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Report

“Launch of Special Edition of Pivot Magazine”

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PICTURES OF THE EVENT



The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the launch of special edition of its PIVOT magazine on September 24, 2019. Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Special Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs graced the launch as Chief Guest. H.E Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China also attended the ceremony. With the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China approaching, seven decades of Pakistan-China friendship were also celebrated at the occasion which was commemorated by a cake-cutting ceremony.

In his introductory remarks, Director CPSC, Dr. Talat Shabbir said that the launch of the fourth edition of PIVOT magazine reflects the eagerness of contributors and sponsors to be a part of this celebration. He thanked his team, the contributors and the sponsors for making PIVOT a success. He went on to say that the relationship between Pakistan and China draws its strengths from principles of mutual trust, economic cooperation, common goal of prosperity and shared destiny. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is now an all-inclusive mega venture which is a testimony to the will of the people of China and the leadership. Their commitment, focus and hard work have transformed China into a modern day success story for the rest of the world to follow. With the advent of CPEC, Pakistan and China have more avenues in key areas essential for development and prosperity. He conveyed best wishes of the people of Pakistan to China as it celebrates the auspicious occasion of its National Day.

During his opening remarks, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry applauded Ambassador Yao and his efforts for bringing Pakistan and China closer together. He added that this magazine is a tribute to the seven decades Pakistan-China friendship. The relationship between these two countries in most recent years is signified by CPEC, but the totality of the relationship is much bigger in scope and it is truly a time-tested and wide ranging relationship. He said that along with trade war, propaganda was launched about CPEC and China's involvement in development processes in Pakistan and elsewhere, but efforts like the one we are doing at the CPSC are aimed, among other things, to clarify these misgivings. Moreover, as you go through the PIVOT's content, you will understand that this relationship is an everlasting one. He congratulated the entire Chinese nation and assured Ambassador Yao that ISSI and CPSC will continue to play their part in strengthening the relationship.

During his remarks, Ambassador Yao Jing said he was pleased to take part in this launching ceremony of the special edition of PIVOT and thanked CPSC and ISSI for contributing to the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. Ambassador Yao said that this event is very useful and timely for the promotion and projection of the relationship. He stated that when we look back at the seven decades of China's development and its foreign policy, Pakistan always figures prominently in our neighborhood achievements. The relationship between China and Pakistan was not very smooth in the early 1950s, but later with the guidance of two leaderships and change of the international situation, China and Pakistan moved closer and till now have established an all-weather, strategic partnership. As far as China today is concerned, this is a unique partnership.

He further said that since the very beginning, it was Pakistan who guided China and supported China in opening its door to the world. He recalled how the PIA was the only international carrier for Chinese to other parts of the world and Karachi was the only transit port. In fact, the first civilian airline pilots of China were trained by PIA. In the 1970s, it was through Pakistan's efforts that China could resume its legitimate seat in the United Nations and in the 1980s, Pakistan gave China the model for turning into a market economy. He further said that in China's foreign policy, we take Pakistan as the most reliable and unshakable partner in all the arenas, both regionally and internationally.

He stressed that CPEC is a platform for development, but it is not only for the economies of China and Pakistan. In fact, it benefits regional prosperity. He said that the world right now is engulfed in a lot of injustice and it is important that China and Pakistan develop stronger mutual trust and cooperation and help move this region toward a more peaceful and justified order. He mentioned that efforts by ISSI and CPSC, such as the launching of the PIVOT, will really help to find the proper and the correct track to move forward and enrich the approaches of both countries to deal with challenges and work towards engaging people on both sides.

During his address, Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan commended the CPSC team for their efforts in bringing out the special edition of PIVOT, which he said not only captures the essence of the exemplary relationship between Pakistan and China, but also elaborates on the many facets of this friendship. He said that the Chinese miracle was made possible by the vision and

foresight of this great nation, and hard work, discipline and single-minded devotion of its people. Through President Xi's far-sighted Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the dividends of this development are being spread across the countries and continents. "On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I take this opportunity to congratulate our Chinese friends and partners on this historic milestone- the 70th National Day of China," he said.

The Special Secretary also thanked the government and people of China, for their principled and unambiguous stance on India's action of August 5 in Indian occupied Kashmir. He said that the government and people of Pakistan and indeed people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir who are facing one of the darkest episodes of their 70 year struggle for self-determination welcome this support. He congratulated ISSI and CPSC for this useful and timely initiative which he said would go a long way in helping bridge the knowledge gap for researchers, scholars and academia.

While giving his concluding remarks, Chairman BOG, ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood extended his heartiest congratulations to the Chinese people on the occasion of China's 70th anniversary. He said that the special edition of PIVOT carries a history of China's glorious journey from the revolutionary era to reform and opening to the outside world. Within these seventy years, China has made exemplary progress. The country has become the second largest economy in the world and on purchasing power parity basis, it is the largest. History shows that more often than not, when a major power has risen, there have been clashes between nations. However, China has proposed a new kind of great power relationship which is not based on confrontation, but on cooperation and co-existence of mutual benefits. The primary example of this is President Xi's initiative of BRI and CPEC.

He lauded the CPSC for its efforts in bringing out this special edition of PIVOT and wished China a greater and brighter future..