

May 26, 2019

Friends of Silk Road

Second Event Report



Organizer :
Pakistan China Institute

Introduction

The second event of the “Friends of Silk Road” was held at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad, which was graced by the presence of Vice President of China, H.E. Wang Qishan. The 50 minute event was a resounding success with participation of about 250 persons, both from **Pakistan** and **China**.



Unique Features of The Function

The function was larger in size than the first function held on February 14, 2019 and it had greater diversity with participants flying in or coming from Gwadar to Gilgit, Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad:

- A large number of political leaders from Western political parties participated, including their parliamentary leaders.
- There was representation of the Cabinet Ministers of the Government of Pakistan, and five in all took part, apart from the Chairman Senate and Foreign Minister.
- The function was short but focused with substantive speeches.

Profile and Diversity of Participants

The participants of the function included Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, the Foreign Minister, Senator Shibli Faraz (PTI), Leader of the House in the Senate (representing Prime Minister in the Senate), Senator Azam Swati (PTI), Parliamentary Leader and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Shehryar Afridi, MNA (PTI), Minister for States & Frontier Regions, Mr. Qasim Suri, MNA (PTI), Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Senator Sajid Hussain Turi, independent Senator from FATA and Chief Whip in the Senate with the rank of Minister, Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, MNA (PTI), Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar, Parliamentary Leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Senator Talha Mahmood, Parliamentary Leader of JUI-F, Senator Sitara Ayaz, Parliamentary Leader of ANP, Senator Jehanzeb Jamaldini, Parliamentary Leader of BNP-M, Senator Lt. General (R) Abdul Qayyum (PML-N), Chairman, Senate Committee on Defence Production, Senator Javed Abbasi (PML-N), Chairman, Senate

Committee on Law & Justice, Senator Faisal Javed (PTI), Chairman, Senate Committee on Information & Broadcasting, Senator Mirza Afridi, from FATA, co-owner of Haier-Ruba Special Economic Zone in Lahore, Mr. Aslam Bhotani, MNA (Independent), elected representative from Gwadar, Senator Saeeda Iqbal (PPP), Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem (PTI), Head of PTI Diplomatic Cell, Syed Mohammad Mehdi, Head of Foreign Affairs Wing of PML-N and Mr. Bayazid Kasi, Central Joint Secretary of PTI.

Other participants included people from arts and culture, including the famous artist Jimmy Engineer, who specially flew in from Karachi, Shahid Mahmood Nadeem, CEO of Ajoka Theatre and Saadaan Peerzada, CEO of Rafi Peer Workshop, both of whom came specially from Lahore. Representatives of the business community included Mr. Daroo Khan Achakzai, President of the Federation



Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani; H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China and Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), who came specially from Quetta, plus Ms. Samina Fazil, founder President of the Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry plus prominent business leaders like Iqbal Z. Ahmed (CEO of Associated Group) and Zibber Mohyuddin (Group CEO of Panasian Group).

Other cross section of representatives included Ambassador Syed Hassan Javed, Director, China Study Centre, National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Mr. Shakil Ramay, CEO of Zalmi Foundation think tank, Mr. Tauqir Ahmed, Vice President

of the Centre for Global and Strategic Studies, Mr. Zeeshan Ahmad, Acting Director of China Study Centre of University of Lahore, Mr. Sultan Mehmood Hali, author of books on China, Mr. Musharraf Zaidi, CEO of Alif Ailan, an NGO devoted to education, Ms. Atiya Qutub, President of All Pakistan China Friendship Association, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, General Secretary of All Pakistan China Friendship Association, Mr. Hannan Ali Abbasi, President, National Youth Assembly, Mr. Rizwan Ahmad, Joint Director General of Intelligence Bureau, Ms. Amna Malik, CEO of Malik Group of Companies, Prof. Zameer Awan, China Specialist, NUST, Mr. Behzad Salimi, President of Parliamentary Reporters Association, Lt. Gen. (R) Talat Masood, former Secretary, Defence Production and oldest living military friend of China who first went to China in 1966, Lt. Gen. (R) Asad Durrani, former Director General, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Military Intelligence (MI), Maj. Gen. (R) Abid Rafiq, founding/former Commander of the Special Security Division (SSD), responsible for protecting CPEC, Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan, former MNA and Leader of Young Leaders delegation to China in 2018, Mr. Wali Zahid, President of Press & Journalism Institute, Lahore, Mr. Shujat Ali (from Gilgit), President of Pakistan China Youth and Business Friendship Federation, Chaudhry Qamar Zaman, former Chairman, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) (who signed MOU with H.E. Wang Qishan in 2016 when the latter was Chairman of Central Discipline and Inspection Commission, CPC).

