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POST SEMINAR REPORT

ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON

# CPEC

AN EXTRA - REGIONAL  
PERSPECTIVE



Sponsor

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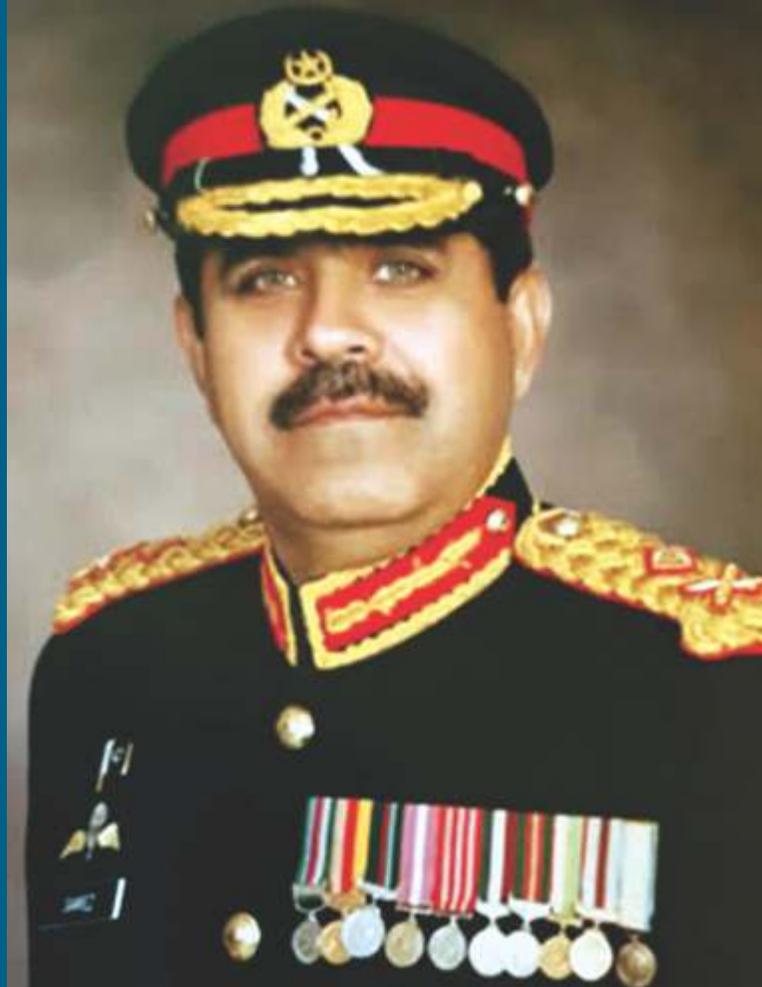


**Lieutenant General Majid Ehsan, HI (M)**  
President  
National Defence University

# PREFACE

Amid the 'Dawn of Asia', and shift of power axis from the 'West to the East' rests the promise of a connected world with the notion of development for all. This is true because regional connectivity and progress indeed envisions a future of 'collective growth'. Undoubtedly, this idea hinges upon the steady rise of China as global economic giant and underlying opportunities of economic development for countries in the region and its periphery. Particularly, Pakistan, geographically placed at the cross-roads of regions is ready to act as a gateway to the development through the phenomenal China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The project will not only safeguard common interests and mutual benefits of Pakistan and China but will also epitomize a model of cooperation, coordination and strategic communication for other regional countries and beyond. It aims to strengthen connectivity in areas of trade and economy with regional countries in order to fulfill their growing energy requirements and enhance their exports. Due to this characteristic, leadership of both Pakistan and China pronounces CPEC as a game changer not only for Pakistan and China but also for the region at large.

In this regard, this One-day international seminar was a timely endeavor to revisit the zeal and commitment between Pakistan and China for achieving newer heights in their ties, and reinstating sustainability in regional growth. The thematic sessions of the seminar provided the participants an open forum for linking the greater vision of regional connectivity and growth with the key idea of benefitting from China's BRI vision and CPEC's role as its lynchpin. I would like to commend the quality of presentations by our learned speakers and the constructive discussions of the participants. Overall it was a praiseworthy effort, especially by Director General ISSRA, Maj Gen Muhammad Samrez Salik HI (M), Director IS, Commodore Suhail Hameed SI (M) and RA Beenish Sultan for organizing this event and to provide an open forum to the participants for better understanding of CPEC and BRI and deliberating on key issues that come underway regional growth.



**Major General Muhammad Samrez Salik, HI (M)**  
Director General  
Institute of Strategic Studies Research and Analysis

# FOREWORD

A famous Chinese proverb states that, a good beginning is half the battle. The construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its position as a lynchpin of BRI indeed resonates this concept. It is a project that embraces at its heart concepts of both regional connectivity and development for all. Due to Pakistan's phenomenal geo-strategic location, CPEC will be placed at the juncture of East Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and the Indian Ocean. Once it is constructed, the corridor will become a communication bridge and strategic channel between the land and maritime silk roads, thus connecting BRI. It is worth mentioning that both CPEC and BRI will complement and supplement each other. In this regard, CPEC has the potential to become a strategic hub. It has a leading role of providing inter-state connectivity, acting as a significant pillar, and also playing the role of promoting orderly and free flow of trade and services.

On the other hand, BRI as a mega project of regional connectivity will also impact CPEC. It will increase functions and strategic status of CPEC as a major bridge and a strategic passageway in the surrounding regions, thus playing a vital role in the geo-economic cooperation of the whole Indo-Pacific region and beyond. Meanwhile, the construction of Maritime Silk Road will make Gwadar Port its strategic pillar, converting it into a sea gate for Central Asia to the Indian Ocean and the main trans shipment port for Central and South Asia or even for West of Asia. This one- day international seminar indeed provided fruitful intellectual discussions for further deliberating on these aspects. I would like to thank all of the national and international speakers who travelled especially to participate in the seminar which facilitated fruitful deliberations. Alongside the participants who allowed an open and candid discussion throughout the course of seminar. I also pray and wish for a brighter future for China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative relations.

# Executive Summary

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China emphasizes on 'newness' and is neither an American-led globalization nor European type free trade economic zone. Its current regional economic cooperation mechanism can be conceptualized into five major categories; Economic Free Zones, Tariff Alliance, Common Economic Market, Economic Integration and Political and Economic Integration. It is this content of the BRI which enables CPEC to act as its lynchpin. This is true because, BRI with its two components; the New Silk Road Economic Belt (One Belt) and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (One Road), is a connector of regions and CPEC is the only project which can act as its lynchpin. It is the pivot to the entire scheme of things in terms of its viability early harvesting, dependability and safety, as compared to other routes. The access to the Mediterranean States through the Central Asian States, notwithstanding recent agreements with China, do not promise an early takeoff in view of the prevailing security situation in the region.

Hence, there are foregoing factors, which can possibly hamper the New Silk Road Initiative, and make CPEC the most important component of the plan. Pakistan and China enjoy phenomenally good relations and the latter has played a significant role in the economic development of the country. Meanwhile, for China, CPEC is the only route which passes through one country cuts a distance of more than 15000 km to just 3500 km. However, in order to reap the visionary fruit, Pakistan and China need to shun away the negative propaganda against CPEC. It is imperative to understand the perspective of various regional countries in order to un-tap

opportunities from prospective challenges.

It was within this spirit that the international seminar was organized by ISSRA-NDU. This one-day endeavor may qualitatively be gauged with the speakers including Mr. Zhao Lijian, the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China in Islamabad, Ms. Maryam Safi, Executive Director DROPS, Kabul Afghanistan, Prof Bahador Arminian Jazi, University of Tehran, Iran, Mr. Raffaello Pantucci, Director RUSI, UK, Mr. Andrew Korybk,- Sputnik News, Moscow, Russia, Mr. Hassan Daud Butt, Planning Commission of Pakistan and Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, former Finance Minister of Pakistan. While it was participated by scholars, academicians, and also representatives from Pakistan Armed Forces, national think tanks and universities and others, altogether, the two sessions allowed the participants to deliberate on the significance of CPEC amidst the regional compulsions. The major take away from the seminar remained the importance of strengthening Pak- China relations in every domain for materializing the goal of development through CPEC and also to propagate its positive image in the comity of nations. It aimed to deliberate on questions like, what are the potential benefits of the CPEC for different regional countries? What challenges CPEC could face in the region? How the regional and extra regional countries view this project? Surely the seminar has proffered a unique opportunity to participants from different regional and extra regional countries to interact in a free and candid manner and generating constructive discussions on the subject, besides drawing meaningful conclusions



# Concept Note

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is indeed being hailed as a 'regional game-changer'. It firmly embeds Pakistan in the phenomenal Chinese vision of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and also facilitates direct access for China to the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Meanwhile, it is pertinent to highlight that the corridor has an intrinsic potential of acting as a gateway for regional as well as extra-regional connectivity and related growth. The idea rests on the notion of Pakistan's position as a 'zipper of the region' with its geostrategic location playing a key role in furthering the Chinese goal. In this regard, Gwadar will emerge as one of the most significant ports of the World. In fact, it is worth mentioning that CPEC is crucial for BRI, the Gwadar port is critical for materializing the goal of CPEC, hence makes it critical in the overall Chinese goal of connectivity and attributed economic development. However, for some regional and extra-regional countries, CPEC and its concept may also be subject to criticism mainly because it threatens their strategic, political and economic interests.

