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PIVOT

Quarterly Magazine of China-Pakistan Study Centre
Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

CHINA-PAKISTAN COMBATING COVID-19 TOGETHER



Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad



China-Pakistan Study Centre



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Sector F-5/2, Islamabad

Phone: +92-51-9204423/24; Fax: +92-51-9204658

Email: strategy@issi.org.pk Website: www.issi.org.pk

Patron in Chief

Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Chief Editor

Dr. Talat Shabbir

Editor

Uroosa Khan

Associate Editor

Tayyaba Sadaf

Contributing Editors

Neelum Nigar
Mohammad Faisal
Ali Haider

Managing Editor

Dost Muhammad Barrech

Graphics & Layout Design

Bushra Mushtaq Khan

Network Administrator

Syed Mohammad Farhan

Contact Us

Email: pivot@issi.org.pk
Website: www.issi.org.pk
Address: China-Pakistan Study Centre
Institute of Strategic Studies
F-5/2, Islamabad
Phone: +92-51-9204423-24

Printer

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5-A Abbas Centre, Fazal-e-Haq Road
Blue Area, Islamabad
Phone: 051-2150285 - 051-2278837

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Chief Editor's Note

Its over three months that novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 erupted in China and it now continues to deepen its impact on global life across the world affecting adversely millions of people. The outbreak has put the global health management in disarray and put to test public health emergency apparatus. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as a pandemic that created an atmosphere of panic and disorder



across the countries disrupting normal life. As public health organizations like WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention work tirelessly to coordinate a local, national, and global response to the rapidly increasing infections, countries too are working jointly to come up with a mechanism or strategy to cope with the pandemic to save precious lives.

The world is witnessing colossal fallout of this outbreak as COVID-19 does not discriminate on the basis of social status, caste, colour or creed. There would be short, medium and long term effects of this deadly outbreak and there is likely to be political, economic and societal hang over of the pandemic when it is over. Though the world won't be same again but it would be early to predict what precise shape it would take or what would it turn out to be in terms of political, economic and societal effects. The world however is beginning to learn fast host of new approaches to politics, economy, disasters, emergencies, health and societal interface.

COVID-19 is an unusual challenge for the world and has not only exposed fragile global health care structure but also of individual states. Perhaps, China is the only country which stood the test of time and responded in a professional manner. Besides containing COVID-19 and keeping the fatalities to minimum possible, China has embarked on normalcy in parts of the country severely affected by the coronavirus. China has amply displayed its capacity to handle such a massive pandemic and still manages to control economic recession caused by the outbreak of virus. The world can certainly learn from the Chinese experience to contain COVID-19. In Pakistan, the nation is coming together to combat this virus. China's support and cooperation is of critical importance as Pakistan gears up to combat this unprecedented challenge.

Talat

Dr. Talat Shabbir

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Resolutely Defeating the COVID-19 Outbreak and Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

By H.E. Wang Yi

The COVID-19 outbreak poses both a great threat to the life and health of the Chinese people and a formidable challenge to global public health security. In the face of this major test, the Chinese people of all ethnic groups have united as one under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. Together, we have launched a massive, nation-wide response. The heroic acts of the Chinese people in fighting the epidemic have won admiration and support from the international community.

In this ongoing, critical struggle, we in the diplomatic service have been earnestly implementing the important instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the decisions and guidelines of the Party Central Committee in both letter and spirit. We are engaged in an all-out, people's war against the epidemic. We

are both working energetically to forge an enabling environment for epidemic control and economic and social development at home, and making China a strong line of defense in the global response to the epidemic.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, all of us in the diplomatic service have taken epidemic control as our foremost political mission. Guided by the overarching goal of containing and defeating the outbreak, we have advanced the relevant foreign affairs with a strong sense of mission and responsibility.

