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## Opening of the Bank of China Celebrated



The opening of Bank of China in Pakistan was celebrated in Islamabad on 7 November, where President Mamnoon Hussain said the step would help accelerate infrastructural development and overall economic growth of the country. He said Pakistan is an attractive investment destination because of its ideal location and government policies that encouraged business, reported Radio Pakistan. He assured every possible cooperation to Bank of China from the government and State Bank of Pakistan. The President said the benefits of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would soon start reaching people of the two countries. Pakistan not only offers a conducive atmosphere for investors, but the country also has a wide consumer market, the President said. And with CPEC,

he added, Pakistan is poised to become the hub of business and economic activities in the region. The president also expressed pleasure over China emerging as a major investor and strategic partner of Pakistan in economic growth and prosperity.

Also present on the occasion, Chinese ambassador Zhao Lijian said both Pakistan and China have made remarkable achievements in the economic field. He added opening of Bank of China marks the confidence of Chinese financial institutions in the economic development of Pakistan. The Bank of China Chairperson Siqing Chen said Karachi branch of the bank is first in South Asia, which reflects the importance China gives to Pakistan.

*Geo TV* (Islamabad), November 7, 2017

## Cabinet Committee on CPEC Reviews Projects

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi chaired meeting of the Cabinet Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at PM's Office 9 November. The meeting reviewed progress on various CPEC projects in view of the upcoming 7th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC). Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Interior; and the Planning Commission of Pakistan presented an overall structure of CPEC, its institutional framework, project portfolios, current progress and future plans.

International Airport. The Cabinet Committee was briefed on Energy Sector Projects including Gwadar Power Project, Karot and Kohala Hydel Power Projects, Mattiari-Lahore and Mattiari-Faisalabad HVDC Lines and coal projects in Thar.

The Cabinet Committee was informed that significant work has been completed on energy projects, which constituted a major portion of the CPEC. The Committee was also apprised regarding the measures undertaken for security of CPEC projects. The Prime Minister stated that CPEC offers a huge opportunity for Pakistan. Provincial governments were involved in all stages of the CPEC planning with special focus on the development of Balochistan, stated the Prime Minister.

*Business Recorder* (Islamabad), November 10, 2017 (Condensed)

## The 7th JCC Meeting in Islamabad



The 7th meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project on 20-21 November at Islamabad approved long-term plan (LTP) of the corridor. Around 150 high officials from Pakistan and China attended the meeting along with the chief ministers of all the provinces and the AJK prime minister. The representatives of private sector also participated in the meeting for the first time. Addressing the JCC, Ahsan Iqbal said that the CPEC has now entered into the first phase of its completion and 7th JCC was of historic significance to finalise the long-term plan of the project. Along with infrastructure

development and up-gradation, education and health sectors would also be targeted for their improvement and up-gradation under the CPEC. "The long-term plan will give new dimensions to bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan," Ahsan Iqbal observed. The 7th JCC had reviewed the projects approved during the 6th JCC and agreed upon the operationalisation of those projects. "LTP was approved by the JCC, which covers the development journey till 2030 and will bring new industrial technology, agriculture development, infrastructure and information technology to the country," said Federal Minister for Planning Development and

Reforms Ahsan Iqbal. It was agreed to constitute a Joint Working Group on Agriculture, under the LTP, which will help Pakistan to modernise its agriculture sector. Pakistan is facing water shortage and in this regard Chinese expertise will be acquired to develop drip irrigation system in the country. Regarding the SEZs, China had collected the feasibility studies of the nine economic zones and they would reply after studying them. On 21 November, it was agreed that three out of nine SEZs would go to the JCC for approval, however the Chinese had taken all the nine feasibility studies with them and the final decision in this regard would be made later. Regarding

ML-I, feasibility study was shared with the Chinese and agreement on financing would be signed later. On the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), it was agreed that a fresh feasibility study would be conducted by the Chinese, which would be followed by the financing agreement. It was decided that the projects whose feasibility are not ready will be further discussed by the JGWs, after the completion of feasibilities, and will be approved during the 8th JCC meeting. Similarly, the projects in Gwadar were discussed and it was decided to accelerate the pace of work on all the projects. It was decided that Chinese experts would study the feasibility study of the Gwadar Airport and work would be started during first half of 2018.