Proceedings of the Event

Proceedings of the event were conducted by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director, Pakistan China Institute, who warmly welcomed Vice President Wang Qishan and informed him that 'this diverse and distinguished audience has come from all over Pakistan'. Proceedings began with the national anthems of Pakistan and China,

followed by a recitation from the Holy Quran.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director PCI conducting the proceedings

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Pakistan China Institute was the first speaker who, in his welcome address, warmly welcomed Vice President Wang Qishan and referred briefly to his vast experience and expertise in history, economy, banking, governance and accountability. Senator Mushahid Hussain, called the 'Friends of Silk Road' gathering as a 'mini-Pakistan' and referred to the 3 conferences that he had recently attended in Beijing and their significance:

- The Joint Consultation Mechanism (JCM) of Pakistan political parties hosted by the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC), which resulted in the historic and unique "Beijing Statement" with all political parties and their 50 representatives fully supporting CPEC, which is the first such document to emerge from the JCM;
- Second Belt & Road Forum, which launched the second phase of CPEC;
- The conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations (CDAC), which promoted people-to-people connectivity.

Senator Mushahid Hussain quoted from the speech of President Xi Jinping at the CDAC where he said that "people are the best bridge among civilizations for mutual learning" and in this regard, Senator Mushahid Hussain referred to the role of Pakistan-China Institute in being the first non-governmental organization in Pakistan

to be exclusively devoted to promoting people-to-people connectivity with China through its various initiatives.



Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman PCI and Senate Foreign Affairs Committee giving the inaugural speech

He then congratulated the Chinese Vice President on the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of the Peoples Republic of China and said that in these 70 years, China had become a role model for other countries in three specific areas like economy where 750 million people were lifted out of poverty within a generation, in Foreign Policy, where China has scrupulously adhered to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and respecting countries, irrespective in size and strength, and in culture, promoting people-to-people cultural connectivity by rejecting any notion of superiority of any civilization or any 'clash of civilizations'.

Senator Mushahid Hussain concluded his speech by thanking China for always standing by Pakistan as well as the launch of CPEC, which is a guarantor for a better tomorrow for Pakistan. He also said that Pakistan also stands by China in the quest for Globalisation, rejects any talk of trade wars, or containment or threat or a return to a Cold War mentality, concluding with a quotation of Chairman Mao that "nothing is hard in this world, if you dare to scale the heights".

In his speech, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan-China friendship is rooted in "shared values, experiences and objectives, aspirations for

peace, harmony and shared prosperity". He further said that CPEC is entering a new phase, in which local communities will be the main beneficiaries, reminding the participants that Pakistan and China are celebrating 2019 as the year of Sister City relations to promote people-to-people interaction.



Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressing the audience

In his speech, the Chairman Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani acknowledged the importance of 'Friends of Silk Road' saying that "Pakistan is first among BRI countries to launch this forum, to create awareness about the benefits and opportunities of CPEC and BRI". He underlined that CPEC itself symbolizes the common vision of inclusive, connected and integrated Asia, endorsing President Xi Jinping's proposal at the CDAC to "consolidate the cultural foundation for a shared future".



Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan addressing the audience

In the manner of a true historian, Vice President Wang Qishan began by tracing the development of friendly Pakistan-China relations for the past 2000 years. "Eminent



H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China.

monks such as Tu Cheng and Kumarajiva of the Wei and Jin Dynasties, Faxian of the Eastern Jin Dynasty and Xuanzang of the Tang Dynasty, through their pilgrimages across the region and translations of Buddhist scriptures, left behind many widely told stories of China-Pakistan friendly exchanges.” He went onto say that ‘Friends of Silk Road’ is a continuation of these exchanges. While discussing CPEC in context of the international situation, he emphasized China’s commitment to “open, green and clean cooperation that follows a high standard, people-centered and sustainable approach.” He concluded by invoking Muhammad Ali Jinnah’s quote, “We are not afraid of the deep sea or the fire, because we believe in the sun and the future,” as a driving force for closer Pakistan-China cooperation.

At conclusion of the ceremony, Vice President Wang Qishan appreciated the positive role of the Pakistan-China institute for taking this grand initiative.

Geo, PTV World and Capital TV prepared special reports which were aired frequently while all major TV networks gave stories in their news bulletins about this event.

A comment made by Urdu daily, Dunya (The World), stated that the “Event in honour of Chinese Vice President transformed into an All Parties gathering”. The newspaper said that the “Friends of Silk Road function organized by Pakistan-China Institute in honour of Vice President Wang Qishan transformed itself into an All Parties gathering, with political leaders of major political parties present to welcome the Chinese Vice President. They appreciated the contribution to CPEC and Pakistan-China relations of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. The function was also attended by a gathering of diverse and distinguished guests, including major political leaders”.

Media Coverage

The event received extensive coverage in both print and electronic media. DAWN, Pakistan’s most influential and widely read newspaper gave the lead story while Express Tribune, The News, Pakistan Observer, Pakistan Today, all gave it very prominent coverage. Similarly, Urdu newspapers like Jang, Express and Dunya, widely covered the event. Coloured photographs were also taken of the event. Various TV channels like

SPEECHES GIVEN

Full-Text of the Speech of Vice President of China, H.E. Wang Qishan

Honourable Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, honourable Shah Mehmood Qureshi, honourable Senator Mushahid, Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute, ladies and gentlemen, friends, good afternoon.