# Findings and Recommendations

Main theme of the seminar allowed a revisit of regional compulsions and probability of CPEC to act as a connector of regions amidst them. The idea rests on the notion of invigorating cooperation in trade and enhancing people to people contact. Within this backdrop, major findings and recommendations as ascertained during the course of seminar are as under:

## Findings

- BRI also enhance people to people contact and provide disaster relief to participating countries
- There is a debate regarding the issue of 'Chinese Debt Trap'
- CPEC specific challenges include the debt repayment by Pakistan
- For BRI and CPEC to work, there needs to be heavy investment in the education sector
- The Zipper of Eurasia concept suggest that Pakistan's geography has blessed it with the irreplaceable role of connecting China, Russia, Central Asia, and Iran via CPEC – must be taken to its next phase of CPEC+
- The general sentiment within the Afghan government related to CPEC is positive. It is viewed as an opportunity, a win-win game and a chance to built closer economic ties
- BRI is seen as a project that will make Iran an indispensable partner not only for China but also for Pakistan, India, Russia, the Caucasus and the states of Central Asia
- At present Gwadar is facing water and electricity shortage



# Recommendations

- The Chinese Government should facilitate the cooperation by ensuring resource mobilization as a connector of cultures across the project.
- The debt given by the Chinese is a commercial loan and is expected to be returned as a mode of 'soft loan'. Pakistan and China should mutually devise a mechanism to shun this narrative, either through joint monograph or research endeavors.
- China should ensure in its CPEC related statements about future of economic cooperation. After the infrastructure is developed, focus should be on creating jobs for the locals, checking environmental degradation, and dealing with lack of transparency
- The key to success in education domain lies in better coordination and long-term planning which includes education as an economic dividend across the CPEC. Both the Governments should ensure the inclusion of investments in local schools and universities which lie under the CPEC
- There is a need for comprehensive strengthening of relations between Pakistan, Russia, China, Iran, and Turkey (for EU) via the CPEC+ branch corridors, which will allow for the creation of the so-called “Golden Ring” of multipolar Great Powers
- Both Afghanistan and Pakistan Governments should incorporate cooperation through CPEC as a salient feature in their future dialogue. As a starter there is a need to conduct joint studies on the available infrastructure and its inclusion in CPEC
- Including Iran in the picture will require serious prioritizing on Pakistan's part. After the sister port agreement between Chahbahar and Gwadar there is a need to devise mechanism for invigorating land route cooperation between the two countries through CPEC for its extension to EU through Turkey as CPEC+
- Alongside the investment through CPEC, the Government of Pakistan needs to deal with the probable socio-economic challenges in Gwadar as a top priority



# Opening Session



## Introduction

The international seminar was inaugurated with an impressive opening session, which entailed a welcome speech by President NDU and Opening Address by Chief Guest, Lt. Gen Naeem Khalid Lodhi, HI (M) (Retd), interim Defence Minister of Pakistan. Salient features of the session are enumerated in the ensuing paragraphs.

## Opening Remarks by President NDU

In the Opening Session, President NDU, Lieutenant General Majid Ehsan HI (M) welcomed all guests and speakers of the seminar and hoped that the subject will not only provide fresh impetus to the intellectual engagement, but is also aimed at revitalizing

ties of the stakeholders to higher standards in order to create constructive and positive partnership in the economic development initiatives offered by BRI in general and CPEC, in specific.

BRI is a milestone in the history of mankind, which will not only provide regional connectivity but will enable co-existence of human civilizations. Owing to the economic interdependence, it is indeed a global initiative, not restricted to Pakistan or China encompass 68 countries, 62% of world population and one third of GDP spanning three continents Asia, Africa and Europe launching a



new wave of connectivity for economic prosperity. Plans are underway to invest in huge energy infrastructure and industrial projects that will propel economic activities in and around the Indian Ocean. Honorable President NDU stated that the BRI project will enable the best use of Indian Ocean for all regions of the world for its maritime resources, enhanced economic activity, trade, maritime security that is beneficial for almost whole of the world. In this regard it was uttered that Pakistan holds an important position in the multi project matrix of BRI as a host of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which assumes the position of centrality as it provides the direct land route to China for reaching warm waters of the Indian Ocean.

Moreover, Pakistan is also passing through an economic transformation itself, hence expected to revolutionize national and international trade, and generate huge employment opportunities in the country. While underscoring the priorities of Pakistan in lieu of the developments regarding CPEC and BRI, the honorable president urged that it is high time to formulate a comprehensive and sustainable Indian Ocean strategy as a part of our foreign policy as it will be our mode of cooperation and economic activity for the next decade and beyond. This must include holistic strategies aimed at combating the threats that the Indian Ocean poses i.e. piracy, terrorism, proxy wars, and trafficking. The ongoing projects of CPEC and its ability to create regional connectivity required an in depth research on Gwadar development and the security environment that is prevailing around the CPEC geographic sites especially the Gwadar district and its coastal areas.

In this regard, it is imperative to highlight the factors that may act as impediments and create hurdles for economic development and regional connectivity. Gwadar lies at a strategically important geographic location surrounded by three increasingly important regions of the world, the oil rich Middle East, South Asia, and economically emerging and resources rich Central Asia. Gwadar is the third deep sea port and enjoys this status as it connects almost all the regional as well as extra regional trade points such as Africa, Gulf countries and Central Asian republics. The challenges for the development of Gwadar sea port come from both within and outside; it is high time that we formulate comprehensive strategies and policies to combat these hurdles. In the end, the honorable President NDU apprised the audience with a brief outline of

the seminar and expressed that the seminar is expected to be an important forum for scholars and practitioners for deliberating on key issues

avenues and enable them to devise strategies that lead to tangible outcomes.

## Address by the Chief Guest Lt. Gen Naeem Khalid Lodhi, HI (M), Interim Defence Minister of Pakistan



The Chief Guest in his remarks addressed the audience and rated the seminar as a very important one not only for Pakistan and China but for the region and beyond. While talking about CPEC as a game changer for the region and beyond, it was explained that the game needed to be understood before being played in order to succeed in it. The establishment of rules and regulations is the second important factor that needs to be taken in consideration. The third important element of any game is the referee, a central supreme body which takes up the role of an accountability and supervision in the whole game. The availability of the transparency in form of a central body to whom all the stakeholders are accountable and answerable to, is the crucial element of any project.

The international trends show inclusive-

ness, the regions and countries are incorporating each other in all initiatives globally. This phenomenon is prevalent in the world and we cannot ignore it so this project should also have all stakeholders, any project cannot function and succeed in isolationism in the age of connectivity and interdependence. Collaboration and cooperation should be the norm for this project. It was explained that geo-economy was and will always be at the root of the helm of affairs at global level strategy as well as politics so there is an ascendancy of economics over politics in the global affairs. Other important factor in the recent global trends is liberal rules and regulations with responsibility and protection of interest, having a balance in between these concepts regarding local, regional and international interests.

Deliberating on the trade dynamics, the Chief Guest explained Pakistan's position at the crossroads and urged for the ease of communication linkages and opening of trade routes and road ways for free flow of movement and trade in order to obtain maximum dividends of CPEC.

The success of CPEC in operational domains will be assured only if effective movement plans are designed which allow the movement of goods and services with ease and efficiency to across the port. Efficient arrange-

ments may include mechanisms that avoid time wastage, proper logistics and communications sites, warehouse installations and connectivity with the productions hubs is equally important. It was explained that the plan of connectivity will require a lot of planning in logistic and supply domains, such a mega project can be of maximum benefits if the technical aspects are handled with expertise and careful planning.

The idea of BRI should be well understood and executed in order to effectively exhibit the CPEC which is the flagship project and of utmost importance for Pakistan and China. The speaker shed light on the impediments including resistance from global powers and political hindrances which needs to be taken care of in a constructive manner. The policy should be all inclusive so this corridor becomes a point of economic convergence rather than contest in regional and extra regional perspective. Moreover, the important actions on

Pakistan's part were being delivered which included understanding BRI concept in terms of foreign policy, commerce, trade, finance and industry. Intense diplomacy is needed to create the enabling environment for the project, its successful execution and acceptability regionally and beyond, besides ensuring smooth coordination and cooperation in defence and interior authorities coupled with human resource development and management. Another crucial aspect is maximizing and synergizing the economic activities which can be achieved by encouraging foreign investors to invest in the project but with certain rules and regulations in order to effectively achieve the targets without discouraging them.

In the end it was urged that the potential and intentions of this corridor is required to be well understood and projected by Pakistan gain dire needed economic benefits through economic development and outreach.



SESSION 1

# BRI: A Strategic Context



# BRI: A Strategic Context



## Introduction

The first session of the seminar was geared towards deliberating on the significance of CPEC in the overall vision of BRI. It had three speakers; Mr. Raffaello Pantucci, Mr. Andrew Korybko and Mr. Hassan Daud Butt. It was followed by an interactive discussion moderated by DG ISSRA. A detailed account of the session is enumerated below.

## BRI: An Appraisal (Opportunities and Challenges) by Mr. Raffaello Pantucci

The Belt and the Road Initiative (BRI) is more of a foreign policy concept while the CPEC is more specifically articulated as bilateral project and a corridor. It began with the

development of Chinese Western front via investments in Central Asia which eventually took form of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). CPEC is thus, one of the many projects under

the BRI. The bilateral project started in 2013 as a vision of Chinese President Xi. Therefore, it falls under President Xi's foreign policy legacy and vision.

It was initially envisioned as the Silk Road Economic Belt focusing on a policy of communication, improved road connectivity, promotion of unimpeded trade, monetary circulation and an increased understanding between people. The intention of the Chinese leadership is to encourage major local Chinese companies to expand their horizon and increase foreign investments. As there is a realization in the system that these companies are localized and sometimes create an inefficient environment therefore, it is time to reform for increasing Chinese influence and projection. It is worth mentioning that, the Chinese Western region is still under developed. Therefore, in an attempt to enhance development, the leadership came up with idea of CPEC. The Xinjiang area of China faces a lot of issues. It is envisioned by the Chinese that economic prosperity in Xinjiang will help eradicate problems the area faces.

The policy area of CPEC envisages the banner of economic outreach, investment and trade to bring prosperity both, to China and countries in the periphery. Under this, most of the infrastructure and economic capital will be from state institutions hence under Beijing's control. BRI thus provides a benign vision to advance China's foreign policy based on economics, since investment is liked by all. China sees its restoration as the preeminent power on the Eurasian landmass, to be its rightful place in the world. We see today that China is rising as an important economic player on the world map. In this regard, if Pakistan is articulating most of its foreign policy under the banner of trade and economic prosperity, it is likely to attract a lot of attention. The national develop-



ment plan of China under the Belt and Road Initiative is a strategy that aims to enhance China's strategic clout. One example of this is the CPEC which is seen by Pakistan as a big economic opportunity, thus it gained support of masses. All the road and trade networks will eventually connect countries and regions back to China. In addition, the BRI will also enhance people to people contact and provide disaster relief to many.