The establishment of special economic zones would now start after the 7th JCC, which is the hallmark of this project. Cooperation in industrial sector would ensure transfer of technology, knowledge and skills to Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal opined that the CPEC was also helping to promote knowledge-based economy in Pakistan, which was the need of the hour.

*The Nation* (Islamabad),  
November 20, 2017 (Condensed)

## Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou Visits Pakistan



Assistant Foreign Minister and Special Envoy on Korean Peninsula Affairs of China Kong Xuanyou called on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at the Prime Minister House at Islamabad and discussed issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation and relations. Secretary Foreign Affairs Tehmina Janjua and Chinese ambassador to Pakistan were also present in the meeting during, which economic cooperation and various other

issues were also discussed. Prime Minister Abbasi expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two countries while Kong Xuanyou conveyed his Prime Minister's best wishes to the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Abbasi has emphasized the need to further intensify cooperation on all CPEC projects including those related to human development and livelihood, education and health to ensure trickle down

benefit to the common man. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation between Pakistan and China on all issues of bilateral importance including high level interactions, CPEC, trade, security and situation in the region and Afghanistan. He noted that CPEC energy and infrastructure projects are progressing smoothly and achieving timely attainment. He stated that both China and Pakistan share the vision of a peaceful neighbourhood for development and progress of the two nations and reiterated their resolve to further strengthen Pakistan-China strategic cooperation. He further stated that China is Pakistan's iron brother.

*Pakistan Today* (Islamabad),  
November 22, 2017

## China to Build Third Hualong One Nuclear Reactor at Chashma

China has signed a deal to build a third nuclear reactor in Pakistan, which wants to get a fifth of its electricity from nuclear by 2030. China National Nuclear Corporation and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission had signed a cooperation agreement for the construction of a 1,000 megawatt HPR1000 Hualong One reactor at the Chashma nuclear power plant. Pakistan generates 5 per cent of its electricity from four small 300MW Chinese reactors at the Chashma plant and wants to boost nuclear capacity to 8,800MW, or about 20 per cent of power generation capacity, by 2030. China is already building two Hualong One reactors with a capacity of 1100MW each near the port city of Karachi, which are expected to become operational in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Four Hualong reactors are under construction in China, with the first expected to go online in 2021.

*South China Post* (Hong Kong),  
November 25, 2017

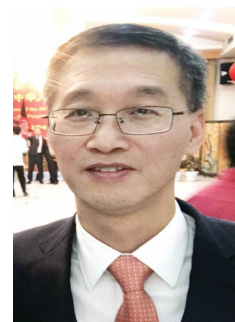
## Chinese Special Envoy for Afghanistan Kong Xuanyo



Kong Xuanyo, Assistant Foreign Minister and Special Envoy on Korean Peninsula Affairs of the Peoples' Republic of China and Mr Yao Jing, newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on 21 November at GHQ. During the meeting matters of mutual interest including regional security were discussed. Visiting dignitaries also acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan Army's contributions for peace and stability in the region.

*ISPR (Rawalpindi), November 21, 2017*

## Ambassador Yao Jin Assumes Charge



New Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan His Excellency Yao Jing has assumed charge of his office. He has served as Ambassador to Afghanistan before appointed to Pakistan.

On arrival in Islamabad, he said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and have always been maintaining good friendly relations, adding, China accords importance to its diplomatic relations with Pakistan. He expressed the confidence that two countries will further strengthen bilateral cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. Both China and Pakistan keeping in view their mutual interest will work together to bring about further development and prosperity for the people of two countries, he added.