It gives me great pleasure to visit your beautiful country at the invitation of the Pakistani Government. Though this may be my first visit, I am no stranger to Pakistan, as the friendship between our two countries has long been planted in the hearts and minds of the Chinese people. The moment we landed in Pakistan, my colleagues and I have been immersed in the true friendship we felt from the Pakistani people. Taking this opportunity, I would like to salute and sincerely thank all the friends who have long been committed to China-Pakistan friendship.

Today's event, "Friends of Silk Road", could not be more relevant. More than 2,000 years ago, t h e



ancient Silk Road served as a bridge for exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, religious and ethnic groups

in the region. The Yellow River Valley and the Indus Valley are cradles of the most time-honoured and celebrated human civilizations. Eminent monks such as Tu Cheng and Kumarajiva of the Wei and the Jin Dynasties (1700 years ago), Faxian of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (1600 years ago) and Xuanzang of the Tang Dynasty (1300 years ago), through their pilgrimage across the region and translations of Buddhist scriptures, left behind many widely-told stories of China-Pakistan friendly exchanges. In this sense,

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The “Friends of Silk Road” can be seen as the continuation and elevation of the friendly history between China and Pakistan.

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Pakistan is among the first countries to recognize the People’s Republic of China.

Thanks to the personal commitment of generations of Chinese and Pakistani leaders and the joint efforts of people from various sectors, China-Pakistan relationship has made continued progress since its establishment. At such critical moments, when the New China tried to break the blockade imposed on it, to restore its lawful seat at the United Nations and to recover from the devastating earthquake in Wenchuan, Pakistan has always come to China’s assistance without any reservation. These are all moments we will never forget.

China, on its part, has all along stood firmly with our friends from Pakistan on issues concerning Pakistani core interests.

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No matter how the international landscape changes, China and Pakistan will always stay iron brothers that trust and support each other.

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We meet at a time of major development, transformation and adjustment in the world. The international system is undergoing profound shifts, as evidenced by the headwinds facing economic globalization and spreading unilateralism and protectionism. Such landscape is further compounded by ever more complex and daunting challenges, both traditional and non-traditional, as well as clashes among different thinking and cultures. In the face of all these challenges, no country can stay immune. The right choice for humanity is to work together and seek common development on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

China cannot achieve development by shutting out the world. Likewise, the world cannot shut out China, the second largest economy and a market of 1.4 billion people. Guided by the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, China is committed to open, green and clean cooperation that follows a high-standard, people-centred and sustainable approach. Such Belt and Road cooperation is in fact China’s proposal for addressing the common challenges of the human society.

China today is advancing a host of major reform and opening-up measures, such as expanding market access for foreign

investment, strengthening protection of intellectual property, increasing imports of goods and services, and improving its business environment at home in order to achieve even greater openness. We believe that a more open China will bring about greater progress and prosperity to the world, especially to the region.

Ladies and gentlemen, China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. We truly hope and support each other in achieving greater development. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stands for a good testimony of our shared aspiration. As a major pilot program of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC has come a long way over the past five years and more. With the BRI moving towards high quality development, CPEC is rapidly extending to new priority areas including industrial parks and people's livelihood.

“ I am confident, that with our two sides working together, CPEC will produce new outcomes and lend new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and economic integration of the region. ”

I know that you come from different regions, parties and industries across Pakistan, but you all have one thing in common: you are all friends of the Silk Road with a shared objective of advancing Belt and Road cooperation and CPEC.

“ To uphold China-Pakistan friendship and support CPEC is a consensus that transcends political parties, regions and communities across Pakistan. It also enjoys the most extensive and strongest support in China. ”

As Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of Pakistan, once said, “We are not afraid of the deep sea or the fire, because we believe in the sun and the future.” Let us work hand in hand towards our common objective, build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future and contribute even more to peace, stability and prosperity of the region and beyond. Thank you.

SPEECHES GIVEN

Full-Text of the Speech of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman PCI and Senate Foreign Affairs Committee

Assalam-o-Alaikum, good afternoon and a warm welcome to the Chinese guests. Your Excellency, Vice President Wang Qishan, Your Excellency, Honourable Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Your Excellency Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi Sahib, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan and Your Excellency Yao Jing, the Ambassador of China to Pakistan.

Today, it is indeed a great privilege and pleasure for us to warmly welcome a very distinguished guest from **Pakistan's best friend, our brotherly neighbour, our iron brother and our time-tested all weather friend, Vice President Wang Qishan** who has a very diverse experience and expertise in a range of fields from history, economy, banking, governance and accountability.

His visit comes at a very important time for Pakistan China relations and also developments in the region and the world. Your Excellency, Vice President Wang Qishan, in the last three months, there have been three important conferences in Beijing which I was fortunate to attend and



some of the friends sitting here were also there. The first one was in March when the Foreign Minister was there, when the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Qasim Suri was there also and other friends were there also. This was the joint consultation mechanism on CPEC, a conference organized by the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

On March 18, the Joint Consultation Mechanism (JCM) came out with a unanimous statement, called the Beijing Statement, in which 50 representatives from 10 different political parties of Pakistan, from all parts of Pakistan, from all provinces of Pakistan unanimously agreed to support and promote CPEC as the way forward for Pakistan's prosperous and peaceful future.