Despite the many positives, BRI has numerous challenges as well. BRI is investing huge sum for infrastructure development into those countries that need it. Hence, focusing on the local benefit and gaining public support. There is a real debate regarding the issue of debt. The debt given by the China is a commercial loan and they expect it to be returned. Another problem is that of China advancing its standards. An example of this, is the railway line that will connect China to Kyrgyzstan and then to Uzbekistan. Here China is adamant on using its railway gauges thus creating a problem for the other two countries. Another major challenge is that of China advancing its ideology. China is a one-party state. It is thus working hard to push its objective over the

prevalent world order. CPEC specific challenges include the debt repayment by Pakistan, the future of the country's economy after the infrastructure has been developed, the problem of creating jobs for the locals, environmental degradation, lack of transparency and whether regional connectivity will work. There is an opportunity at hand – China is going to make these investments into places

that need it. For BRI and CPEC to work, there needs to be heavy investment in the education sector. The key to success lies in better coordination between and long-term planning. It needs to be borne in view that security and political cooperation do not necessarily flows from physical connectivity.

## The Economic Belt Road and the “Heartland” of Regional Connectivity by Mr. Andrew Korybko



Pakistan is a country whose time on the world stage has finally arrived, with CPEC endowing it with limitless opportunities both within its borders and beyond. A lot has already been analyzed over the past few years about the developmental prospects of this project and its potential to revolutionize global affairs through the commencement of the Silk Road Century of multipolar globalization, but for the most part, these outlooks treat Pakistan as an object of these paradigm-shifting processes and not its subject. That's too passive of an approach that neglects to consider the

means through which Pakistan can capitalize off of its geostrategic position as the Zipper of Eurasia and become a leading actor in the emerging Multipolar World Order, hence why fresh and ambitious thinking is urgently needed at this crucial crossroads so that the country can take maximum advantage of this historic moment.

The Zipper of Eurasia concept – which simply says that Pakistan's geography has blessed it with the irreplaceable role of connecting China, Russia, Central Asia, and Iran via CPEC – must be taken to its next phase of CPEC+, which is the stage where serious planning is made for expanding CPEC along several geographic vectors in order to actualize this strategic connectivity vision and place Pakistan smack dab in the center of Eurasia's multipolar future. The comprehensive strengthening of relations between Pakistan, Russia, China, Iran, and Turkey via the CPEC+ branch corridors will allow for the creation of the so-called “Golden Ring” of multipolar Great Powers that would represent an unprecedented form of win-win cooperation between the continental states of the Eurasian

Heartland. It's this goal that Pakistan should aim for, as well as becoming the indispensable connectivity component of this structure via its hosting of the CPEC+ projects.

It can't be emphasized enough just how much of a real game-changer this would be, both in practical and symbolic terms. Pakistan could elevate its international status from an object of geopolitics and a regional power in South Asia to one of the subjects leading the world into multipolarity and rising to become a Eurasian, and potentially even a hemispheric, power. About the latter aspect of this grand vision, CPEC+ connectivity isn't just limited to the Eurasian Heartland but could also expand along the southern maritime vector through Gwadar to include the Horn of Africa and East Africa, which would therefore make Pakistan the tri-continental pivot state of the Silk Road Century and position it to play a central role in international affairs across the coming decades.

Taken together, the Pakistani-facilitated interaction of the diverse civilizations of South Asia, China, Central Asia, Russia, Iran, Turkey, the Arabs, the Horn of Africa, and East Africa would embody a Convergence of Civilizations that powerfully rebukes Huntington's thesis about a so-called "Clash of Civilizations" which was exploited as a blueprint for dividing and ruling the Eastern Hemisphere. The success of CPEC+ would therefore carry with it significant hard and soft power implications in the sense of building the physical basis for a new international architecture while simultaneously safeguarding it from the Hybrid War threat of externally provoked identity-driven conflict, which is why this series of megaprojects must be prioritized as soon as possible with Pakistan's leading

participation in all of them.

Having been introduced to the conceptual basics of CPEC+, it's now time to describe exactly what it entails. There are 3 Pakistani-originating connectivity branches that link the country with its northern, western, and southern neighbors, described as N-CPEC+, W-CPEC+, and S-CPEC+, respectively. A fourth one runs parallel to CPEC and is actually an energy corridor called E-CPEC+, all of which will soon be explained in detail. The shorthand reference to each of the three geographic vectors and the energy component with a letter helps to simplify which project is being referred to, and it also reinforces the idea that they're all part of the larger whole of CPEC, further underlining the centrality of Pakistan to this entire process. While some of the transit and destination countries have already established close working relations with one another independent of Islamabad and this initiative, the goal is to make Pakistan the main facilitator of trade between different pairs of these states.

This will all make more sense once the details of each CPEC+ project have been elaborated on. To begin, N-CPEC+ strives to connect Pakistan to Russia via Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics. It's indeed possible in theory for the latter two to be completely cut out of the equation through the pioneering of a short branch corridor between Russia's Altai Republic and China's Xinjiang, but this wouldn't have much economic use given the sparsely populated regions of Russia that it would be connecting to. Instead, it's much more pragmatic for Russian-Pakistani trade to traverse through Afghanistan and the Central Asian Republics in order to involve them, their markets, laborers, and resources in

this new network, or at the very least circumvent Afghanistan through a Xinjiang-Kazakhstan detour or supplementary branch until the security situation improves in the war-torn country. Pakistan shares a civilizational heritage with Central Asia through Babur, so it's natural for it to want to expand its soft power presence along this northern vector en route to Russia.

Looking westwards at W-CPEC+, this actually has two dimensions – the mainland and the maritime portions. The first-mentioned could see the pairing of Gwadar with Chabahar, as Iran itself suggested, and the eventual development of a cross-Iranian trade corridor that would connect Pakistan with its close Turkish and Azerbaijani partners, the latter of which could even see Islamabad utilizing infrastructure along the so-called “North-South Transport Corridor” that India is helping to build in order to diversify its trade access with Russia through the Caucasus. As for the second-mentioned dimension, the maritime one, it will prospectively link Pakistan even closer with the Arab Gulf Monarchies and potentially even Iraq, too. Accordingly, both branches of W-CPEC+ lay the basis for E-CPEC+, which could see a pipeline corridor – possibly built by or involving Russia – running parallel with CPEC in transporting Mideast resources to China, even those from rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia.

S-CPEC+ would logically bring China and Africa together through Pakistan, taking advantage of the fact that one of CPEC's most significant geostrategic facets is that the project allows the People's Republic to connect to Africa without having to go through the Strait of Malacca chokepoint. There are also two parts of S-CPEC+, but before getting to

them, it's important to stress that the New Pakistan of CPEC+ doesn't have to abide by the colonial-era terminology of referring to its southern ocean as the “Indian Ocean”, and could actually take the lead in popularizing its renaming. To explain, the “Indian Ocean” is named after “India”, which derives its internationally recognized name from the Indus River – called Sindh by the locals – which is now located in Pakistan. Therefore, the whole concept of calling this body of water the “Indian Ocean” is flawed from the get-go, so a more geographically-civilizationally accurate name is needed.

One suggestion would be to refer to it as the Afro-Bengali Ocean given that its western half has been more centered on African-related connectivity throughout most of history while its eastern counterpart crucially involves the Bay of Bengal. This new nomenclature of the Afro-Bengali Ocean would also highlight the increasingly strategic role that both Africa and the Bay of Bengal are poised to play in the emerging Multipolar World Order, given that the first one is a key part of China's One Belt One Road global vision of New Silk Road connectivity while the second is a center of competition between China and India in the New Cold War. Furthermore, simply introducing this term into the general discourse could win Pakistan a lot of soft power points and boost its appeal in both Africa and the Bay of Bengal region. Relatedly, a supplementary effort could also be initiated to rename the Arabian Sea region right near the Pakistani coast as the Jinnah Sea or something similarly patriotic.

Moving along, whether one wants to still call it the “Indian Ocean” or prefers to experiment with terming it as the “Afro-Bengali

Ocean”, this southern body of water will become more significant for Pakistan than ever before given that China intends to connect with Africa through CPEC, so the Pakistani Navy should consider expanding its patrols in the region together with China and other future partners in order to protect the Sea Lines Of Communication (SLOC) there. In addition, it would be sensible for Islamabad to probe opportunities for different port deals in the Horn of Africa and East Africa regions, the two geographic vectors of S-CPEC+. Possible locations could include Port Sudan where Russia was offered a facility late last year, Djibouti where over half a dozen foreign militaries are already positioned, UAE-controlled ports in South Yemen's Aden & Socotra and also the breakaway region of Somaliland, Mogadishu where Turkey already has a land base, or even Kenya's Mombasa.

Altogether, the CPEC+ series of megaprojects envisions linking Pakistan with over at least 25 different countries through its four separate but interconnected branches, enormously broadening its economic, diplomatic, military, and ultimately strategic possibilities in truly making it the center of multipolarity in the Eastern Hemisphere and correspondingly one of the most important states in the Silk Road Century. This could be overwhelming for some people to countenance, and the blueprint that's been revealed is strikingly new for many, so it's worthwhile to review what's been proposed so far so that everyone can have a solid understanding of the larger concept at play. The general idea is that the Zipper of Eurasia's CPEC centerpiece must finally branch out along several geographic trajectories to connect a multitude of countries with Pakistan and therefore embody the Convergence of Civilizations meta-strategy for

countering the weaponization of Huntington's “Clash of Civilizations” thesis.

This herculean task can only be accomplished through proper management structures, so it's therefore imperative that Pakistan construct three Friendship Center hubs at the most pivotal junctions of each geographic vector of CPEC+. Going from North, West, and then South, these are Uzbekistan's Tashkent, Iran's Tabriz, and Ethiopia's Addis Ababa, each of which have their own unique significances in terms of this larger paradigm. The Uzbekistani capital is right next to the populated Fergana Valley center of Central Asia and is the leading city of the region's largest country. Tabriz, meanwhile, is a majority-ethnic Turkish city in northwestern Iran which thereby allows Pakistan to simultaneously deepen its economic and civilizational connectivity with Iran, Turkey, and Azerbaijan all through one place. As for Addis Ababa, it's the capital of Africa's second-most populous country and its fastest-growing economy, and it also hosts the African Union headquarters, which makes it a natural hub for Pakistan's interactions with the continent.