*DNA News (Islamabad), November 21, 2017*

## The 8th Round of Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and China

The 8th Round of Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and China was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, on 20 November, 2017. Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua led the Pakistani delegation, whilst the Chinese side was led by Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kong Xuanyou. Both sides held comprehensive discussions on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. These included: the Belt and Road Initiative and specifically, CPEC; bilateral trade; defence; counter-terrorism and culture, education and people- to people exchanges. The two sides also agreed to further strengthen cooperation in all mutually relevant areas for the benefit of the two countries.

The Foreign Secretary and her Chinese counterpart also exchanged views on issues including the regional situation in Afghanistan, the US policy in South Asia, and matters relating to the Korean Peninsula. Ms. Janjua also apprised her counterpart of the dire situation faced by the people of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and the ongoing human rights violations committed



by India. She expressed hope that the international community would play its role in urging India to put an end to a blatant human rights violations in IoK. Both sides agreed to further augment cooperation in various multilateral fora including the United Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other multilateral organizations. The two sides reiterated commitment to strengthen and enhance bilateral mutual cooperation in all fields including political, security and economic issues, and to further coordinate on issues of regional and international significance.

*Press Release, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Islamabad), November 13, 2017*

## The China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Vice-Ministerial Consultation on Counter-Terrorism and Security



The China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Vice-Ministerial Consultation on Counter-Terrorism and Security The China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Consultations on Counter-Terrorism and Security at Vice-

Ministerial level was held in Beijing on 7 November, 2017, which was co-chaired by H.E. Li Huilai, Assistant Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Deputy

Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and H.E. Tasnim Aslam, Special Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During the Consultations, the three sides exchanged views

on international and regional counter-terrorism situations and trilateral counter-terrorism cooperation.

The three sides agreed that China, Afghanistan and Pakistan need to further enhance counter-terrorism exchanges and cooperation, work together to address threats posed by terrorism and safeguard the three countries' and the regional security and stability.

*Press Release, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Islamabad), November 20, 2017*

## Groundbreaking Ceremony of East Bay Express Way



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi performed the ground-breaking ceremony of the East Bay Express in Gwadar on 22 November, worth Rs 17 billion. The expressway is 19.5 km long with six lanes to ease cargo handling through road and increase connectivity with rest of the country. The project would link Gwadar Port with the Makran Coastal Highway and improve logistic transportation of import and export.

Prime Minister Abbasi said a number of power projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been inaugurated and were playing a significant role in nation-building activities. He hoped the completion of the East Bay Expressway would cut short travel time between major cities. The Prime

Minister said the East Bay Expressway was symbolic of the lofty Pakistan-China friendship and said the CPEC would further strengthen and deepen their strategic partnership. Prime Minister Abbasi said these projects would transform the small fishing town to a global shipping port. He said Gwadar would soon be on world map, owing to the CPEC project. Addressing a ceremony, the prime minister said the economic-free zone would be completed this year while work on the port project, Pakistan China Friendship Hospital, Power Plant, Gwadar Airport etc, under the Rs 170 billion plan for uplift of Gwadar would also be completed on time.

*Daily Times* (Lahore), November 23, 2017  
(Condensed)

## Agreements Inked for 330 MW Thar Power Project



The Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and M/s Hub Power Company Limited (Hubco) on 10 November signed the Implementation Agreement (IA) and Supplemental Implementation Agreement (SIA) of 330 MW Thar coal-based power project. The agreement will help for materialising the financing of around \$500 million as project cost. The documents have been executed by PPIB Managing Director Shah Jahan Mirza and Hubco Chief

Financial Officer Fatima Maryam. The government officials, PPIB officials and representatives of Hubco and Project Company i.e. M/s Thar Energy Limited (TEL) witnessed the signing ceremony.