Then in April, there was the Second Belt & Road Forum organized in Beijing where the Prime Minister of Pakistan led Pakistan's delegation, the Foreign Minister was also there and 37 leaders were there. That was also a turning point for the Belt & Road Initiative which is the most important diplomatic and developmental initiative of President Xi Jinping for the 21st century and of which we as Pakistanis are very pleased and proud to state that

CPEC is the flagship, CPEC is the pilot project, CPEC is the pivot and CPEC is already a success story

Thanks to our friends from China and the commitment of the people of Pakistan.

The 3rd Conference which I was also fortunate to attend was in the last week, the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations. There we had over 2000 people from about fifty Asian Countries and I was representing Pakistan. In that conference, President Xi Jinping very clearly said that the

best bridge amongst civilization, are the people and they are a key for mutual learning. He rejected the old notion or

theory of the clash of civilizations and he said "no civilization is superior to any other civilization".

In that context, the Pakistan-China Institute which is the premier platform among people to people connectivity in Pakistan and we have launched the Friends of Silk Road initiative.

Excellency, Mr. Vice President, you can see sitting here representatives and leaders of all political parties whether they are in Government, they are outside the Government, from different provinces, apart from the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, we have the Leader of the House representing the Prime Minister, Mr. Imran Khan in the Senate, Senator Shibli Faraz who is here, Cabinet Ministers, Azam Swati Sahib and others, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC and so many others, women and men, young and old and we have representatives of arts and culture, business, media, youth, so cross-sections of Pakistanis. This is a mini-Pakistan today extending its full support to CPEC.

Excellency Vice President, Wang Qishan, your visit also comes in 2019 when we together with our Chinese friends will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on 1st October, 2019. We feel, in seventy years, China has had manifold achievements in different spheres. I would sum it up as the three key ingredients of the Chinese success which I would call the China Model and No.1 is the economy and poverty alleviation. Within a generation, China lifted 750 million people out of poverty and brought them into the mainstream which is a unique and remarkable achievement.

Secondly, in foreign policy, China has never interfered in the internal affairs of other countries. China has always respected countries irrespective of size and strength and respected their path to political and social development. China has always believed in inclusive win-win cooperation.

Now, in the field of culture, it is all about connectivity, cultural connectivity and people to people connectivity among countries, cultures and civilizations.

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Excellencies, we are very grateful to China for reposing a vote of confidence in Pakistan and its future through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and we wish to assure the Vice President Wang Qishan with the 2nd phase of CPEC which has begun will also bring great dividends for Pakistan and its people.

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In this regard, I would like to assure you sir, that Pakistan fully stands by China on all its core interests, just as you have stood by Pakistan on our core interests and

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we reject this notion of trade wars of containment, of a cold war mentality. Asia cannot have that. Asia has to move forward with connectivity and cooperation,

not confrontation or containments.

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Somebody from the international media asked me in Beijing when I was there last year, what about the various challenges and the threats? I said, yes, there are challenges but there are also opportunities and Pakistan and China are neighbours across the confluence of three great mountain ranges of the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush and the Karakoram. Then I gave them a quotation which I heard from the great leader Chairman Mao, because I first went to China when I was a student in the 1970s. The quotation is something which inspires us and it says that “nothing is hard in this world if you dare to scale the heights”. Together China and Pakistan will scale all heights, all challenges, all difficulties to bring together a better and a peaceful tomorrow for our peoples, a better tomorrow in which there are no overlords and no underdogs. Long live Pakistan China friendship. Thank you.

SPEECHES GIVEN

Full-Text of the Speech of Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Honorable Vice President of the People's Republic of China H.E. Wang Qishan, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Members of the Cabinet, Respected Ministers and Vice Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, Distinguished Guests, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my proud privilege to cordially welcome His Excellency, Vice President Wang Qishan and his delegation to Pakistan.

Excellency, Your deep friendship and support to Pakistan and the Pakistani people over the decades, and your strong belief in Pakistan-China friendship are deeply appreciated. You are celebrated in the People's Republic of China as an illustrious historian, a remarkable economist and a great leader. Your dedicated endeavours to strengthen Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnership are invaluable to the two countries.

I would especially like to appreciate



thoughtful interactions with our leadership which has contributed immensely to further cementing the bonds of friendship between Pakistan and China.

I would like to convey my heartiest felicitations to you on the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

Please also accept my warm congratulations on the successful conduct of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing last month under the leadership of President Xi Jinping.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Pakistan and China are most reliable and trusted partners and friends. Friendship between our two countries is firmly rooted in shared values, experiences, objectives and aspirations of peace, harmony and shared prosperity.

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Pakistan and China believe in promoting collective dialogue; deepening practical cooperation and working together towards a stronger and prosperous world with a shared future in the new era.

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Distinguished Guests,

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Chairman 'Pakistan-China Institute' Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, who is a long-time friend of China. I congratulate him on hosting this event and bringing the people and political parties of the two countries

closer through 'Friends of Silk Road'.

It is a people's platform launched by Pakistan-China Institute to bring together stakeholders consisting of local communities, parliamentarians, media, business and opinion leaders, youth and women, professionals and civil society, and students and scholars, for enhancing the understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Senator Mushahid Hussain has also played a pivotal role in 'CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism' organized by China in March 2019.

