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## *Report – Book Launch*

# **“Cheeni Saqafat Kay Tabinda Naqoosh”**

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### Pictures of the Event



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) launched a book titled “*Cheeni Saqafat Kay Tabinda Naqoosh*” authored by Group Captain (Retd.) S.M. Hali on January 31, 2018. General Ehsan-ul-Haq, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Distinguished commentators on the book included: Mr Lijian Zhao, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of People’s Republic of China, Islamabad, Mr Uxi Mufti, former Executive Director, Lok Virsa, and Ambassador (Retd.) Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Studies, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

Welcoming the guests, the Chairman ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, said that it was an honour for ISSI to provide a platform for the launch of this book. He thanked S. M. Hali for choosing ISSI as the venue for the launch of his book. Ambassador Mahmood lauded the author for covering the Chinese culture extensively and said that the book was a handy reference for Pakistani audience, which is not much aware of Chinese culture. He added that this work is a seminal contribution in developing greater understanding of Chinese culture in Pakistan, and introducing the readers to various aspects of the Chinese culture such as music, arts, festivals, cuisine, literature, and philosophy.

General Ehsan ul Haq praised S. M. Hali for his commitment and proficiency. He congratulated the author on writing this book, and said that its publication was very important at this juncture. He said that this book addressed an important need of creating greater awareness about China in Pakistan. He spoke about Chinese culture and its influence in shaping the society and decisions of the government. He said that culture has a decisive influence on a country’s policy makers, adding that Chinese traditions have a strong impact on Chinese statecraft. He highlighted the significance of harmony in Chinese traditions and how it steers China towards establishing harmony in the region through friendly ties with neighbouring countries. He emphasised that Pakistanis commend the commitment of China towards supporting Pakistan’s progress and development. Having received military training in China, General Haq said that he was struck by the modesty and friendly nature of Chinese.

Mr. Zhao Lijian, opined that the book was a great effort to introduce Chinese culture to Pakistan. He said that the book was well researched and lauded the magnanimous task undertaken by the

author of trying to compress the diverse aspects of Chinese culture. He highlighted two excellent aspects of the book: first, that it is written in Urdu, which will ensure maximum readership in Pakistan; second, was the incorporation of a chapter on Chinese etiquettes, which, Mr. Zhao said, was extremely significant. These etiquettes, he added, are important not only in China, but prove useful while interacting with people the world over.

Mr. Uxi Mufti, stated that China is one of the most ancient civilizations of the world. He talked at length about Chinese artistry and commended the insight and broad vision of the early leadership of modern China who encouraged ethnic minorities and promoted cultural expression. He said every region in China and every ethnic minority has its unique cultural expression. He appreciated the effort made by S. M. Hali to learn the Chinese culture thoroughly by frequently visiting China, and also commended him for sharing his knowledge through this book. He added that over the centuries, our region has benefitted from Chinese expertise in various fields and there is still much to learn from China. He said that the author has done a great job at the right time. He was also impressed by the photographs contained in the book.

Ambassador (Retd.) Syed Hasan Javed, lauded the extensive research by the author and said that this book is an inspiration for writing more books in Urdu. He said that with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in progress, this book covers the cultural corridor and will serve as a bridge for better cultural connectivity between the two countries. He suggested that this book should be made part of the syllabus in Pakistani universities in order to better understand the rich culture of China. He emphasized that there is a need to conduct more research on China in Pakistan. He also suggested that to better understand China, we should first unlearn what we have studied from Western sources while enhancing our own efforts in this endeavor.

In his remarks, the author of the book, S.M. Hali thanked the reviewers and said that he was much humbled by the praise for his work. He thanked Almighty Allah for giving him the opportunity to express his views through media and books. He went on to thank his family members and mentors who guided and encouraged him in his pursuit of accomplishing his goals. He especially thanked Dr. Ahmad Rashid Malik, Director, CPSC for organizing the event and making it a success.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Mahmood, commended the author for making a valuable and all-encompassing contribution to the study of Chinese culture. He reflected upon the dearth of knowledge about the Chinese culture in Pakistan, and was optimistic that CPEC will also open up opportunities for learning more about Chinese culture.