This project is being developed at Thar Block-II, and will utilise indigenous Thar Coal for power generation. This project is among the lot of 12 coal and hydro power projects of around 11,000 MW being

facilitated by the PPIB under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC is a real game changer in the field of energy because the prioritisation of energy projects as part of the CPEC investments has enhanced the confidence of stakeholders in Pakistan's energy sufficiency.

CPEC is covering the entire power sector value chain from fuel extraction (mining) to power generation and to end-user distribution. The development of these projects will be instrumental in generating economic activities as well as employment opportunities for the people of the area in particular and will also entail improvement of the basic infrastructure in the vicinity of these projects.

*The Nation* (Islamabad),  
November 11, 2017

## Saudi Delegation to visit Pakistan to Seek Opportunities in CPEC

A high level delegation of Saudi Arabia will visit Pakistan by the end of November to explore investment opportunities in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The state-run Associated Press of Pakistan quoted Nawaf Saeed Al Malikiy, Saudi ambassador to Pakistan, as saying that the Saudi Arabian group, comprising ministers and heads of various divisions, will reach Pakistan during the last week of November. "A board is coming, comprising different ministries, and Saudi Ministry of Commerce to exchange ideas relating to investment opportunities in Pakistan in various projects like CPEC, Gawadar Port," the ambassador said. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Reforms, welcomed the interest shown by Saudi Arabia, saying "we will welcome the brotherly Islamic country if they want to be part of CPEC." He said Pakistan would also welcome and appreciate any friendly country, which desires to participate in the multi-billion gigantic flagship project of the Road and Belt Initiative proposed by China. Earlier in August this year, Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman Al Saud in Saudi Arabia and assured him of continued cooperation and collaboration to the benefit of both countries.

*Xinhua* (Beijing) November 11, 2017

## Three Economic Zones Set to Take Off under CPEC

Three prioritised Special Economic Zones of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are set to take off as Beijing has agreed to cooperate in the development of Faisalabad, Hattar and Dhabeji industrial areas. China conveyed its willingness to promote these zones during the second meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation, announced the Board of Investment on 10 November. The meeting was co-chaired by Li Xuedong, Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, NDRC and Azher Ali Choudhry, the BOI secretary.

*Pakistan Herald* (Karachi),  
November 11, 2017

## KPK Govt to Establish CPEC IT Park in Peshawar



Pakistan is moving towards a multidimensional revolution in the shape of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It is considered a strategic game changer that will make Pakistan a richer and stronger entity than ever before. This will finally help Pakistan to get its economic wheels turning. The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is planning to setup a China Pakistan Economic Corridor Information Technology Park in Peshawar. An official from provincial government revealed that the land for the technology park is already acquired. He also told that the construction work on the land will be started soon. Park will be completed at a cost of more than fourteen million dollars. The Technology park will boost trade and business activities. It will also create new job openings for youth of KPK. When the CPEC agreement was signed it was decided that Pakistan and China would be setting up IT industrial parks in every province in Pakistan. Work on Islamabad Industrial Park has been started already and is expected to reach its phase-I by 2018.

*Phone World* (Islamabad),  
November 13, 2017

## Hubei to Start Driverless Bus Service

Hubei province will become the first place in the world to have driverless bus services in November. Services will be launched in selected areas using electric vehicles developed by Dongfeng Xiangyang Touring Car Co and the Beijing Institute of Technology. The buses are undergoing final testing in Shenzhen, Guangdong province. According to the information provided, the vehicles are 6.7 meters long and can carry 25 passengers. Their maximum speed is 40 km an hour, and they can travel 150 km on a fully charged battery. Each has driverless and manual modes, and is equipped with laser radar, millimetre-wave radar, cameras, GPS and other sensors to help with braking, turning and parking. Compared with conventional buses, the autonomous vehicles save power and space, and have a longer service life.

*China Daily* (Beijing), November 8, 2017

## Bin Qasim Coal-Fired Plant Inaugurated



The port Qasim coal-fired project has been inaugurated on 29 November at Karachi. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has announced the country today has not only met its energy needs but also has surplus power.

