



**INSTITUTE OF  
STRATEGIC STUDIES**

web: [www.issi.org.pk](http://www.issi.org.pk)  
phone: +92-920-4423, 24  
fax: +92-920-4658

## *Report- Book Launch*

# **China's Stories, China's Success: How China Transformed in the Past 40 Years**

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*Compiled by: Malik Qasim Mustafa*

*Edited by: Najam Rafique*

## Pictures of the Event





## Book Launch

### China's Stories, China's Success: How China Transformed in the Past 40 Years

The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) organised the launch of a book, authored by S. M. Hali titled, *China's Stories, China's Success: How China Transformed in the Past 40 Years*. The distinguished keynote speakers at the launch were Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on CPEC and Chairman, PCI, Ambassador Sun Weidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, and Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Federal Minister for Planning, National Reforms, and Development.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks said that it is a very auspicious day that we have gathered in the name of China. The ISSI has already launched another book written by S. M. Hali recently and this is another book written by the same author. In his new book, Mr. Hali has touched upon success of China in the past decades. Ambassador Khan said that the author is a very perceptive observer and has tried to capture multiple diverse facets of China's rise through his firsthand experience of China. Ambassador Khan, recalling his stay in China, highlighted that the development of China was so rapid that eyes could see it, but the mind cannot comprehend it. Highlighting the importance of Pak-China relations, he said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) mega-project is a success story. China is a strong country and it will continue to rise. Pakistan is fortunate that it is closely associated with it. China's One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) and CPEC have already started succeeding. Through these projects, China and the international community are trying to reform the new world order which will be equally beneficial for all the economies around the globe. This will help to promote peace and stability in all regions. Appertaining the role of Chinese leadership, Ambassador Khan said that its leadership started by understanding the realities and they are still focusing on those realities to rise in future. Most subjective analysis substantiates that China will remain a positive factor in the world economy and its rise would be based on reality. Ambassador Khan said that China-Pakistan relations are like steel and are resilient enough to withstand any conspiracy. In order to strengthen China-Pakistan relations further, he argued that there is a need to increase people-to-people contact. Both sides need to work hard to increase this contact. Hali's book is a good contribution in this regard.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal said that we are delighted over the useful contribution of Mr. Hali. Referring to Anatol Lieven remarks, he said that in China-Pakistan equation, CPEC project is recognised as a "game changer". Pakistan has missed so many opportunities in the past, but it cannot miss an opportunity which has the potential of changing the game. Initially, the CPEC project was a mere piece of paper, but credit goes to those Chinese and Pakistan officials who worked hard in turning this piece of paper into a \$46 billion reality within a year. The CPEC dream is now breaking the ground and is a reality. At the start of CPEC, there were doubts and scepticism that Pakistan's public sector is not capable enough to match the speed which is required for this

project. But today, Pakistan has met all the necessary requirements and fulfilled all the obligations and CPEC project is moving ahead. Pakistani institutions worked with commitment and great dedication and they are delivering what they have promised. Pakistan is not lagging behind, in fact Pakistan is meeting its deadlines and the project will achieve success.

Mr. Iqbal further declared that all the concerns raised over the CPEC project have now been removed. All political parties are on one page and are in harmony with the project. He urged the media to avoid any confusion which causes any controversy over the CPEC. All the political parties are on-board and they are united to make the dream come true. Quoting the example of JF-17 Thunder fighter jet, he pointed out that the development of this fighter jet is a recent example that despite all the political upheavals it was successful and Pakistan feels proud over the development of its own fighter jet. We must learn from the success stories of China. These stories clearly tell Pakistan that political stability and social solidarity are key factors to achieve success. If Pakistan maintains these two key elements, it will become a magnet for foreign investment. This is an age of global investment and where there is a peace and political stability, global investment will automatically go there. Pakistan has a unique strategic location, and if the conditions and environment are conducive it will automatically attract global investment. This is an age of economic ideology. China has recognised this reality at an early stage and transformed itself. In this age of competition China invested in its youth, the agents of change; adopted the idea of openness; reformed its society and created world class production facilities. In this world of competence, Pakistan needs to create its vision, enhance its knowledge and production and need to invest in human resource development. CPEC is a mega project to fulfil Pakistan's objectives. Pakistan is moving forward and its economic indicators are improving, but instead of complaining we need to look at the glass as half full, not half empty. If Pakistan keeps this momentum, soon it will achieve its position among top 25 economies of the world.

Before formally introducing his book, S. M. Hali thanked his family, friends, and colleagues for their help and support in publishing this book. He also thanked Ambassador Masood Kahn for writing the introduction to the book and Ambassador Sun Weidong for writing the foreword. Mr. Hali said that describing China, its diverse culture and geography is like describing an elephant from a blind person's point of view. He gave an account of several visits to China in the past decades that helped draw out a picture of China. He said that China was the only country which helped Pakistan during 1965 and 1971 wars. Since then the depth of feelings between China and Pakistan has not changed. China achieved its progress in a very short span of time. China has done this in three decades by maintaining a constant focus on its goals. China progressed in all fields, uplifting its minorities was especially remarkable. He said that it is a truth that people of China love Pakistan from the bottom of their hearts and no one finds this kind of feeling in the rest of the world.

