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# *Report-In-House Meeting* **Chinese Media Delegation**

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### Pictures of the Event



## In-House Meeting

### Chinese Media Delegation

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, hosted an In-House Meeting with a five-member Chinese Media Delegation on February 18, 2016.

The delegation included: Mr. Xu Zhaoqun, Senior Producer, *CCTV News*, Mr. Liu Zhun, Op-Ed Reporter/Editor, *Global Times* (English Edition), Mr. Nie Lubin, Editor, *Global Times* (Chinese Edition), Mr. Jie Gong, Editor, *China Internet Information Centre* and Mr. Tan Yifei, Director, *Focus News Department*.

The meeting was attended by a diverse group of bankers, producers, journalists, both from the electronic and print media and researchers from think tanks in Islamabad.

The Director General ISSI, Ambassador Masood Khan welcomed the delegation and highlighted the significance of the crucial role media can play to help strengthen the ever growing relationship between Pakistan and China. He said that the strategic and economic solidarity established between the two countries needs to be made sustainable. It has to be carried forward to the next generations and this could be possible only if the outreach is extended to common man on both sides of the border. Understanding of each other's behaviours through cultural connectivity is vital. Media therefore has to assume its responsibility more proactively and in collaboration with each other in order to reap the fruits of the projects affiliated with China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that economic and strategic projects are driven by the governments and the contractors, but the responsibility of creating positive mindsets and collective thinking is the job of media. Media in Pakistan is vibrantly independent and liberal. Similarly, China is also no more isolated and its presence is seen all over the world.

A range of ideas were presented for strengthening collaboration between the media in Pakistan and China. These included joint television programmes dubbed in native languages, as well as joint projects in film making and dramas. Mr. Shafqat Jalil, Director General External Publicity Wing, Ministry of Information suggested the establishment of common chat rooms at the embassies of the two countries and installations of various applications in Chinese and Urdu which can be downloaded on the mobile phones. He underlined the need to capitalise on the trust established over the years. The past, he said, is glorious and it has every reason to be glorious if the relationship is guarded with responsibility. He proposed to organise a telethon between PTV and China Radio International (CRI) with an access to various sections of each other's societies. He suggested celebrating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pakistan and China with full fervour.

Mr. Naveed Chohan, Director General Pakistan Radio Academy, suggested collaboration on joint Radio programmes between Radio Pakistan and Chinese Radio International (CRI) to enhance the goodwill. He informed the delegation that Radio Pakistan is already broadcasting an hour long Chinese programme and has a friendship channel known as *Doosti Channel*. He suggested activating the social media since it does not have a language barrier. He said that Radio Pakistan has the most widely accessed twitter and facebook account.

Mr. Xu Zhaoqun welcomed the suggestions and emphasised on people exchange programmes for mutual understanding and facilitation channel for information exchange.

Mr. Mohsin Reza, General Manager National Bank of Pakistan, urged the Chinese media team to do a programme on Pakistani banks. He said that the National Bank has an office in Beijing, but it does not provide any transactional facilities. In the wake of economic opportunities provided by CPEC, the Pakistani banks could be of an immense value and could even enter into partnership with the Chinese banks. He was of the view that financial institutions in Pakistan and China should develop and broaden their linkages.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General ISSI said that Pakistan took pride in the strategic and economic partnership between China and Pakistan. Emphasising defence cooperation as the backbone of the relationship, he stressed on the use of 'soft power' to forge a rock solid cooperation. Ambassador Masood told the delegation that the Chief of Army Staff has announced the establishment of a 10,000 strong security division for CPEC, posted particularly in the areas where there are likely threats. Another division could also be raised if the need arises. There are only pockets of threats and the Chinese media must carry this observation. Similarly, the government has a resolve to complete the project on time. He clarified that CPEC enjoys the support of all political sources both at national and regional level, and the competition is only in reaping the fruits of the route. The concerns expressed by the European Union, the USA and India would be addressed collectively, and both Pakistan and China would walk past the criticism.

The Director General suggested that in order to enhance mutual understanding, both CCTV and PTV should try and hold a virtual conference. Pakistan and China have a very distinguished perspective in their relationship which needs an effective advocacy in media. Similarly, it would be useful if digital portals are established collectively, and Op-Eds on individual perspectives are shared and swapped. Guest columns and write-ups must also be exchanged. The sharing of video footages and news could be of high utility. He said that Pakistan and China should also try and revive the old exercise which was followed in 1960's to produce plays together and market our movies in each other's countries.