He said when the PML-N government came to power in 2013, the country was facing load-shedding of up to 16 hours a day, but now it is

generating surplus electricity. Prime Minister said the US\$ 2 billion-1320MW coal-fired power project, initiated under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), reflected the vision of Chinese President Xi Jinping and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

He said the first unit of the 660MW had been completed in 30 months, ahead of the schedule, and he had been

assured that the second unit of 660MW would also be completed ahead of the schedule and inaugurated in February 2018. The project, jointly developed by Power China Resources Limited and Al Mirqab Capital of Qatar, was not only producing the cheapest power, but also was environment-friendly.

*The Nation* (Islamabad),  
November 30, 2017  
(Condensed)

## Desert in North China Turns into Oasis

A total of 15.04 million mu (about 0.07 hectares per mu) of desert in Alashan League of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has been turned into oases since the league was set up in 1980 to the end of July this year, thanks to a series of ecological projects, China News reported on Nov. 26. Alashan has an area of 270,000 square km. Of that figure, the ecologically vulnerable area occupies 94 percent, while the livable area accounts for only 6 percent. Since the 1980s, the local ecological environment started to deteriorate due to 20-plus-years of over grazing and warming temperatures, said Liu Hongyi, director at the forestry station of the Alashan Left Banner of the league.

However, since the 21st century, the local government has stepped up efforts to implement ecological projects, including returning farmland to forests and livestock



pastures to natural grasslands, as well as natural forest protection projects.

The projects have helped the league turn at least one million mu of desert into oases every year, according to Liu. He added that many tourists across the country like to spend the cool summer in Alashan, as there are no sandstorms in the area anymore.

Zhang Huan, *People's Daily Online* (Beijing),  
November 27, 2017

## China-Laos Railway Project set to be Completed by 2021

Construction of the China-Laos railway, one of the key cooperation projects between the two sides, is underway and the line will go into operation by the end of December 2021. The 414-kilometer railway will link Boten, the northern Lao town bordering southwest China's Yunnan Province, and Vientiane, capital of Laos.

According to plan, the China-Laos railway will be extended in the south to link Bangkok,

capital of Thailand and it will connect to Chinese railway network. It is also part of the Trans-Asian Railway, a project designed as an integrated railway network across Europe and Asia. The project will play an exemplary role in the Belt and Road Initiative and will showcase the enhanced connectivity among China and Southeast Asian countries.

*People's Daily Online* (Beijing),  
November 2017

## 70 Years of Pakistan-Turkey Diplomatic Relations

“Pakistan has always been a traditional ally and a friend. Turkish foreign policy towards Pakistan has been something like a romantic movie”. This was stated by Dr. Ufuk Ulutas a Turkish researcher and columnist, during his speech at a Public Talk on the occasion of “70 Years of Pakistan-Turkey Diplomatic Relations”, organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on 27 November.



Other distinguished speakers at the seminar included H.E. Sadik Babur Girgin, Ambassador of Republic of Turkey to Pakistan and Dr. Mesut Özcan, Acting Chairman, Centre for Strategic Research (CSR), Ankara.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his welcome remarks briefed the audience of the MoU signed between ISSI and CSR and thanked Ambassador Girgin, for facilitating this event. He went on to talk about Pakistan-Turkey relations and stated that Pak-Turk relations predate partition and are based on common faith and shared culture. Dr. Mesut Özcan stated that in the 1990s, there were hopes for a liberal international order, but the turbulent environment in the neighbouring region pushed Turkey's foreign policy towards a more security-oriented front. Currently, several dynamics affect Turkish foreign policy, particularly the situation in the Middle East because it is leaving security issues for Turkey.