The Friendship Centers are therefore suggested to be multifunctional hubs for coordinating each CPEC+ branch's socio-economic investments, taking care to balance physical connectivity with its civilizational counterpart in order to build hard and soft infrastructure in parallel with one another. The end result of friendship between Pakistan and each country in the region of its respective centers will organically occur so long as the CPEC+ initiatives are a success, which they're very likely to be given the shared interests that each party has in this grand proposal.

Pakistan's most attractive marketing point for this series of megaprojects is that they'll allow this broad network of tri-continental countries to comprehensively integrate with one another through partially Chinese-funded infrastructure projects that lay the basis for more robust multilateral cooperation, resultantly facilitating the emergence of the Multipolar World Order in which they each have a stake for their own reasons.

Drawing towards a close, it's noteworthy to emphasize that Balochistan is the base of integrative operations for each of the four CPEC+ initiatives, seeing as how they all in one way or another must pass through this region. The domestic and international political implications of this geostrategic fact are gigantic because they can enable Pakistan to completely change the narrative about CPEC by repositioning Balochistan as its future leading subject instead of terminal infrastructure object, meaning that it and its people can be infused with genuine hope for the credible opportunity to play a front and center role in Pakistan's future and that of multipolarity as a whole. In view of this and in the interests of strengthening regional stability there, it would be constructive if the state worked with local economic stakeholders and elevated some of them to the point of taking on highly publicized responsibilities related to each CPEC+ vector, symbolically showing the rest of Pakistan and the world that this minority group and their territory are truly treasured.

Finally, Pakistan must consider hosting a yearly CPEC+ event tentatively called the Gwadar Gathering to showcase it and its partners' multilateral integrational successes in the Silk Road Century, with this port city being chosen as the location for this function

because of its everlasting association with CPEC and all that it stands for. Once the venue infrastructure is in place and progress has officially been made in publicly unveiling the CPEC+ concept to the rest of the world and opening the three Friendship Center hubs that were described earlier, the time would be perfect to begin having yearly meetings among all strata of society including academics, politicians, military representatives, businessmen, and civil society members in order to demonstrate the bottom-up inclusiveness all across the Eastern Hemisphere that Pakistan is pioneering. For added effectiveness, the organizers should strive to one day make the Gwadar Gathering as important of an event as the Shangri-La Dialogue, Boao Forum, Davos, Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, and South by Southwest by incorporating a wide array of attendees and figuring prominently on the global agenda.

Wrapping everything up, Pakistan's future is inextricably bound to advancing the CPEC+ concept of trans-regional and pan-hemispheric connectivity within Afro-Eurasia and functioning as the pivot of Silk Road integration and civilisational convergences alike. Islamabad must take the lead, and now, in tangibly actualizing this long-term vision in order to distinguish itself as the subject of International Relations that it is and grow out of its former passive role as an object of other Great Powers. Forward-looking and visionary proposals such as this one are needed in order for Pakistan to survive and thrive throughout this century, and with the right amount of political will and the proper managerial structures in place, there should be no doubt that Pakistan will seize this historical moment to fulfill its destiny as the center of the emerging Multi-polar World Order.

## CPEC and its Impact on Regional stability by Major General Muhammad Samrez Salik, HI (M)



CPEC has room to facilitate regional stability and transformation of the global order. The region where Pakistan lies has suffered for a prolonged time and faces rivalry and conflict. CPEC in such a scenario provides opportunity for growth and development. It is a lynchpin for China's Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan is therefore a zipper of the region and a major stakeholder in the region. However, at the same time it comes with risks and challenges. It has faced the brunt of evolving discrepancies from both external as a baggage of history and internal fronts. This led to the escalation of challenges at the inner front, in the following domains: Political front, this caused a negative impact on the country's image, Economic losses, this were in the form of decreased FDI, Social domain, this has resulted in an increase in poverty and a high human cost and Security concerns, under this Pakistan has witnessed major terrorist attacks

It is worth mentioning here that despite being in the eye of the storm Pakistan has remained resilient. It has played a pivotal role in the fight against the threats to the maintenance of regional peace and stability. Today, its intrinsic capacity as connector of regions is being recognized by major countries and it's being viewed through the prism of economy, rather than that of security. It is this aspect that allows Pakistan to play a major role in China's overall Belt Road initiative, particularly through CPEC.

It can now be said that the fire of terrorism has been put off. However, remnants of the menace still remain and complete eradication will take time. Pakistan, having successfully controlled the menace of terrorism, is a country that still has a long way to go. It however is now ripe for development and growth. The environment is now conducive for exploiting the opportunities that come with CPEC. At the grand strategic level, the BRI faces moves and counter moves. It is worth mentioning that BRI is a countermove to the US strategy of pivot to Asia. With the BRI vision, China is hinting towards redefining relations, which implies integration of civilizations "Instead of Clash of Civilizations."

According to Robert d Kaplan China's geography is an inhibiting factor in its rise as its position makes it vulnerable. CPEC thus provides China an alternate route to the sea via Pakistan. CPEC is thus being termed as the Flag Ship Corridor. In case of CPEC plus, the benefits will be greater.

The land route through Pakistan mitigates what is called the revenge of geography. It has the potential to connect the region which is otherwise marred by conflict and rivalry. It will make easier for countries to trade and increase their interdependence.

Therefore, there lies an opportunity of

inferring cooperation from conflict, particularly when the Indian Ocean Region is considered a center stage of rivalry. In this regard, this also raises specter of enhanced Indian interests in CPEC due to its perceived regional economic development goal. Hence it is high time that we resolve conflicts through economic interdependence.

## Regional Fissures and Impact of CPEC by Mr. Hassan Daud Butt



With time, the dynamics of international relations have changed. In the current political system, Asia remains the epicenter of transformation, where the economic power is shifting from the West to the East. This is due to two reasons; the global economic recession that hit the world in 2008-2009 and China's One Belt One Road Initiative.

In the changing political order, Pakistan and China have been able to maintain close ties. Both countries have worked hard to enrich this friendship based on shared interest and vision of a prosperous region. Currently, China enjoys the status of the world's 2nd largest

economy having the largest exports (\$2.34 trillion) and world's 3rd largest imports (\$1.96 trillion). Its fast growing economy has allowed it to takeover and builds the global strategy to link its markets with other economies.

Hedged on the spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness and mutual benefit; the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) will provide opportunities to 3 billion people in Central, West, South Asia as well as Middle East and Africa. CPEC is thus one of the projects of the BRI and a benchmark for all other Corridors. It will allow Pakistan to transform its historical & strategic relationship with China by allowing it the first user advantage.

The BRI will pass through unreachable terrains via roads, rail lines, bridges and power plants. One of the primary goals of the initiative is to use the economic prowess of developed markets like China to proper and assist under-developed markets through their transition to a more secure economy. Expected trade volume under the BRI is expected to be US\$ 4-8 Trillion. The BRI will connect 68 Countries through 56 Economic Zones and with an investment of US\$18.5 Billion.

CPEC was first envisioned in the year 2013. Chinese President Xi Jinping's Visit to Pakistan in April 2015 made CPEC a reality. Under CPEC, both countries will cooperate in the fields of Energy, Transport, Infrastructure, Gwadar and industrial development. The Long Term Plans of the project are however, still in progress. The project is estimated to cost US\$ 46 Billion. Under CPEC, the following targets will be achieved; 1st Target (2020), this is the period of market cultivation. In this period, major impediments to Pakistan's economic and social development shall be addressed to boost the economic growth. 2nd Target (2025); this will be the period of expansion and development. More focus will be on the development of processing and manufacturing industries. Special attention will be given improvement of people's livelihood, a balanced regional economic development, and all the goals of Vision 2025 achieved, and 3rd Target (2030); this shall be the period of maturity. The endogenous mechanism for sustainable economic growth will be in place and CPEC will be ready to play leadership role in the region.

In addition, it is expected that under CPEC, from 2020 to 2030, the speed of trade growth should be 16% and that of bilateral direct investment will be 20%. It is also estimated that the project will create 500,000-800,000 new jobs in the country. According to Pakistan Business Council, CPEC projects could account for 20% of country's GDP over the next 5 years and boost economic growth by 3%. This can be attributed due to the changing image of Pakistan in the international arena. What used to be known as an "investment hostile country" is now becoming an "Investment Friendly Country." CPEC will thus play the

role of a national regional and global connector.

Geopolitically, Pakistan is situated at the convergence of the three geo-economically significant regions of South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia. For landlocked countries like Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, CPEC will provide an easy access to reach international waters. Therefore, CPEC will provide Pakistan the opportunity to become the connecting point of the 3 regions for cooperation in the fields of energy, trade, transportation and tourism.

Strategically, the increase in trade, investment and financial flows would bring prosperity and peace to the region through interdependence and enhancement in the competitiveness of the regional economies. By creating economic interdependence it will also help overcome regional contentions. Therefore, the envisioned interconnectivity of the project will foster peace through economic prosperity by alleviating the risks of both intra-state and inter-state conflicts.

The total energy projects of CPEC are 19 out of which 15 have been given high priority. Presently, the Energy projects under CPEC that have been completed include: Port Qasim Coal Power Plant, Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, Hub Coal Power Plant, Jimpir Power Plant, Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park Bhalwalpur, and Suki Kinari Hydel Power project.

A network of Roads and Railways has also been planned to connect CPEC to the region. The railway network will reduce the train transit time by half, increase passenger traffic and increase freight traffic from 5 to 25 million tons /annum by 2025. The fiber optic cable will provide faster and speedier connectivity

throughout Pakistan while providing internet access to isolated regions of Pakistan. CPEC will thus provide Pakistan with a plethora of opportunities in the fields of; Energy, Textile, Cement, Construction, Agriculture and Mineral mining.

CPEC will thus prove to be a vehicle for regional integration and interconnectivity that promotes prosperity not just within Pakistan but the region. Under this, China will be able to move manufacturing capacities to Pakistan and the country can benefit from its lower cost

based advantage. According to Professor Anatol Lieven of George Town University, “Over the decades during which I have worked in and written about Pakistan, there have been so many supposed national “turning points” at which the country failed to turn that I have almost ceased to notice them. But when earlier this year the Pakistani Government described China's planned energy and transport corridor through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea as a ‘fate changer’, it may - perhaps - have been telling the truth.”