In this context, I would also like to appreciate the important role played by the International Department of Communist Party of China. Together with the representatives of IDCPC on the Political Parties' Forum, we approved the "Beijing Declaration" in March 2019 to support the Belt and Road Initiative and to build the future trajectory of CPEC.

Ladies and Gentlemen, CPEC has added yet another dimension, of economic and social development, to our strong bilateral relations.

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CPEC has entered into phase II with a focus on industrial and socio-economic cooperation. This phase will bring about prosperity and progress to local communities, and pave the way for enhancing Pakistan's development along priority areas.

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The Prime Minister's visit to China in November 2018 and recently in April 2019 to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum has paved the way for a stronger collaboration between Pakistan and China. Our Government since its inception is focused on poverty alleviation, industrial development, education, technological and scientific innovation and agricultural development. Our anti-corruption efforts are also beginning to yield results. We will continue to make invested efforts towards enhancing socio-economic uplift of our people.

In our endeavours in this direction, China has been a consistent partner and supporter. Both our countries jointly endorse the vision of a "community with a shared future for mankind".

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We are committed to working together to leverage our respective strengths and developing and enriching the Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnership to the benefit of the Chinese and Pakistani people and the rest of the world.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Pakistan and China are celebrating 2019 as the year of Sister City relations. We hope that enhanced people-to-people interactions will take our exchanges to the next level.

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The visit of the Honorable Vice President of China will help to further consolidate our close relations firmly rooted in trust and mutual understanding.

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I would like to thank you for your gracious visit to Pakistan. I am confident that friendship between our two countries will flourish with every passing day.

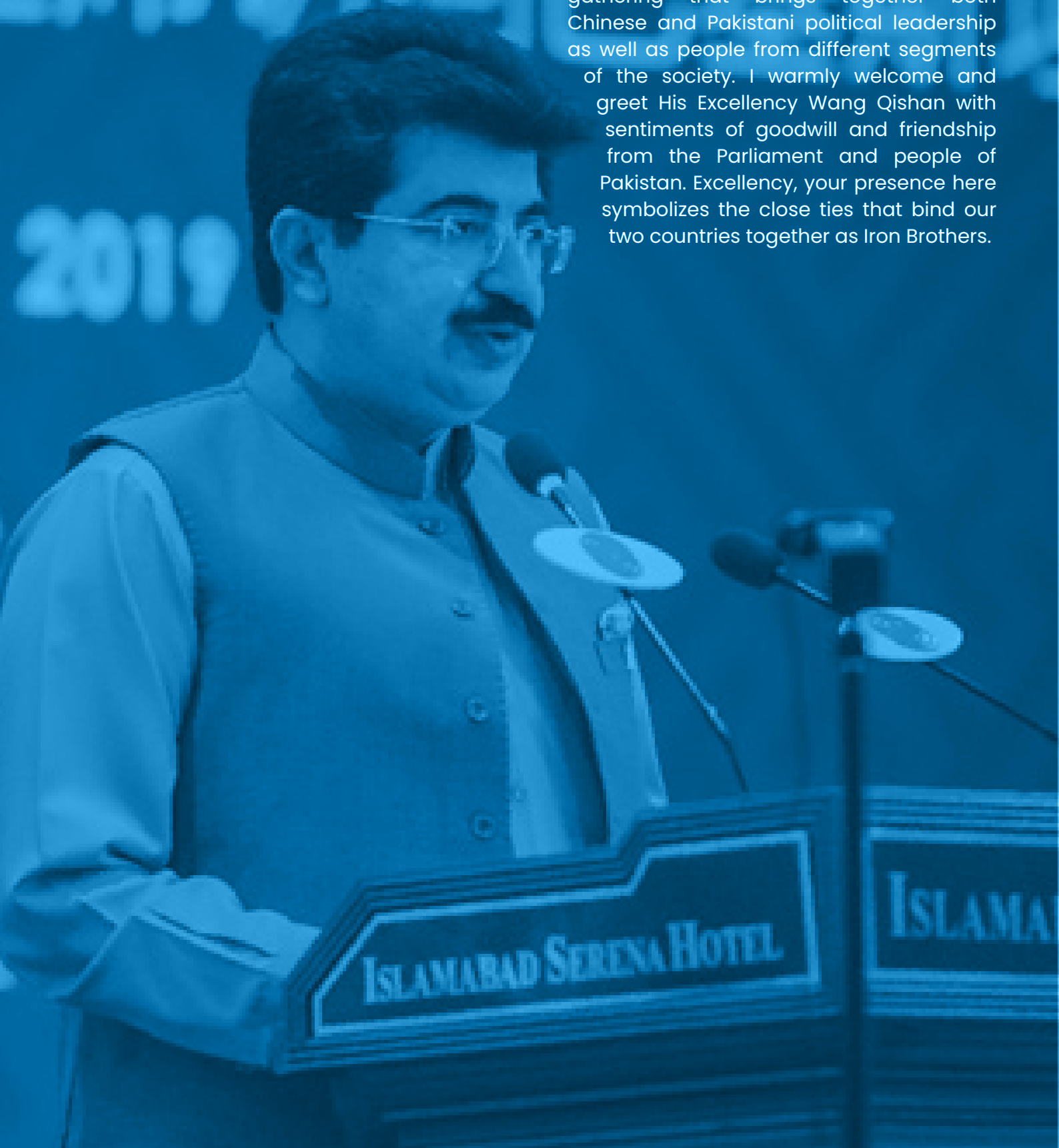
I wish China continued growth and prosperity. Long live Pakistan-China friendship. I thank you all.

