 1966 when the then Chinese president Liu Xiaohu visited East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Hussain had been one of the rows of students from the Adamjee Public School who had waited with bouquets to greet Liu on arrival.

This May, as PCI chairman, he met Chinese Premier Li Keqiang twice when Li visited Pakistan. The first time, it was with a group of parliamentary leaders at the Senate of Pakistan, and later, with a think-tank delegation. The media reported Li as lauding the PCI’s role as icebreaker, saying such initiatives promoted people-to-people contact. He also recalled *“very fond memories”* of his own first visit to Pakistan 27 years ago as part of a youth delegation. Now PCI is gearing up for another book launch, this one by Hussain himself.

“My first exclusive book on China, basically a history of our bilateral bond, will be published this year concurrently in Islamabad and Beijing,” he says.

http://www.chinadailyasia.com/focus/2013-08/30/content_15085755.html



ABOUT PAKISTAN- CHINA INSTITUTE (PCI)

The Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) is the first of its kind non-partisan and non-political think tank in the country. It endeavors to be the principal non-governmental platform to promote people-to-people ties between Pakistan and China in all areas, including defence and diplomacy, education and energy, as well as economy and environment, with a particular focus on youth and women. Our vision is implemented through a series of multi-faceted activities ranging from conferences, exchange of visits, promotion of better understanding through media and academia, as well as engaging Pakistani students in learning the Chinese language. While the Pakistan-China Institute also aims at playing a broader role in terms of promoting regional relations, our core objectives are to promote, strengthen and expand the Pakistan-China friendship in all sectors of national development.



Chairman PCI meets Chinese Premier His Excellency Li Keqiang, May 24, 2013



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