## Interactive Discussion

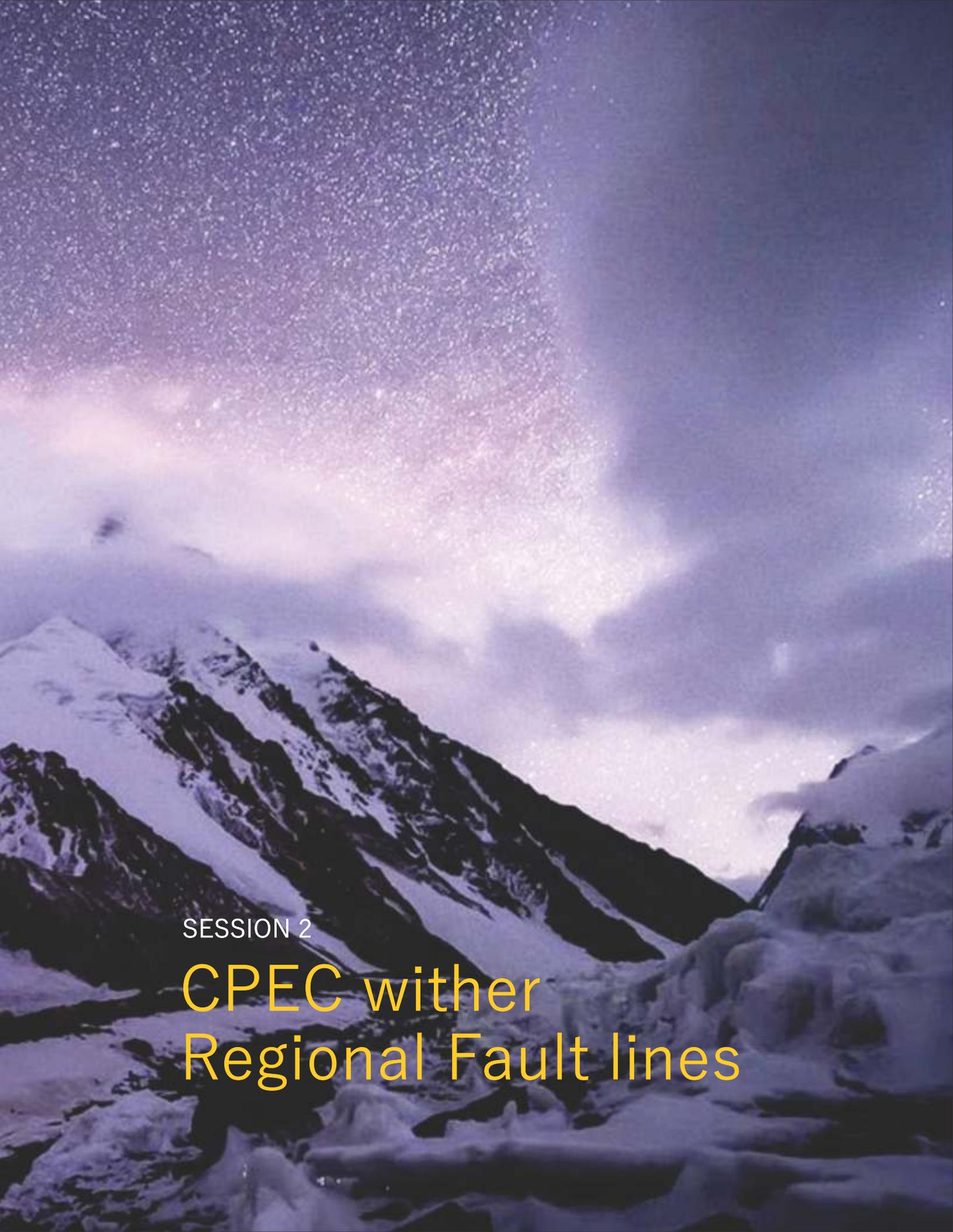
It was brought up in the discussion that the UK has interests in CPEC as it will provide its local companies access to new markets. However, what results will be achieved and how these projects will unfold is yet to be seen.

Another question focused on methods China will employ to address India's negative claims of CPEC. It needs to be borne in view that India is not entirely rejecting CPEC but has concerns. On practical grounds, there's a lot of cooperation between both countries. India is also a signatory of the Asian Development Bank. In addition, there are

many projects that fall under the umbrella of BRI. An example of this is the India-China Joint Training of Diplomats.

Questions regarding the deficit of skilled labor were also brought up. It came into discussion that the ultimate aim is to create more jobs and since the projects are still in the first phase, the labor has the required skill to cope with the emerging job market. In addition, the Pakistani labor working abroad is returning to Pakistan and it will help fill in the gaps. Also the private and government sectors are collaborating to create skilled labor and more still needs to be done.





SESSION 2

# CPEC wither Regional Fault lines

# CPEC wither Regional Fault Lines



## Introduction

The second thematic session focused on the fault lines and regional compulsions amidst China's phenomenal vision of BRI and CPEC as an opportunity for regional connectivity. It entailed talks of renowned speakers including; Mr. Zhao Lijian, Mr. Haroon Sharif, Ms. Maryam Safi and Prof Bahador Arminian Jazi.

The session moderated by Mr. Haroon Sharif; alongside an interactive discussion. The transcripts of presentations by the speakers are as under:

## The 21st Century Maritime Silk Route and China's Arctic Policy

By Mr. Zhao Lijian



BRI and China's Arctic Policy is a very complicated subject. To recall, the two routes of BRI include; land route which would connect China with Central Asia, Russia, and Europe, and sea route which would link China's coast through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean in one route and from China's coast through the South China Sea to the South Pacific. Last year in May 2017, there was summit on BRI initiative. Representatives from Many countries participated in the summit, not only from Europe and Asia but also from other countries like Chili and Africa.

Alongside there is also the North Sea route. It is a connection between Asia and Europe through the northern sea route. Basically it

originated from Northern Europe and will connect China, Russia, Japan and North America. It takes 37 to 38 days from Chinese coast to Europe. It uses mostly the sea route along the northern coast of Russia, East Empire of Russia, China, Japan and North America. The North Sea route along the Russian coast will reduce the time about 12 days it means that China can save 300 tons of fuel. This route is becoming more feasible because of the climate change, as in the past this route was dangerous. Now, China has sent many ships for trial through this route. However it is still not developed as a regular route and China is trying to explore the possibilities related to this route. It becomes more practical only in summers because in winter, most of the area is frozen. However, China expects it to be more feasible in the future, that is why it is interested in this route.

In a nutshell, it is worth mentioning that, China does not have direct access to Arctic. If there will be any discussion on Arctic, it hopes to be a part of the discussion. Those countries which have direct access to Arctic, they are single handedly dealing with this matter. Meanwhile, there are also some global issues related to Arctic. In order to participate in the discussion, China has also sent some scientific ships to the Arctic to work in order to work in the interest of science and technology.

## CPEC and Nodes of Cultural Integration (A Perspective from Afghanistan)

By Ms. Maryam Safi



It is important to shed light on Afghanistan and its possible integration into CPEC alongside existing challenges. The BRI has the potential to integrate, not only the various countries which are part of it but also Afghanistan into the regional economy. There are several benefits to linking Afghanistan with CPEC alongside immense potential of development. The general sentiment within the Afghan government related to CPEC is positive. It is viewed as an opportunity, a win-win game and a chance to built closer economic ties. The interviews conducted in Afghanistan for this study depict optimism. However some interviewees saw the bond between Pakistan and China as a hurdle for expanding CPEC to Afghanistan. Other interviewees remarked that the potential benefit for Afghanistan is very unclear. It is

worth mentioning that the nature of Afghanistan and Pakistan's relations and the spillover of insecurity and political tensions into bilateral economic relations result in border clashes, and hurdles for traders. However, still Pakistan remains the largest trade export destination of Afghanistan goods, and Afghanistan remains the largest importer of Pakistani goods.

Within the ambit of CPEC, Gwadar would rest as the quickest access to Sea for Afghanistan. Currently Central Asia follows a much longer route for trade. If connected to CPEC, Afghanistan will offer the shortest routes to the sea port of Iran and Pakistan for CAR's. Additionally, if Afghanistan joins CPEC it will provide better and systematic trade points to the Central Asian countries. Tajikistan and the rest of the countries in Central Asia will benefit significantly from increased integration of the region. CPEC railway network will act for Afghanistan a hub of regional transport.

There are some possible obstacles toward the development of CPEC in Afghanistan. Firstly, the benefits of CPEC toward Afghanistan are unacquainted to the policy makers of the Afghan Government, however, Afghan Government sees CPEC as a good step toward regional peace, stability and cooperation. According to the Afghan policy-makers they cannot compromise its relations with other countries in region for the sake of the BRI.

Although the design of the CPEC is unclear but it definitely has an economic dividend in store for Afghanistan. It is indeed a land of challenges faces several challenges and remains deliberate towards economic development, due to weak

governance, complex economic policies and volatile security situation. These challenges need to be addressed by the policy makers so that Afghan Government and its people would be able to get benefit from the BRI.

## Leveraging Economic and Strategic Impact of CPEC By Mr. Haroon Sharif



It is important to manage conflict through co-operation, in order to gain from the opportunity of connecting the region and beyond. Poverty and conflict remain major challenges in the South Asian region; where poverty and conflict are interlinked with each other. They exist in the eastern part of India, in the northern India, western part of Pakistan and Afghanistan. International professionals are defining this through maps, which they have made after the study of thirty years as they are seeing South Asia's bleak economic situation. However, now the scenario is changing and merits consideration. CPEC in this scenario is a major driver of this change. The world takes

the project through a two-fold perspective:

Firstly, new market is emerging in the region which cannot be ignored by the rest of the world. The Price Water Loop Service says that, in 2025, Pakistan would be the 16th largest economy in the world, bigger than Italy, Canada and Netherland. That is the optimistic forecast. China is clearly well positioned to maximize benefits from CPEC and the new regional market. Alongside, there is a huge opportunity for Afghanistan to develop safe and stronger transport infrastructure for mining and transit trade. It is a natural connectivity for Iran due to proximity advantage. It is an obvious advantage for Central Asia to leverage energy resources and to be part of regional value chains.