SPEECHES GIVEN

Full-Text of the Speech of Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan

His Excellency Wang Qishan, Vice President of the People's Republic of China, Excellency Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of China, Mr. Yao Jing, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Pakistan-China Institute, Parliamentarians, my dear friends, Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very good afternoon.

It is an honor to address this distinguished gathering that brings together both Chinese and Pakistani political leadership as well as people from different segments of the society. I warmly welcome and greet His Excellency Wang Qishan with sentiments of goodwill and friendship from the Parliament and people of Pakistan. Excellency, your presence here symbolizes the close ties that bind our two countries together as Iron Brothers.



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I also convey my sincerest appreciation to Pakistan-China Institute, especially its Chairman, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, for their efforts to promote people-to-people ties in wide ranging areas, with a particular focus on youth and women.

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The Friends of Silk Road is a commendable initiative towards bringing Pakistan-China relations into the people's domain.

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I am pleased to note that Pakistan is the first among the BRI countries to launch this forum to create a better understanding about the benefits and opportunities arising out of the BRI and CPEC.

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Pakistan envisions a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Asia. We highly appreciate and support President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative, and vision of "shared prosperity" and "win-win" cooperation.

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CPEC symbolizes our common vision of inclusive, connected and integrated Asia as a bridge between the "Silk Road economic belt" and "the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road".

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For Pakistan, its positive implications include investment in energy and infrastructure sectors, as well as under-developed areas. As we enter the next phase of CPEC, I reiterate that Pakistan is committed to completing all projects. We would welcome third parties in the Special Economic Zones in our common bid to achieve socio-economic uplift based on equity and equality.

Dear friends, I also welcome and endorse President Xi's proposal made at the recent Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations held in Beijing to consolidate the "cultural foundation" of jointly building a community with a shared future for Asia and humanity. I firmly believe that alongside our economic ties, we must enhance people connectivity and cultural linkages for realizing the common goal of an integrated, peaceful and cooperative Asia.

Senate of Pakistan which is set to reassume Presidency of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly this year, believes that cooperation, and not confrontation, is key to a better and prosperous Asia. Pakistan and

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China's

common

vision of shared prosperity enhanced through people-to-people linkages and intercultural connectivity also resonates with APA's overall objectives and guiding principles.

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Furthering this shared agenda and vision, Pakistan Senate hosted a meeting of APA Sub-Committee in Gwadar last year, which effectively showcased CPEC's economic and cultural potential in the region.

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Together, we must focus on fostering inter-cultural linkages to bridge differences and promote respect for cultural diversity in Asia.

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I also look forward to closer inter-parliamentary ties between Pakistan and China to learn from each other's experiences, share expertise, and also bring our peoples closer.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Pakistan and China share common interests and aspirations. Our strategic partnership is a factor for global peace, stability and progress. While we greatly value our close cooperation in key areas like education, energy, industry, communication, trade and commerce and defence sectors, we are also grateful

for China's support on core issues of our national security. I am confident that Pak-China relations will continue to flourish in the days ahead.



Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhary; Former Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB), with Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy, H.E. Zhao Lijian.



Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi, Minister of State for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) from PTI.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) in conversation with Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem from PTI.



Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi with Senator Javed Abbasi from PML-N.



Senator Seemi Ezdi (PTI) talking to a government official. In the background, Lt. Gen (R) Asad Durrani, former DG ISI and in the forefront is the President of Chinese Student Association of Pakistan.



From L-R: Mr. Iqbal Z. Ahmed, Prominent Businessman; Mr. Shahid Nadeem, Founder Ajoka Theatre; Mr. Ahmed Rizwan, Joint Inspector General Intelligence Bureau (IB).



Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman PCI receiving Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC.



From L-R: Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman PCI and Senate Foreign Affairs Committee; Senator Anwar Ul Haq Kakar from Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) ; Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC.



Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi sharing a lighter moment with Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman PCI.



Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House, Representative of Prime Minister in the Senate of Pakistan.



Mr. Qasim Suri, Deputy Speaker National Assembly being greeted by Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz.



From L-R: Mr. Saadaan Peerzada, CEO of Rafi-Peer Arts and Theatre Group with Mr. Jimmy Engineer, Prominent Artist.



From L-R: Senator Mushahid Hussain and Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed getting ready for the arrival of Vice President, while talking to Mr. Muhammad Adil, Deputy Chief of Protocol (DCP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).



Senator Mushahid Hussain waiting to welcome the guests.



Senator Mushahid Hussain with Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan.



Mr. Qasim Suri sharing a light moment with Mr. Azam Khan Swati, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.



