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Report- Inauguration Ceremony

China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC)

June 16, 2017



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Pictures of the Event





The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held the inaugural ceremony of its newly established China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) on June 16, 2017. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Mr. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad, was also present at the occasion.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood Chairman ISSI thanked the honourable Chief Guest and Ambassador Sun Weidong for gracing the occasion. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that the inauguration of CPSC at the Institute symbolises the ever-green friendship between Pakistan and China. He introduced the members of CPSC including the Director of CPSC, Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik, and its research team: Ms. Neelum Nigar, Mr. Muhammad Faisal, and Mr. Ali Haider. The Chairman emphasised that ever since the establishment of ISSI in 1973, it has advised successive governments on various matters of strategic significance. Likewise, CPSC, as an integral part of the Institute, will also conduct similar efforts in this regard, and will endeavour to provide research-based inputs on various facets of Pakistan-China relations which have consistently contributed to the peace and stability in South Asia. He emphasised that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the stimulus behind the launch of this Centre, as we believe that CPEC, while being economic in nature, will also become a knowledge and research corridor. The Chairman also stressed that the dedicated aim of the centre will be to provide policy proposals on solidifying China-Pakistan ties. Their findings will be published in form of books, reports, and CPSC newsletters.

Ambassador Sun Weidong in his remarks said that he was pleased to attend the inauguration of this Centre, which is the latest outcome of the close cooperation between China and Pakistan. With this initiative, the level of interest in Chinese Studies at ISSI has reached a brand new level. China's example of becoming the second largest economy in the world through perseverance and hard work has been exemplary. Elaborating, he said that there were three reasons of this rapid development of China. These included the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China; respecting the sovereignty of other nations; and the hard work of the Chinese people. He said that CPEC, being the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will further cement ties between Pakistan and China. He recognised that ISSI has always attached great importance to Chinese Studies and Pakistan-China ties, and commended the efforts of Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and all former Director Generals at the Institute for their personal efforts in introducing and promoting Chinese Studies through research and academic efforts. He pledged that the Chinese embassy will continue to extend its complete support to CPSC and ISSI for furthering China-Pakistan friendship. These two countries are all-weather friends and shall continue to enhance cooperation to take their partnership to new heights. The Ambassador congratulated Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik as the Director of the Centre and said that under his leadership, the Centre will become a better platform for Chinese Studies and serve as a new bridge of friendship between China and Pakistan.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minsire on Foreign Affairs, said that Pakistan and China enjoy brotherly ties, and history bears testimony to their valued friendship that has been supported by successive governments in both China and Pakistan. He stated that this Centre is a promising addition to the dynamic platform of ISSI, and emphasised that think tanks are the nerve centres for pursuance of research projects and scholarly exchange. He also highlighted the role of think tanks and research institutes in providing vision, guidelines

and creation of knowledge. He appreciated the excellent efforts of ISSI in taking valuable research initiatives. He said think tanks in Pakistan must be linked with their counterparts in China to enhance people-to-people cooperation and exchange of knowledge. He said that China's rise is creating an atmosphere of harmonious prosperity and we are fortunate to be at the center of this wave of economic connectivity. There is still room for closer cooperation, exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing which will lead to common development. He underlined that the creation of this Centre is quite timely and pertinent and that it has the potential to produce high quality studies under the tutelage of Ambassador Khalid Mahmood.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz and Ambassador Sun Weidong later visited the China Pakistan Study Centre and met with the Director and researchers.