



**INSTITUTE OF  
STRATEGIC STUDIES**

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

*Report*

# **Inauguration & Launch of China- Pakistan Study Centre's Magazine PIVOT**

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*Rapporteurs: Ali Haider Saleem*

*Edited by: Najam Rafique*

## PICTURES OF THE EVENT



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the inauguration and launch of the China Pakistan Study Center's (CPSC) magazine '*Pivot*' on January 23, 2019. Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan was the Chief Guest at the occasion. The event was also graced by H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China. The launch was attended by academics, students, ambassadors and media personnel.

'*Pivot*' is a quarterly magazine which projects Pakistan-China relations and developments in diverse spheres such as policy, economy, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. It is the latest addition to ISSI's list of publications and will be published quarterly.

In his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry talked about strengthening of ties between the two countries and extension of cooperation into multiple areas. He posited that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) stand for a stronger voice for globalism and seek to connect countries and communities especially at a time when we are noticing the rise of anti-globalism forces on the world stage. Pakistan and China are engaged in concrete cooperation in multiple domains, however, there are negative forces at play and considerable propaganda has been unleashed to undermine this cooperation between the two countries. It is important to counter this propaganda through continuous dialogue and evidence based research, and most importantly, advocacy of the significance of this vital relationship. It is in this context that the CPSC has embarked on an initiative to create awareness of the importance and utility of cooperative projects between Pakistan and China. The magazine that is being launched today covers the dynamic nature of this relationship and also highlights the progress made by the two countries collectively. This is a special addition to our list of publications at the Institute with twin objectives: the relationship should be projected in the correct perspective; and, we should counter the negative information.

Director CPSC and Chief Editor of '*Pivot*', Dr. Talat Shabbir briefed the audience about the role and activities of CPSC and elaborated the concept behind the launch of '*Pivot*' magazine. He said that realizing the expansion of an all-encompassing bilateral relationship, CPSC decided to introduce a new publication at ISSI. The aim of the magazine is to showcase developments and contribute analyses in diverse spheres of Pakistan-China relations. He said that Pakistan and China are strategic cooperative partners with their bilateral relationship standing the test of time

and history. Our ‘all weather’ relations are based on shared principles and interests that form the foundation of cooperation in diverse fields. In recent years, however, new milestones have been reached, particularly the commencement of CPEC. Meanwhile, rise of China in the global context and its economic pre-eminence has propelled new dynamics for globalization and common good. Pakistan, of course, is fortunate to be playing an important role in connectivity and prosperity in our region. Thus, there is a need to promote better understanding of the vision of the two countries. It is through sharing of knowledge and experiences that both countries and their peoples can learn and progress together in the light of shared vision for development. Thanking the chief guest and Chinese ambassador, Dr. Shabbir requested the audience to share their valuable suggestions and comments.

H.E. Yao Jing congratulated the CPSC team on the successful launch of ‘*Pivot*’ which he said is an excellent contribution for expanding knowledge regarding the relationship of the two countries. He said that the idea behind this magazine demonstrates the reality of this relationship, as Pakistan holds a pivotal position in China’s diplomatic efforts for peaceful development. He stated that China has a firm commitment to support Pakistan’s development and we consider it as the most important partner for China’s BRI. He added that development is the key to deal with all the challenges in the contemporary world. Concluding his remarks, the Ambassador encouraged and invited more input and guidance for carrying forward this relationship.

In her remarks at the occasion, Ms. Tehmina Janjua said that the word ‘Pivot’ is reflective of the relationship between the two countries since China is the pivot of Pakistan’s foreign policy and vice versa. She said that the CPSC is fulfilling an essential requirement that is bringing discourse on Pakistan-China friendship to the forefront. She congratulated the ISSI for reinvigorating the Center which she said is a highly important component of the Institute. She stated that China is Pakistan’s close partner, reliable ally and a time tested friend. This friendship has few parallels in international relations or for that matter in the history of interstate relations, because it is based on mutual trust and mutual respect. Very rarely have two states witnessed such a positive, upward movement of ties which have been meticulously nurtured and progressively expanded. Today, Pakistan-China relations are the anchor in the strategic stability of the region. Expressing her thoughts on CPEC, she said it is adding a strong economic and strategic dimension to the ties and would bring peaceful development and economic prosperity to the people of the entire

region. She said that it is important to provide a platform to promote people-to-people linkages and enable the young generation to carry forward the legacy of the Pakistan-China friendship. She congratulated CPSC on publishing a magazine which would cater to such needs.

Concluding the proceedings, Chairman BOG ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that '*Pivot*' is an important and timely initiative. The fact that it covers various facets of Pakistan-China relationship makes it unique and significant. He observed that previously, commercial cooperation of the two countries had not been at par with the defense ties and there had been limited people-to-people contact. CPEC is now bringing in the economic dimension, as well as facilitating linkages between the two countries. He stated that one must admit that there is lack of knowledge at public level about each other's culture, customs, ethnic makeup and history. '*Pivot*' seeks to fill the knowledge gap between the two countries and lauded the CPSC team efforts for their initiative.