Mr. Zhang Taolin, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)
; Mr. Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister and Deputy International Trade Representative,
Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed receiving Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Federal Minister
for Foreign Affairs.



From L-R: Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed; H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of People's Republic of China. H.E. Ambassador Yao Jing can also be seen in picture.



H.E Wang Qishan responds to the applause of the audience.



Senator Mushahid Hussain and H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China walking to the stage.



VIPs standing at attention at the National Anthems.



From L-R : Mr. Zhang Yong, Vice Minister, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) ; Mr. Le Yucheng, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs ; Mr. Zhang Taolin, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA); Mr. Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister and Deputy International Trade Representative, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) ; Mr. Deng Boqing, Vice Minister, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).



From L-R: Senator Sitara Ayaz from Awami National Party (ANP); Lt. General (R) Abdul Qayyum, Chairman on the Senate Standing Committee on Defense Production; Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood from JUL -F.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, ED PCI, welcomes the Vice President of China, H.E. Wang Qishan.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed conducting the proceedings.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed conducting the proceedings.



From L-R: Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani ; H.E. Wang Qishan ; Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi.



From L-R: Senator Mushahid Hussain; Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani ; H.E. Wang Qishan ; Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi ; H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of China to Pakistan.



Senator Mushahid Hussain giving the inaugural speech.



Lt. Gen (R) Talat Masood, former Secretary Defense Production.



Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi addressing the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi addressing the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



From L-R: Mr. Asim Yasin, Chief Political Correspondent, The News; Mr. Zamir Ahmed Awan, Sinologist at China Study Center, National University of Science & Technology (NUST) and Mr. Sheikh Arslan, Vice President, International Relations Wing (PML-N).



Senator Mushahid Hussain giving the inaugural speech.



Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani addressing the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



H.E. Wang Qishan addressing the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



H.E. Wang Qishan addressing the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



H.E. Wang Qishan addressing the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



H.E. Wang Qishan responding to the applause of the audience.



H.E. Wang Qishan addressing the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of China.



From L-R: Ambassador (Retired) Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies Centre; Mr. Bayazeed Kasi, Central Joint Secretary PTI.



From L-R: Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali, Ex MNA and Pakistani Delegate to UNESCO; Ms. Moizze Kamran, Youth Activist; Mr. Iqbal Z. Ahmed and Mr. Shahid Nadeem.



Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, being received upon his arrival by Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC.



From L-R: Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani; Mr. Bayazeed Kasi, Central Joint Secretary PTI and Senator Mushahid Hussain.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder, Executive Director of PCI welcoming Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs. Ms. Tang, Anchorperson of CPEC Time TV Show on PTV World, can also be seen in the picture.



Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi being welcomed on arrival by Senator Mushahid Hussain.



From L-R: Senator Mushahid Hussain; Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi; Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz; Mr. Qasim Suri, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly and Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.



Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a lighter mood with Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. Senator Mushahid Hussain looks on.



Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi shaking hands with Mr. Zhang Yong, Vice Minister, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). Mr. Azam Khan Swati, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs looks on.



Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi meets Mr. Deng Boqing, Vice Minister, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).



Team PCI.



Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi, Minister of State for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) shaking hands with Mr. Syed Shibli Faraz, Leader of the House, Representative of Prime Minister in the Senate of Pakistan. Back, L-R: Senator Javed Abbasi (PML-N) and Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi from FATA.



Senator Mushahid Hussain welcomes His Excellency, Wang Qishan, Vice President of China.



Senator Mushahid Hussain welcomes His Excellency, Wang Qishan, Vice President of China. His Excellency Yao Jing, Ambassador of China is also seen in the picture.



From L-R: Senator Mushahid Hussain; Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani; H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China; Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi and H.E. Yao Jing.



Guests standing at attention as a mark of respect for the national anthems of Pakistan and China.



Senator Mushahid Hussain making the inaugural speech.



From L-R: Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani; H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China and Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi.



From R-L: Mr. Imtiaz Gul, President Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS); Mr. Shakeel Ramay, Executive Director of Zalmi Foundation and Professor Zamir Awan, Sinologist at National University of Science and Technology (NUST).



Section of the audience listening to the seminar with rapt attention.