## Public Talk on Formation of National Unity Government and Future of Peace in Palestine

The bond between Pakistan and Palestine is very strong. Pakistan has always been supporting Palestine at all levels, be it regional or international platforms. This was stated by H.E. Dr. Mazen Shaymia, Assistant Minister of Palestine for Asia, Africa and Australia at a Public Talk organised by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on 28 November. Dr. Mazen thanked Pakistan and its people for their firm support in endorsing and advancing the cause of Palestine. He said that November 2 marks the beginning of the brutal military occupation of the people of Palestine and the destruction of their homeland which finds no parallel in history. Yet, despite all the sufferings, the people of Palestine are very resilient and no power on the earth can snatch away their identity and homeland. He said that the solution to the problem of Palestine lies in exercising the right to



self-determination, which is the fundamental right of the people of Palestine. Talking about the peace negotiation process, he stated that Palestine and its leadership is open to negotiation and peace settlement which is in compliance with international humanitarian laws. Though we have been agreeing with the international treaties and agreements, alongside the treaties specific to the Palestine issue such as the Oslo Accord, Israel has been violating all the laws and treaties, and has imposed an unjust siege upon the citizen of Palestine for almost ten years and, even worse, it is changing the demographic composition of the region. He concluded

his speech on an optimistic note that the solution of the Palestine lies in national unity and the support from international community. It is the responsibility of the international community to stand with the people of Palestine. Earlier, welcoming the Palestinian delegation, Chairman ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood highlighted Pakistan's unwavering support to the Palestinian cause at multilateral forums. He said that Pakistan has been assigning the same level of priority to the Palestine issue as it does to its own matters and considers it as significant as the Kashmir issue.

## Kazakhstan Media Delegation

A seven-member media delegation from Kazakhstan visited ISSI on 20 November for an in-depth discussion on CPEC relevance for Central Asia, situation in Afghanistan, and terrorism. Deliberating on Pakistan-Kazakhstan relations, Chairman ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood stated that both countries have recently celebrated 25th anniversary of their bilateral relations and Pakistan would like to further enhance its relations with Kazakhstan as both countries share the same culture, religion, have a common perspective on regional situation and face similar problems. Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre and Senior Research Fellow, ISSI, briefed the delegation on the importance of CPEC to Kazakhstan and other Central Asian Republics. Mr. Bolat Tokabayev, Chief Expert,



Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies, agreed that CPEC can be very beneficial to both the countries. He stated that one of the reasons for low trade is lack of proper trade corridor to help expand bilateral trade links between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. Mr. Najam Rafique, Director Research, ISSI, drew attention to the fact that Pakistan has been the frontline state in the war on terrorism and has borne the brunt of the consequences of terrorism. Ms. Amina Khan, Senior Research Fellow, ISSI,

agreed that there is ISIS presence in Afghanistan, but they are local Taliban who have deflected from the Afghan Taliban. Mr. Paltore Yktyiyar, Dean of Oriental Studies, Al-Farabi University, appreciated Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and fighting ISIS. Dr. Samal Tuleubayeva, Department of Oriental Studies, Eurasian National University, stressed that CPEC is very important for Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states as an alternative route to sea.

## Japan-Pakistan Relationship: 65 Years and Beyond



The Japan-Pakistan relations are embedded in three main elements of business, aid and security. The hospitality and humanitarian values of the people of Pakistan have served to clear the prevailing misperceptions about Pakistan. This was stated by H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan at a Public Talk held at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on November 7, 2017.

Ambassador Kurai said that Japan assigns high value to its bilateral relations with Pakistan since the nature of their cooperation is multi-dimensional.

He discussed the bilateral relations at length, and pointed out that Japan has helped Pakistan in the areas of humanitarian assistance, social security and infrastructure development, emphasizing that Indus Highway is the flagship project, which connects Peshawar to Karachi, stretching across 1200 km, and it has been done with Japan's assistance. It was completed in June 2017.

Speaking about Official Development Assistance (ODA), he remarked that, "ODA does matter but security situation is more important." He appreciated the improving security and the

overall economic situation of the country, "We appreciate Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices in War on Terror. We also value Pakistan's efforts in strengthening democracy and expect the country will continue to do so."