We are pursuing active diplomacy to secure strong international support. General Secretary Xi Jinping has personally presided over China's epidemic response and projected calm and confidence. In phone calls with over ten foreign leaders, including those of France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Indonesia, Qatar, Malaysia, the United Kingdom (UK), the Republic of Korea

(ROK), Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ethiopia, Chile and Cuba, President Xi underscored that the whole nation is mobilized into a rapid response and the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough measures have been adopted. He stressed that China has every confidence, capacity and determination to triumph over the outbreak and minimize its impact, and will strive to meet this year's targets for economic and social development.

To date, the leaders of over 170 countries and the heads of more than 40 international and regional organizations have sent messages of sympathy or issued statements of support for China. They have also commended China for its effective and extraordinary response. The United Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, African Union, Arab League, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the G77 have issued statements to specifically express confidence in and support for China.

We are pursuing all-round international cooperation to meet epidemic control needs. China's diplomatic and consular missions have worked hard to secure medical supplies badly needed at home, provided information and facilitation for overseas procurement, and fast-tracked the delivery of donations from foreign governments, overseas Chinese and international friends. To date, in-kind assistance from 50 countries and international organizations has been received. In coordination with the competent authorities, we are also facilitating active information-sharing and scientific and research cooperation with other countries.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, all of us in the diplomatic service have taken epidemic control as our foremost political mission. Guided by the overarching goal of containing and defeating the outbreak, we have advanced the relevant foreign affairs with a strong sense of mission and responsibility

We are following a people-centered approach to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of our people. Confronted by this sudden outbreak, we have been resolute in protecting the security

and interests of our citizens abroad. In response to the overreactions of certain countries, we have stated our position at the earliest opportunity consistent with WHO recommendations. We are also in daily communication and consultation with various countries to prevent the unnecessary hindrance of personnel and economic exchanges.

We are reaching out to the world to communicate China's extraordinary response. By participating in the Munich Security Conference, hosting daily MFA briefings and getting our stories out on social media, we are informing the world of our all-out efforts to battle the outbreak. We have presented facts to show the bright future of China's development, shoring up international confidence and trust in China's response.

China's diplomatic and consular missions have worked hard to secure medical supplies badly needed at home, provided information and facilitation for overseas procurement, and fast-tracked the delivery of donations from foreign governments, overseas Chinese and international friends

At the same time, we have acted quickly to address discriminatory actions against Chinese nationals and to debunk rumors and misinformation that create panic, which contributed to fostering a sympathetic international climate. We have also held detailed briefings for foreign diplomatic missions in China, demonstrating that the Chinese government takes a responsible attitude and cares for the life and health of foreign nationals in China.

The Chinese people have put up a tenacious fight against the outbreak. Such extraordinary efforts have resulted in a growing positive momentum in epidemic control across the country. In the course of this fight, China has followed its vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, lived up to its responsibility as a major country, and made a substantial contribution to global public health.

China has demonstrated its sense of responsibility by curbing the global spread of the virus. Standing at the forefront of the fight, China has fulfilled its responsibility for global public health as well as for its own people. It has taken the most decisive and thorough measures to contain the spread of the virus beyond its borders. Chinese medical workers and

researchers have raced against time to improve diagnostic and therapeutic solutions in an effort to raise the cure rate and lower the case fatality rate.

China has earned trust for promoting a joint response to this global challenge. Since the epidemic broke out, China has placed great importance on international health cooperation. It has provided timely updates on the epidemic in a spirit of openness and transparency, shared the genetic sequencing of the virus, worked closely with the World Health Organization, neighboring countries and other countries concerned, and invited international experts to join this fight.

President of the 74th UN General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande commended China's exemplary leadership and transparency in fighting the epidemic. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed that the whole world appreciates and commends China for its response and that no other country could have done better than China.

China has set a high standard for improving global public health governance. This outbreak is a major test for China's governance system and capacity, and for the global governance system and capacity. China's signature strength, efficiency and speed in this fight has been widely acclaimed, and the institutional advantage of China's governance is for all to see.

Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China is committed to international and regional cooperation on epidemic response. To defeat COVID-19 is not only imperative for the life and health of the Chinese people, but also vital to the safety and well-being of people across the globe.