Senator Mushaid Hussain Sayed in his remarks stated that PCI appreciates the role of ISSI for launching this book with their collaboration. He narrated his personal accounts on how China and Pakistan's friendship evolved over the decades and how China and Pakistan inherited love

for each other. He gave a detailed account of Chinese leadership and how they brought China to this position. Senator Sayed said that in achieving progress in a country, the role of the leadership makes a difference. Deng Xiaoping made that difference in China by making a course correction for China. The policy of reform and openness of China resulted in the growth of China. Today, China's output is 30 times than in 1978. China can produce enough in a fortnight than what it used to produce three decades ago. Pakistan has also made many mistakes in the past, but after the Army Public School terrorist attacks, it corrected its course. Pakistan should learn from its past mistakes. It is the Chinese leadership which have initiated projects like OBOR and CPEC, which will link around 65 countries and will revive the old silk route. Pakistan's role is very important and it has to learn from China. Pakistan should have a clear vision and a consistent policy. The global scene is changing and power balance is shifting from West to East. Pakistan and China has always stood by each other at all times. Pakistan is very grateful to China that at a time when the world was terming Pakistan as a failing state, China came to help Pakistan through CPEC. China gave a new image to Pakistan and helping Pakistan to build a better tomorrow. Pakistani judiciary, think tanks, media, and civil society have to play their respective roles in this regard. The book has rightly raised perceptions about the Chinese dream of living a better life. This is the task of leadership to fulfil that dream. Chinese leadership is working for the people of China

The Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong in his remarks praised the effort of the author for contributing a book on China-Pakistan relations and the ISSI for launching it. He said that China is a peace-loving country. The ancient China has now turned into a modern China. China has set its two targets i.e. 2021 and 2049 and it is moving in this direction. China believes that economic development of the whole country is their main target. Improving the life of more than 1.3 billion people in itself would help to contribute towards peace and development. He highlighted that development; reforms and stability are three key elements without which a country cannot achieve progress. Development will serve as the core; and reforms will work to achieve peace and stability. China will keep its opening up policy because one should open its door to learn from others. Chinese economy has a bright future because its strong leadership has found its correct path which it will follow in future. This confidence will move China on the path to success. Under this new approach, China will focus on quality of life of its people. This will also help to improve the quality of life of other countries in this region and around the world. Ultimately, Chinese people will enjoy a better life. He argued that China still has a long way to go. China's 70 million population is still living in poverty. China has developed a 35-years plan to end poverty in the country. This would be an important step towards the well-being of all the Chinese people. Ambassador Weidong said that China-Pakistan friendship is very unique. This year we are celebrating 65 years of China-Pakistan diplomatic relationship. This friendship will grow and will have a bright future. CPEC is a huge project and it will help China and Pakistan to improve. It will also strengthen the future of China-Pakistan relations.

Participants of the book launch asked several questions from the guest speakers. The questions were mainly related to issue of cyber security and role of China; controversies made by the enemies of China-Pakistan friendship; CPEC and response by China and Pakistan; partnership and linkages of Chinese industry and universities with Pakistani industry and universities; need to increase people-to-people contacts; easing of visa restrictions and China's role in the Afghan peace process. The guest speakers responded to these questions and highlighted that new laws, agreements and regulations are in place to utilise cyberspace for the benefit of all. China will increase its linkages with Pakistani industry and universities. China views Afghanistan as its close friend and is ready to work closely with Pakistan to bring peace in the country. Pakistan has already positioned itself in a positive direction which will help to secure its interests.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, said that the ISSI as a premier Pakistani think tank has always played a role to promote China-Pakistan friendship. Once again, the ISSI is proud that the launch of the book written by Mr. Hali would be another addition to strengthen China-Pakistan friendship. He said the book highlights three major aspects of China i.e. information about its history and culture; its economic development and China-Pakistan relations. All these three aspects enrich one's knowledge about China and its relations with Pakistan. This can help Pakistan to determine its policy and embark upon development. He said that it is important to understand that when China embarked upon its economic development it was not placed well as was Pakistan. There are still concerns over slowing of Chinese economy, but all other economies are slowing down. China has developed measures to deal with its challenges and there is nothing to worry about. China has a very coordinated and well-thought out policy which emphasise on green, open and shared development. Some areas are lagging behind and Chinese leadership is focusing on those areas and wanted to bring them at par with other developed areas. Ambassador Mahmood said that China-Pakistan relations do not share traditional factors. They do not have a common religion, a common race or language, yet their friendship is expanding. This is all because of mutual trust. And because of this mutual trust, both countries are determined to carry forward mega projects like CPEC. Prospects of China-Pakistan relations are bright and China will not allow the failure of the CPEC project. However, much more effort is needed to enhance people-to-people contacts.

In conclusion, Ambassador Masood Khan thanked all the guest speakers and participants for their valuable time and inputs. He also thanked Mr. Hali for his valuable contribution. He concluded by saying that China-Pakistan relations are like steel and are very resilient. Pakistan should focus on reforms and stability, and that the CPEC will be a success.