Secondly, there is no high level institutional economic cooperation body to leverage CPEC for regional stability and economic growth. Internal changes are needed within countries to learn economic diplomacy. Regional cooperation organizations like SAARC and ECO are dysfunctional. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is more active but driven by foreign policy and strategic issues. CPEC must prioritize people centric investments in industry and agriculture to create jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Policy shifts are required to develop marginalized regions for sustainable peace and development. China's desire to show success of BRI and CPEC, a few concrete investments are critical to show success. Pakistan should take the lead by making a CPEC based economic

value proposition to the region. There is a need to develop local capital markets to raise long term funds for supporting infrastructure. Politics will remain volatile. Hence, more practical to use private sector space for sustained economic development.

## CPEC: A Perspective from Iran By Prof. Bahador Aminian Jazi



The role of China in international system has undergone tremendous shifts and transformations. China's rise is one of the most significant geopolitical events in modern history. The country is gradually going on an upward trajectory of purely economic and commercial frameworks, extending its role over and beyond the cultural, political and security dimensions. China, through BRI, has issued a signal that its global role is changing to an international agenda regulator. China is trying to send this signal to others, who wants its proper position as a leading power in Asia to be valued and trusted in an equal position with other super-powers of the world.

As far as Iran is concerned, it served as a bridge in the ancient Silk Road, connecting the East and the West. Due to these features, Iran also has great potential to play an important role in the new Silk Road. Iran is in the neighborhood of the Arab world, Central Asia, South Asia, the Caucasus, and the Turkish world, but is not part of any of these regions. Iran has no structural linkage with any set. By strengthening communication in different fields, BRI can cover a part of Iran's geopolitical loneliness. Iran's geographic location makes it the only viable land bridge from the Persian Gulf to the landlocked Central Asian states (a market of about 65 million people) and the three states of the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) and Russia. These areas have strategic importance.

Therefore, BRI is seen as a project that will make Iran an indispensable partner not only for China but also for Pakistan, India, Russia, the Caucasus and the states of Central Asia. The role of Iran in most of the transportation routes and even the routes of energy transmission is also crucial. The Islamic Republic of Iran has had mega projects for three decades to construct new roads or to reconstruct of existing roads and railroads to connect Asia, the Caucasus, Pakistan and Europe and now there are several projects on this agenda. An impor-

tant part of the north-east corridor, which is considered to be the most important international transit route for the transit of goods between Asian and European countries and which is the shortest, least costly and fastest transit route between Asia and Europe, passes through Iran, From southern ports of the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea to Russian ports. In addition, this corridor also has several intersections with other corridors in the area.

In the above framework of Iran's grand strategy of resilient economy, cooperation with neighbors and especially with Pakistan has strategic importance. Iran and Pakistan are key countries in the region which have long-

## Interactive Discussion

In the interactive session, the participants were keen on discussing various issues including: CPEC and Indian objections; China-India informal cooperation in Afghanistan; Iran's reaction on India's reducing of oil trade with Iran under US pressure; nature of Iran-India relationship; Afghanistan's apprehension of joining CPEC; and issues in Gawadar etc.

CPEC as the pilot project of BRI has achieved lots of achievements during last five years or so. It is an inclusive project and China welcomes the partnership of neighbouring countries Iran, Afghanistan and even India in it. However, India has some problems with it claiming that it passes through a disputed territory. Nonetheless, as clarified many a times, that CPEC is a project that is economic in nature and it has nothing to do with sovereignty or territorial disputes.

China-India cooperation on Afghanistan

standing friendly relations and through economic cooperation can create better future. Iran has always announced readiness to full cooperate with Pakistan especially in the CPEC program and officials of both sides always announced that two countries are Complementary.

The connection of the Chahbahar and the Gwadar port is one of the key potential projects which would create tremendous geostrategic changes within Iran, some sections of the Belt and Road and the INSTC overlap. This could be a boon to businesses but could also pose a political risk, if Beijing and New Delhi decide to play a zero-sum game.

has just started this year when Indian PM met Chinese President in China and requested cooperation in this regard. One thinks that the cooperation is just starting with small baby steps such as training etc. and would need to be seen where it goes. But China-Pakistan cooperation in Afghanistan is much broader and comprehensive. Both countries have started close coordination in foreign policy, security and economy as trilateral dialogue of foreign ministers, trilateral strategic dialogue, cooperation on counter-terrorism and Afghanistan's interest to join regional economic initiatives as BRI and CPEC.

All of Iranian oil receiving countries are under a lot of pressure to cut of the oil trade with Iran and India is no exception. So far, Indians have announced that they are not going to cut down the oil trade with Iran, and these relations would be decided in view of the Indian national interests. Therefore, one hopes

that India would be able to withstood the pressure, but time will tell. Moreover, the nature of India-Iran relation is not strategic. Iran had invited all countries to invest in the development of Chahbahar and India is one of the countries to invest in it. Its investment in Chahbahar is very little -- about 18 million. Most important of all, Iran would not allow for its territory to be used against any other friendly or neighboring country. Iran has not forgotten that during eight years Iran-Iraq war, when Iran was alone, Pakistan was amongst those countries who had helped Iran. Iran do not ask Pakistan to cut its relations with its friendly countries or Iran's enemies and expects the same. However, Iran has clear policies and stance regarding its economic policies, its relations with India and on Kashmir issue.

In the contemporary international setting, US President Trump under the pressure of Israel and Saudi Arabia is trying to discard JCPOA. The US is not the hegemonic power that it used to be, the other partners of JCPOA: Russia, China, and the Western powers know that the US is the guilty party here and Iran therefore is not alone in this regard. Iran is expected to withstand the economic pressure as it could during the earlier phase of sanctions. As far as the competition between the two ports, Chahbahar and Gawadar is concerned, for the potential and requirement of the region, even 5 more ports can have healthy competition. So, the competition is not necessarily a negative thing in economic terms.

There are clear reasons for apprehensions and trust deficit between Pakistan and Afghanistan and one needs not to elaborate more on those. However, there is a need for dialogue and discourse development on

Afghanistan joining the initiatives on regional development be it BRI or CPEC. This discourse is underway in Afghanistan and one can hope that it would result in good for Afghanistan and for the region. When it comes to implementing rule of law in Afghanistan, it faces a number of challenges including corruption, nepotism and implementation of policies on ground. However, it would be wrong to say that there is absolutely no governance in Afghanistan.

A participant Mr. Khalid from NUML Campus Gawadar shared the ground realities in Gawadar from his personal experience. His comments are transcribed below:

The optimism shown by the panelists during this seminar about Gawadar is appreciated but the ground realities are bit different. At present Gawadar is facing lot of water shortage and electricity crisis. There have been strikes by the local people demanding to resolve these issues. At present the electricity to Gawadar is not being provided by government of Pakistan but it is coming from Iran. Moreover, the voltage is too low that ACs can not be operated. Thus, if you want Gawadar to progress and develop, the infrastructure development is essential. The second issue related to the lack of instructors for Chinese language teaching who can also speak Urdu. Third, there is a need of a coordination office if not a consulate of China in Gawadar, as people there face a lot of problems in contacting the Chinese friends. Fourth, local people in Gawadar think that CPEC is not for the benefit of them, but for the rest of Pakistan. There is a need to build confidence in the local people about CPEC and change this perception as well. Last but not the least, most of the household utilities, oil and edibles used in Gawadar

come from Iran. There is also a permit system that our people can go to Chahbahar for 15 days to Chahbahar without visa. One believes that such measures can prove to be the building bloc for a healthy and strong relationship between the two countries.

The panelist from China replied that the concerns shared are significant and are based on experience. Regarding consulate, the concerns can be shared through Karachi office or Chinese company operating in Gawadar.

The language instructors can be provided if the request is made through the proper channels. The water and electricity issues are important, however, after 18th amendment, these are provincial subjects. Nonetheless, to some extent, the Chinese companies are providing free water in Gawadar. Moreover, the NOC on environment has been issued and now Chinese company is moving to land acquisition to build a 300 MW power plant in Gawadar. This one can hope that would contribute to resolve the issue to some extent.



# Closing Session

# Closing Session



## Introduction

The international seminar concluded on a note of mutual growth through connectivity and linkages. The participants were highly appreciative of the quality of speakers, both foreign and local, alongside their candid views on the current regional eco-

nomie endeavors. The closing session included remarkable comments by the Interim Finance Minister- Dr. Shamshad Akhtar and concluding remarks by DG ISSRA. The in scripts of their talks are as under:

## Remarks by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar

CPEC is a visionary and innovative trans-continental endeavor. It has the potential to change the economics and spatial dimensions regional connectivity, both across land and sea. Meanwhile, Belt and Road Initiative's geographical scope, as we all know is large, it accounts for 30% GDPs and 63% of global population. Hence BRI will not just impact one country but its dynamics will evolve and revolve in line with the anticipated and un-anticipated developments in the global economy and the midcourse and influence the policy pursues over the next few decades. Upfront to the extent BRI operates within multilateral framework and reinforces the regional architecture of Asia, hence its win-win for all. An analysis in the form of UNESCAP has been carried out on the request of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China as a comprehensive analysis and applied the computable general equilibrium model as well as the gravity model to the 6 proposed corridors of the Belt and Road namely Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar as one corridor.

China-Mongolia-Russia the second, China, Central Asia and West Asia corridor, China, Indo-China peninsula, china- Pakistan and new Eurasian land bridge. This analysis confirms that in all corridors BRI will generate mutual benefits for China and its BRI partners. Generally, the economic growth will be higher for the BRI partners relative to China given the difference in size and base effect of China. Economic gains would depend on how partners change the way they do business and lower cross border transaction cost including by pursuing further tariff rationalization and

dismantling non-tariff barriers and pursue rigorously social and environmental safeguards to improve the efficiency and quality of infrastructure. UNESCAP analysis further suggested that 1% improvement in trade facilitation procedure, quality and transport infrastructure and ICT will deliver 1.5%, 0.7% and 1.4% increases in exports respectively. Among others adoption of the electronic paperless trade agreements across Asia if operationalized would yield gains of about 250 billion for the region so hope this can be deployed within the context of BRI. The dividends are going to be high if you fix the policy environment not only within countries but among countries. BRI needs to, of course, compliment and supplement the Asia-wide regional and sub-regional economic cooperation and integration, for instance high priority needs to be assigned to bridge the missing transport links along its corridors. Transport corridors developed through BRI ought to draw from the existing framework agreements on Asian highways, Asian railways and dry ports and focus on development of what we call sustainable road corridors.