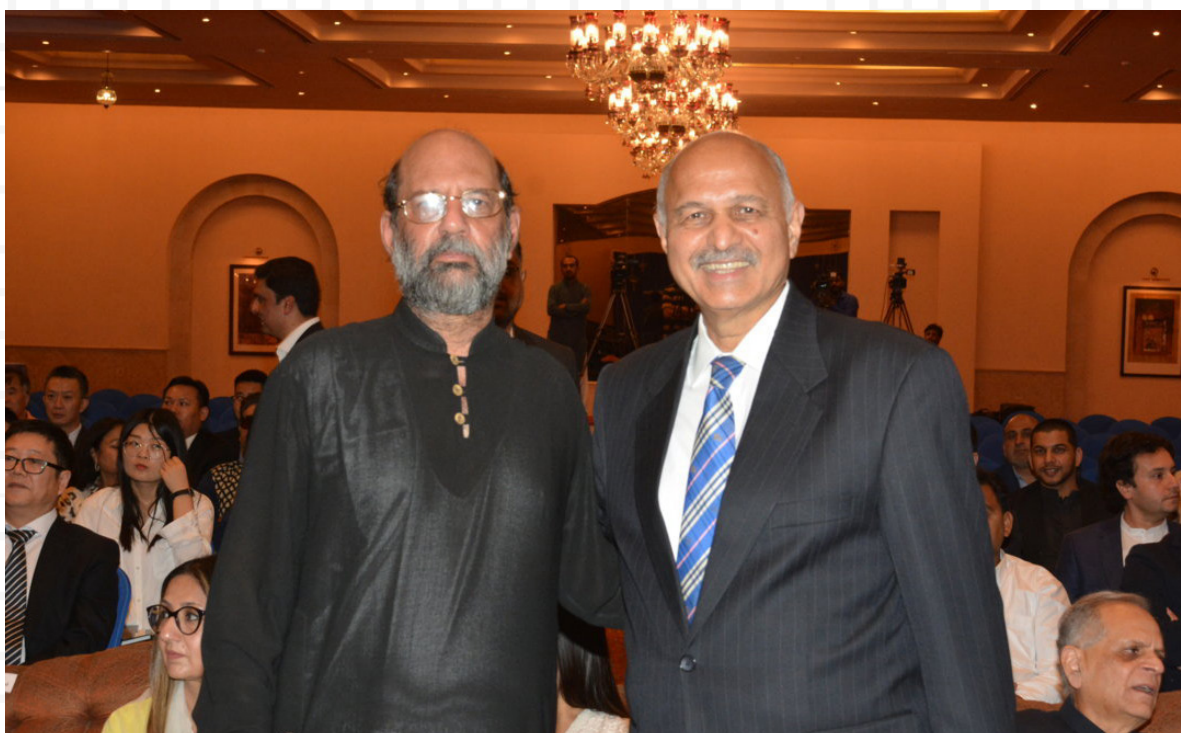
A number of Chinese visitors including CEOs of Chinese companies.



The audience.



From L-R: Mr. Behzad Saleemi, President Parliamentary Reporters Association; Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, Former Chairman, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) (Third from left); Mr. Tauqir Ahmed, Vice President, Centre for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS); Ms. Samina Fazil, President of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI); Mr. Daroo Khan Achakzai, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI); Mr. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, General Secretary All Pakistan Friendship Association Peshawar; Ms. Attiya Qutub, President All Pakistan-China Friendship Association and Ms. Amna Malik, CEO of Awan Group of Companies.



Senator Mushahid Hussain with Mr. Jimmy Engineer, prominent artist of Pakistan.



From L-R: Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson PML-N women wing; Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali, Ex-MNA (PML-N) and Pakistani delegate to UNESCO; Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi; Senator Javed Abbasi (PML-N) and Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi.



Publications of PCI on display, including the Urdu translation of the book by President Xi Jinping.



Senator Mushahid Hussain receives H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed receives H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China.



From L-R: Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed; Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Senator Mushahid Hussain.



PML-N Senator Javed Abbasi and PTI leaders are all smiles just before the start of the event.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed conducting the proceedings of the Forum.



Diverse audience, from all walks of life.



H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China making a speech.



H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China.



Senator Mushahid Hussain, along with Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director PCI, walking to see off the Vice President after the successful conclusion of the function.



H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China, is all smiles after a highly successful function.



From L-R: Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director PCI; H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China and Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman PCI.



Mr. Muhammad Mehdi, Chief of Diplomatic Cell, PML-N



Ms. Ayesha Tanzeem, Bureau Chief, Voice of America talking to Lt. General (R) Talat Masood, Former Secretary of Defence Production.



Senator Mushahid Hussain being interviewed by the most popular Geo TV Network, regarding the Friends of Silk Road Forum.



Group of Chinese guests waiting for the function to start.



Mr. Muhammad Aslam Bhootani, MNA from Gwadar reading the PCI brochure before the start of the event.



Senator Jahanzeb Jamaldini, Secretary General of BNP (Mengal) and Parliamentary Leader of the Party.



Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi, Minister of State, Chief Whip of PTI talking to Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed. In the background, Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi (FATA), co-owner of Haier-Ruba Economic Zone can also be seen.



Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed introducing Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem (PTI) and Head of PTI Diplomatic Cell to Mr. Sultan M. Hali, author of book "Xi Jinping-The road to leadership."



Mr. Tariq Mehmood, Bureau Chief of HUM TV, in conversation with Senator Lt. General (R) Abdul Qayyum.



Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson PML-N Women Wing with Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi.



Senator Mushahid Hussain in conversation with Mian Ibrar, Editor Pakistan Today.



H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China, waving at the welcoming guests.



Security screening along with the help of Pakistan Army of each guest.



From L-R: Mr. Malik Shahid Saleem, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI); Hafiz Tahir Khalil, President CPEC Media Forum; Mr. Behzad Saleemi, President Parliamentary Reporters Association and Mr. Asim Yasin, Chief Political Correspondent, The News.



Far Right: Mr. Behram Baloch, Vice President Gwadar Press Club.



The Friends of Silk Road Forum



Chinese students studying in Pakistan.