He also pointed towards the import-export gap between the bilateral trade and urged that Pakistani textile items should be exported to Japan in order to reduce the import-export deficit. He was of the view that, for bilateral trade to grow, security, infrastructure and business environment are the key factors.

Talking about CPEC, he said that, "We are not against China-Pakistan Economic Project (CPEC), we appreciate this initiative but, at the same time, we believe whatever project is carried out should be based on transparency, openness, and accountability. We have made it clear that we may be open to help in furthering this project."

Earlier, in his welcome marks, Chairman ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that Pakistan-Japan relations have their deep roots in the ancient civilization of Gandhara. He briefly touched upon history of

the bilateral relations, which began with the ratification of the San Francisco Treaty.

Pakistan, he said, supported Japan at many international fora). Earlier, Pakistan was the largest exporter of textile items to Japan, while Japan was the largest exporter of machinery and vehicles to Pakistan.

He said that President Ayub's visit to Japan was historic as the Emperor himself welcomed him after his arrival at Haneda airport in Tokyo. It, indeed, was a rare event in the diplomatic history of the Pak-Japan diplomatic relations.

He also pointed out Tokyo's changing nuclear policy. He cited the Indo-Japan nuclear cooperation and emphasized that any discriminatory approach towards Pakistan would be unjust.

He also clarified that Kashmir is not a territorial issue between Pakistan and India, but it is a question of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, reflected in the UN resolutions.

### The Indonesia Media Delegation Visits ISSI



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a six-member Indonesian media delegation on 6 November. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, presented an overview of bilateral relationship between two countries and stated Indonesia always extended its full support

to Pakistan during difficult times. Highlighting the main contours of Pakistan's "Look East Policy", he said that Pakistan is focusing on developing close ties with the Southeast Asian countries, particularly Indonesia. Interaction focused on Pakistan's relations with China, India and the United

States, conflict in Afghanistan and emerging role of China in the region. Delegation inquired about ways in which China's One Belt One Road initiative will affect the South Asian region in general and Pakistan in particular.

Report by Muhammad Faisal, ISSI.

### ISSI Interaction with Indishe Sazan Noor Institute



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an in-house meeting with Dr. Sadollah Zarei, Executive Director, Indishe Sazan Noor Institute, Tehran, on November 6, 2017. Dr. Zarei agreed with ISSI Chairman Ambassador Khalid Mahmood over the depth of relations between Pakistan and Iran. He called for deepening the existing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic domain. He suggested that the two countries should have a regional approach as far as economic relations are concerned and that they should work towards increasing trade volume to US\$20 billion during next decade. Dr. Zarei talked about the regional security and Iranian role in Kurdistan in depth.

Report by Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik

'America Opposes CPEC',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*The Nation* (Islamabad)  
October 17, 2017

'Abe's Resounding  
Victory',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*The Nation* (Islamabad)  
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'Belt and Road  
Deconstructed',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*Daily Times* (Lahore)  
November 1, 2017

'India's Isolation on the  
Belt and Road Increases',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*Pakistan Today*  
(Islamabad)  
November 3, 2017

'Long Live China's  
Revolutionary Zeal',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*Daily Times* (Lahore)  
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'What Trump Gained in  
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'Trump's Visit to South  
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Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*Daily Times* (Lahore)  
November 4, 2017

'CPEC Relevance to  
Central Asia',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*The Nation* (Islamabad)  
November 7, 2017

'Trump Visits China',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*The Nation* (Islamabad)  
November 13, 2017

'APEC Summit at Da Nang',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*Pakistan Today*  
(Islamabad)  
November 15, 2017

'The Indo-Pacific Project',  
Dr Ahmad Rashid Malik  
*The Nation* (Islamabad),  
November 28, 2017

## Trump's Visit to China



U.S. President Donald Trump has been warming up ties with China. As part of the third leg of his 12-day marathon Asian tour, he arrived in Beijing on 8 November for a three-day state visit to exchange in-depth views on issues and concerns of both sides. His visit to Beijing looks highly fruitful, rewarding, and full of mutual gains to overcome mutual uncertainties on a number of matters, trade issues, and North Korea. Trump exchanged a warmer tone with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Both leaders' chemistry also worked well during talks. Xi commented that "China-U.S. ties are now at new historic starting point."