Seamless connectivity demands harnessing multi-modality to foster road linkages with maritime routes. With two-thirds of Asia being energy deficit, BRI investments ought to be pushing energy transition process by focusing on development of smart and integrated power grids and harnessing cross border gas and oil pipelines from bridge resource central Asia to South and East Asia. Deploying state grid of China cooperation and global energy interconnection development cooperation organiza-

tions expertise we can enhance the region's energy security and advance sustainable energy access. . ICT has to be an essential foundation for BRI as it can harness cross-sectoral synergies. Resilience of ICT can be enhanced by laying fiber optic cables, raising band-width, developing national ICT infrastructure and lowering fixed broadband prices as percentage of GNI per capita.

This is happening along our corridors here too, these actions can help develop uniform quality of services between n-points which will facilitate traffic delivery, ensure low-transit costs and efficient internet traffic management using internet exchange points and of course ICT can help improve the energy deficiency which is very critical for our countries. Synergies and complementarities between the objectives of the BRI and SDGs goals which you know have been adopted by UN can help create also win-win solutions particularly as it will facilitate realization of very complex trans-boundary issues and address the trans-boundary issue and make progress on the trans-boundary sustainable development goals. At the same time there is need for BRI plans to consider promoting integrated infrastructure that would call for complementing extending transport networks with ICT as well as affordable and sustainable energy anchored on low carbon pathways. While the social benefits of sound and well balanced corridor development would be high there is need to adopt more inclusive approaches to cope with social risks, for example connecting the BRI to remote areas with new multi-country corridors would enable rural industrialization and help narrow rural-urban gaps. It is therefore important that BRI reinforces implementation of the sustainable development agenda something that we have been working at the United

Nations before I came in here. Almost sixty UN agencies are working in this context, over the first five years since its launching BRI has gripped global attention and driven analyst to offer their alternate perspectives, some right and some misleading. There is no doubt BRI has geopolitical consequences but BRI is one time opportunity that needs to be exploited systematically to lift the destiny of countries that currently face huge infrastructure constraints, social challenges, high level of poverty incidence and aggressive inequalities. Some early developments are worth noting, first there are signs that trade has indeed gained momentum between China and BRI partners. Trade between China and BRI belt was 1.1 trillion in 2017 as it rose by 13.6% over the preceding year and it is projected to double at two and a half trillion in the next two years, this data has been pulled out of MOFCOM. In 2017, exports from China rose by 7.1% to 643 billion and imports by 24.3% the nominal amounts being 454 billion. This has had a real effect in reducing the trade surplus of China with its BRI trading partners to 189 billion in 2017 from 235 billion in 2006. So, despite noise change is happening it might be slower than what people may want but the difficulty is that the export oriented BRI countries will have to take major leap forward. Concerns remain that with the BRI's investment in the industrial export zones' lagging how the trade balances will unfold between China and BRI partners, this is difficult to project.

The trade imbalance will remain vulnerable as the import requirements of BRI projects under construction are high and do induce external current account vulnerabilities as we have witnessed in Pakistan. Second, in absence of China's concessional lending data MOFCOM data reveals that BRI projects are

financed by Domestic Policy Banks, China Development Bank and Export Import Bank of China and other entities. New contracts fortunately that have been signed have been growing for the last few years. Moreover the development of BRI project is also accompanied by trading partners. This will give impetus to China's plan for internationalization of Yuan. In wake of this China has introduced changes to its exchange index; the China foreign exchange trade system, adding eleven new currencies to the existing thirteen in the basket of this index. The new currencies included Korean Yuan and South African and Mexican Peso. This is a good move, though countries need to be vigilant in wake of China's exchange rate policy and also volatility in its currency which could be augmented as emerging market currencies are also prone to market volatility and also there is likelihood that their weight could undergo changes as cross-border trading with these countries increases in view of the impetus from the BRI. On the whole, enhanced weightage of trading partners is a welcomed development as it will capture market dynamics of more open exchange rate regimes. Encouraging trade in Chinese currency and structuring swaps in this currency will help countries also foot the bill of imports of machinery and related goods from China, during the construction phase, floating Chinese equity and bond in BRI countries' capital markets and China's own capital market could also buffer the financing of the projects which solely are now being driven by few sources. It'll also lay foundation to what I believe is very much warranted capital market development. Ultimately a lot will depend on how Chinese and BRI partners proceed on exchange rate liberalization and how it unfolds and how domestic capital market reforms are

pursued to enhance the depth and market liquidity. Capacities and tools need to be developed at corporate levels for effective currency hedging and management.

Fourth point is that China's upfront policy in some areas will hopefully help BRI countries to position themselves better. Let us take a few examples where China is providing clarity among others. On August 2017, China declared its intent to channel overseas development, classifying investment as encouraging investments restricted or forbidden investments. ODI encompasses of course preferential financial taxation, customs and information support services for BRI construction and infrastructure connectivity projects. It discourages investments in hotel, real estate, sports clubs, gambling etc. so it's important to know what your positive is and what your negative from China's standpoint is so that we don't enter into the wrong investments. At the same time approval and filing requirements for overseas investment by type and amount are being registered effective from 1st March 2018. There was also sustainable financing in guidelines that have been issued. An action plan to last through 2020 on to promote the internationalization of standards in railways, shipping, household electricity and metallurgy while encouraging the harmonization between international and Chinese standards in areas such as consumer goods and engineering equipment. These have been issued so that there is no lack of understanding as to which standards to follow.

It is critical for BRI beneficiaries to strategize themselves in accordance with the regime that is being promoted by China. On one hand it is critical to recognize that some dynamic changes are already underway and

need to be factored in BRI clients in making business decisions. China's own shift from investment-led growth to consumption-led growth accompanied by re-location of low and manufacturing enhancement of its role in global value chain, adoption of low carbon power phase based economy and focus on technological transformation as evident from this ambitious ten year plan to invest in artificial intelligence are amid many things going on. A second point that we need to understand the dynamic going is that BRI is going to be implemented across a range of countries, some of them are present here but a lot of them are not. It's a range of countries and continents that will be pursuing their transformation in order to enhance their respective competitiveness but also render competition more complex and aggressive as everyone gears up their business.

A third point to mention is that global economy is not static but it unfolds, it has just gone through a financial crisis but given the US-China trade war as well as concerns of others facing repercussions from this trade war or erecting new protective walls as well as fed another country's normalization of monetary policy and international rates rising we may be faced with a very different situation in the next 12 or 24 months. So the global economy may be facing some new challenges.. On the whole there is a need to examine the lessons learned. Given the size of scale of BRI project funding requirements go beyond our or other BRI domestic resource mobilization potential of countries. Most of the Asia's developing countries' tax GDP ratios are barely 11 to 16% and private investment or PPP transaction capabilities vary a lot and there is need to consider how to enhance business and investor confidence in BRI recipient countries to leverage

foreign direct investment and mobilize credit enhancement back by proper risk management and mitigation.

The number one issue in Pakistan is domestic resource mobilization and low export base. So the vulnerabilities that we face are very much domestic vulnerabilities when you import a new model of development into an old model of development. Investment decision prudence and trust can be facilitated by high quality project feasibilities, take your time to do cost-benefit analysis; We have to ensure due regard to macroeconomic stability in Pakistan as well as other countries that call for effective peace and sequencing of investments and the choice of the right financing mix that we can bear the burden of and expansion in industrial peace and its diversification as soon as possible so that we can also have an expansion in trade and its diversification and can have exports with wider product in market outreach. And we have to be concerned about social and environmental safeguards, this due diligence is upfront important. Managing projects with due regard to country and implementation risks is critical to foster trust in regional cooperation ventures; this is a joint responsibility of both China and recipient countries. Macroeconomics stability has been hurt in few countries because of lack of sequencing of projects in line with the foreign exchange financing capacity of the countries. Growing imports with low exports and low foreign inflows can take toll on foreign exchange reserves with economy-wide repercussions yet sustainability of sizeable BRI scale is yet to unfold also has come under question in some countries at the scale and speed that may have happened in some countries. This is no surprise as BRI projects remain in construction phase. Another issue has been the slow take of

advancements of industrial and export zones which lack because of weak planning, land management issue is very complex and lack of clarity on how partnerships between foreign and domestic cooperates evolve. These are all matters that can be tackled with effective discussion, planning, rationalizing the incentive regimes to not be overburdening BRI clients but often BRI clients end up inflicting wounds on themselves so we should not be blaming China for that. Enhancing skills base among BRI partners is the only way if we want to rely exclusively on domestic labour and ensuring high economic project governance in the country. Let people understand this, but the reason why we end up paying high prices is because we have to pay for exchange rate risk and implementation risk while the exchange rates might not be in our hands when there is macroeconomic stability but implementation risk can be minimized if we get our act together. BRI is definitely a game changing proposal provided it is able to foster trust and

confidence among member states. It has to go beyond bilateral project transactions to promote regional and multilateral policy frameworks. It promotes sustainability, nobody can question if you care for people at the end of the day or if you have low pathways that you pursue. Seamless regional connectivity, nobody will have contest with harnessing diversification and industrialization while lowering trade barriers and other transaction costs across the belt. Also it is important to understand there is no charity being given to any of the BRI countries; it is being backed by commercial consideration with adequate weight to social environmental considerations which is responsibility of BRI partners. Initial stages will generally require project financing which could be expensive but that really means that we have to place it in an intelligent manner or raise domestic resource mobilization or alternate sources of funding or improve the way we do business so that we can attract foreign direct inflows at the same time.

## Vote of Thanks by DG ISSRA

In his concluding remarks, DG ISSRA- Maj Gen Muhammad Samrez Salik, HI (M), mentioned his strong belief on the discussions carried out in the seminar as highly intellectually rewarding. He mentioned that, we envisage same ideals for our people and want, with all the sincerity of our hearts development and prosperity. He further mentioned that throughout the course of discussions, we have learnt that a lot of good work is already at the Government level between Pakistan and China, other than the activities generated by CPEC. China has invested in numerous energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan and is

investing in numerous educational endeavors, including student exchange programs and institutions for learning Chinese language. Hence, there is no dearth of indigenous, innovative and inclusive ideas which promise a better tomorrow for us all. He was deeply encouraged to note the positivity in the opinions and remarked that there is no need of further emphasis that recourse to deliberations and full-measured efforts for reinvigorating the Pakistan-China relations are factors that hold the key to economic development and prosperity of the entire region. Hence, he thanked the distinguished



panelists both from home and abroad, and other guests who joined especially for the seminar and mentioned his hope that the conclusions drawn alongside recommenda-

tions made in this seminar will provide a policy guideline and help in outlining a mechanism to build upon the gains and opportunities available.