Earlier, Trump visited Tokyo and Seoul. In Tokyo, he took a relatively tougher stance on the issue of North Korea but turned to a soft stance in Seoul and offered a deal to North Korea to come to the negotiating table. In China, Trump remained further soft on mutual issues with China, trade, and North Korea, which was seen as a sea change in Trump's policy toward China since coming into power. Xi held a grand ceremony to welcome him at the Great Hall of the People on 9 November.

Both leaders attended a business exchange and witnessed the signing of deals worth as high as US\$ 250 billion, being calling a "true miracle" by Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan. The deal was made by big American companies like Boeing Co., General Electric Co., Ford Motor, Goldman Sachs, Bell Helicopter, Terex Utilities, Viroment, and Caterpillar. Chinese companies included

Qualcomm Inc, China Energy Investment Corp., Qualcomm, OPPO, Vivo, China Aviation Suppliers Holding Co. Sinopec, Bank of China, and China Investment Corp. The U.S. companies were also welcomed by Xi to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative, making Chinese business open and transparent with no strings attached.

Common issues that often come on the forefront of media were trade friction, successful de-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, and the South China Sea as core issues between the United States and China. How these issues will figure in the U.S.-China bilateral talks would be seen positively in Trump's discussion with Xi. The actual bilateral relationship is greater than these issues. Diplomatic and security issues, people-to-people issues, law enforcement and cyber-security were some of the crucial matters of bilateral exchanges.

Moreover, bilateral trade is a thorny issue between the two big trading partners. According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, China is currently the largest trading partner of the United States with US\$578.6 billion total two-way trade in 2016. Goods exports totalled US\$ 115.8 billion; goods imports totalled US\$ 462.8 billion, making the trade deficit of US\$ 347 billion, "shockingly" imbalance for Trump to understand but China just cannot be "blamed" for that gap but the "U.S. itself" for this "one-sided" and "unfair" relationship, he simply admitted in Beijing. He blamed the past U.S. administrations for allowing

this deficit to increase. The US\$ 250 billion business deals would greatly address to reduce American trade deficit with China.

Trump appreciated Xi's efforts to rein in North Korea's weapons program. Trump threw an olive branch to North Korea during his South Korean visit. Beijing already believes to resolve the North Korean missiles and nuclear program through negotiations. The consensus would help join other stakeholders to amicably resolve the looming crisis on the Korean Peninsula. Both the United States and China agreed to work on North Korea's missiles and nuclear program together. They will not accept the nuclear status of North Korea. This is a big outcome. There are Chinese limits of leverage on North Korea. China is fully understood and no longer misunderstood by the United States on North Korean issue. The Trump-Xi talks in Beijing created a new global consensus to resolve a number of hot issues in the Asia-Pacific, making further space for China and Japan to talk, creating congenial atmosphere for the North Korean resolution, the two-Koreas talks, combating terrorism, ensuring cyber-security, and respecting the position of both China and the United States in the South China Sea, thereby protecting world peace, stability, and prosperity. The United States will stick to "One China" policy. Trump and Xi also touched on cooperation on achieving peace in Afghanistan through an Afghan-led solution. Chinese media hailed Trump's visit to China. He adopted a soft tone toward China on thorny issues like trade friction and North Korea. The sober personal relationship developed between him and Xi would decrease bilateral tension in the days to come. The visit was more successful than expected by the two sides. It was productive.

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