# Annexure



# Programme of Seminar

Opening Session			
Time (Hrs)	Activity		Remarks
0830-0900	Registration		
0845-0855	Call on Defence Minister with PRESIDENT NDU		
0900-0905	Recitation of Holy Quran		
0905-0915	Welcome Remarks by PRESIDENT NDU		
0915-0930	Address by Chief Guest		
0930-0945	Tea / Interaction with speakers and Moderators		Mess Lounge
0950	Group Photo		Stairs in front of Mess Lounge
0955	Chief Guest Departs (See off by President NDU / DG ISSRA)		VIP Entrance
Session-I BRI: A Strategic Context			
Time (Hrs)	Activity	Speaker	Remarks
1005-1015	Call on Dr. Shamshad Akhtar with PRESIDENT NDU		
1020- 1025	Introduction of Panelist and Moderator	Ms. Beenish Sultan	
1025 -1045	BRI: An Appraisal (opportunities and challenges)	Mr. Raffaello Pantucci, Director International Security Studies, RUSI - UK	
1045-1105	The Economic Belt Road and the 'Heartland' of Regional connectivity	Mr. Andrew Krybko Scholar from Moscow	
1105- 1125	Regional Fissures and Impact of CPEC(Pakistan's Perspective)	-Mr. Hassaan Daud Butt - Project Director CPEC Ministry of Planning & Development	
1125- 1145	BRI, CPEC and Regional Stability	DG ISSRA	
1145-1200	Interactive Session	DG ISSRA	

<b>Session-II CPEC <i>wither</i> Regional Fault lines</b>			
<b>Time (Hrs)</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Guest Speaker</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1235-1245	Introduction of Panelists	Ms. Beenish Sultan	
1245-1305	The 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Route and China's Arctic Policy	Mr. Zhao Lijian Deputy Chief of Mission, Chinese Embassy	
1305-1325	CPEC and Nodes of Cultural Integration  (A perspective from Afghanistan)	-Ms. Maryam Safi  Executive Dir - Org for Policy Research and Dev Studies- Afghanistan	
1325-1345	Leveraging Economic and Strategic Impact of CPEC	Mr. Haroon Sharif,  Ex Advisor World Bank and DVF- NDU	Chair
1345-1405	A Perspective from Iran	Dr. Bahador Aminian Jazi (Professor IR Tehran Uni)	
1405-1445	Interactive Session	Mr Haroon Sharif	Chair
1445-1500	Wrap up	Moderator	
1500-1530	Lunch at Banquet Hall and Prayer Break		
<b>Closing Session/ Wrap-Up</b>			
<b>Time (Hrs)</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Guest Speaker</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1530-1535	Gist of Seminar	Ms Beenish Sultan	
1535-1550	Wrap –Up	Dr. Shamsad Akhtar  Finance Minister	
1550- 1600	Vote of Thanks	  DG ISSRA	
1600- onwards	Group Photograph in front of VIP Entrance followed by departure at convenience		



Curriculum Vitae of  
**Guest Speakers**



# CV's of Guest Speakers

## Mr. Raffaello Pantucci

Raffaello Pantucci's research focuses on counter-terrorism as well as China's relations with its Western neighbours. Prior to coming to RUSI, Raffaello lived for over three years in Shanghai, where he was a visiting scholar at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS). Before that he worked in London at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington. He has also held positions at the European Council of Foreign Relations (ECFR) and is an associate fellow at the International Center for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) at King's College, London. He is the author of *We Love Death As You Love Life: Britain's Suburban Terrorists* Published by Oxford University Press. He is currently completing a writing project looking at Chinese interests in Central Asia. He is also the co-founder of Young China Watchers (YCW), a network organisation focused on China. His journal articles have appeared in *Survival*, *The National Interest*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, and *RUSI Journal* amongst others, and his journalistic writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Sunday Times*, *CNN*, *Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, *South China Morning Post*, and more.



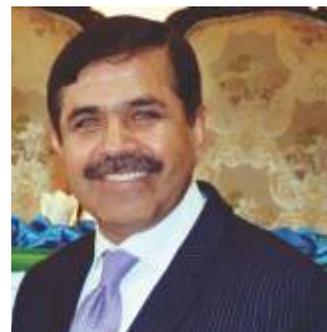
## Mr. Andrew Korybko

Andrew Korybko is a political analyst, journalist, and radio host for the Sputnik news agency in Moscow since 2014, as well as a regular contributor to several online outlets (such as *Oriental Review*, *The Duran*, *global Research*, *Regional Rapport*, the *International Eurasian Movement*, and formerly *Katehon*). Andrew was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1988, he graduated from The Ohio State University with majors in *International Relations & Diplomacy*, *International Studies* (focusing on Eastern Europe), and the Russian language in 2010. Andrew shifted to Krakow, Poland in 2012 for a year then migrated to Moscow, Russia, where he received his master's in *International Relations* from the *Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)* in 2015. He is a member of the expert council for the *Institute of Strategic Studies and Predictions* at the *People's Friendship University of Russia*. He is an author of book, "*Hybrid Wars: The Indirect Adaptive Approach To Regime Change*", Lately Andrew has been directing his focus to Asia in analyzing China's *One Belt One Road* global vision of connectivity, particularly the *China-Pakistan Economic Corridor*.



## Major General Muhammad Samrez Salik, HI (M)

Major General Muhammad Samrez Salik, HI(M) was commissioned in 10 Medium Regiment Artillery in March 1985. The General is a graduate of Command and Staff College and National Defence University Islamabad. He is Masters in Warfare, Defence and Strategic Studies. During his 29 years of service, the General has served on number of Command, Staff and Instructional appointments which includes Platoon Commander Pakistan Military Academy Kakul, Brigade Major of Infantry Brigade, United Nation Military Observer, Deputy Assistant Military Secretary at Military Secretary Branch, Assistant Private Secretary to Chief of Army Staff, General Staff Officer Grade-1 Military Operation Directorate, Directing Staff at Armed Forces War College and Chief of Staff HQ 4 Corps. The General commanded his parent unit, Artillery 7



Division, 102 Infantry Brigade, 33 Division & his previous appointment was Vice Chief of General Staff at General Headquarters Rawalpindi. The General is presently serving as Director General Institute of Strategic Studies & Research Analysis, National Defence University Islamabad.

## Hassan Daud Butt

Hassan Daud Butt is working as Project Director China Pak economic corridor and on Advisory Board Member at CPEC Secretariat and Project Director CPEC since October 2016. As Project Director he is responsible for Monitor & Control and Coordination, thus responsible for overall Monitoring and coordination of more than 50 Billion US\$ project. While previously Mr. Butt have been working as: General Manager Projects at Bahria Foundation; visiting Lecturer in PPMI; Diplomat in China and Vietnam, while he is expert in project management and facilitation because of his vast experience in the field. Mr. Butt has done Master of Science (MS) in Project Management from Bahria University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He has awarded "honorary Medal" on contributing in improving bilateral relations between Pakistan and Chinese Military by Chinese Ministry of Defence, letter of Commendation for introducing new HR policies and Promotion criterion by Chief of the Naval staff and he is also recipient of Honorary medal by Chinese MoDefence.



## Ms. Mariam Safi

Mariam Safi is the founding Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS), a leading think-tank in Afghanistan committed to strengthening democratic ideas and values through its policy-oriented research, training and advocacy programs that aim to provide policymakers with sound alternative solutions to national issues and to create a platform to increase women's voices in policy discourse. She was honored by the Diplomatic Courier media network as one of their Top Global Women in 2014 for her contribution to the research community in Afghanistan. She is a member of the Afghanistan Policy Group, a Senior Fellow at the Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka, an alumni at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, and a local peace-building expert for Peace Direct. Ms. Safi has an MA in International Peace Studies from the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in San José (Costa Rica). Fields of interest: peace-building, human security, and countering violent extremism and offering a grassroots and gender perspective on issues effecting Afghanistan and the region of South Asia.



## Dr. Bahador Aminian Jazi

His Excellency, Dr. Bahador Aminian Jazi, has a Master Degree and a PhD in International Relations and he was Rector of School of International Relations (Iran, 2007-2010) and Professor of international relations and strategy in various universities (1996 – 2010). He has been holding different positions at the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry, including Director of Strategy and Theoretical Studies Centre in the Institute for Political and International Studies (2006) and Head of Foreign Policy Department of the Secretariat of the Expediency Discernment Council (1997 – 1999). He is Editor in chief of the "Journal of Regional Studies" and member of editorial board of the "Journal of Foreign Policy" and the "Defence Policy". His term in Romania started in September 2010.



## Mr. Haroon Sharif

Haroon Sharif is an international development, economic diplomacy and public policy expert who has negotiated transformational regional initiatives in South and Central Asia. He is currently a Senior Fellow of the British Council in the UK and is also a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the National Defence University in Pakistan. He recently completed his assignment as the Regional Advisor to the World Bank for promoting Economic Cooperation in South and Central Asia. As a strategic thought leader, Haroon has been influential in leading policy dialogue with heads of states, Ministers, senior government officials, diplomats, multi-lateral organisations, academics and top-level business leaders. He brings in-depth understanding of strategic political economy issues in South Asia. Haroon holds postgraduate qualifications in international business and development economics from the University of Hawaii and London School of Economics and Political Science. He has given key-note lectures, published research and articles at prestigious international forums and won several prestigious fellowships and awards.



## Mr. Zhao Lijian

Zhao Lijian is a Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) in Chinese Embassy of Pakistan. He has expertise in foreign policy and foreign affairs gained by his vast experiences. He studied from Chinese Foreign Affairs University. He worked as Deputy Director of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China from 2006-2009. Subsequently, he worked as First Secretary of Chinese Embassy in USA till 2013. Later Mr. Lijian joined again the Department of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of P.R. China as Director for two years. From 2015-2017 he worked as Deputy Chief of the Mission and Political counselor of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. In 2017 he has promoted to Deputy Chief of the Mission and Ministry counselor of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.







# Picture Gallery





















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