We will expand cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels against the epidemic and keep up the good communication with WHO. We will explore transnational epidemic prevention and control by China and countries concerned by better synergizing competent departments responsible for health, quarantine, transportation and border control, promptly sharing epidemic updates, containment measures and research findings, and intensifying joint R&D of antiviral drugs and vaccines. As we are doing our best to control the outbreak at home, China will assist countries and regions experiencing a spread of

infections as much as we can and live up to our role as a responsible major country.

China will deeply involve itself in global public health governance. Public health emergencies are a common challenge to all countries. The COVID-19 outbreak has laid bare inadequacies in global public health governance and highlighted the urgency to buttress the system. China is ready to work with the rest of the international community to address these challenges. We support the core role of the UN and WHO in responding to health emergencies and in improving the global public health governance system. Public health issues should be moved up on the international agenda. Major international health projects should be implemented, and a health Silk Road should be taken forward.

To defeat COVID-19 is not only imperative for the life and health of the Chinese people, but also vital to the safety and well-being of people across the globe

China will join the world in responding to non-traditional security challenges. We live in an era where traditional and non-traditional security issues are intertwined. Non-traditional security issues such as major communicable diseases pose an increasingly serious challenge to mankind as a whole. China will put into practice its concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. We will promote greater dialogue and communication on non-traditional security matters, help advance relevant international cooperation processes, and work to build up understanding and trust among different parties.

We are confident that under the personal guidance of General Secretary Xi and the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee, and with the entire Party fighting at the forefront and the whole nation standing united, we will triumph over any difficulties or challenges coming our way. With a higher morale and a stronger sense of duty, we will rally even closer around the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core and devote all our efforts to secure the final victory over the outbreak and realize the Two Centenary Goals in China and the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind ■



The writer is the State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China. The article is an excerpt of the original essay published in Qiushi Journal.



Pakistan standing in Solidarity with China: CoronaVirus, A Common Global Challenge

By Neelum Nigar

China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies hosted an In-House dialogue to express solidarity with people and government of China titled, 'Pakistan standing in Solidarity with China: CoronaVirus, A Common Global Challenge'. H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan while addressing the dialogue stated that, 'At this difficult time, we deeply appreciate the support extended by the government and people of Pakistan since the outbreak of the deadly virus. The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad is working closely with the Government of Pakistan to look after Pakistani students in Wuhan.'

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, expressed solidarity with people of China and urged the international community to come together in support of China. He said that the two countries have always stood together and there has never been any divergence in this relationship.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, asserted that China has taken decisive and responsible actions to stop the spread of Novel Corona Virus Epidemic. He further said that China will soon

overcome this challenge and again embark on its social and economic development. The Dialogue was attended by members of academia, civil society and research faculty of the Institute. Participants shared their views on difficulties being faced by China and its people. Participants strongly opposed discriminatory responses against Chinese people, and lauded hardwork and contributions of Chinese public health professionals to stop the spread of epidemic across its border, and ensure global public health. Participants noted that people of Pakistan, and particularly, scholarly community appreciates assistance being extended to Pakistani citizens in China ■



FIGHTING CORONA

WE CAN DO IT

By Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry



Last summer, I was visiting my son in Vienna. He took us to a museum which displayed the interesting yet painful history of the city. The place had gone through periods of great turmoil, especially the two plagues that hit Vienna in different times of its history, and caused huge death toll and misery that came with it. But, the interesting thing

here is, the city survived and today it is rated as the most livable city in the world. With able leadership and hard work the city rose from its own ashes.

**Past epidemics
also establish
the fact that
human beings are
resilient, homo
sapiens**

I have cited this instance to remind ourselves that what is valid for Vienna and proved effective in its development would also be valid for the world as it confronts the COVID-19 epidemic, which is a continuation of a series of epidemics that have ravaged humanity in different times of the recorded history. There is evidence to believe that mass killings took place from epidemics in pre-

historic times. The Plague of Athens (430 BCE) took the lives of over a hundred thousand Athenians; the Antonine Plague of 165 CE is estimated to have killed over five million people of the Roman Empire; the Byzantine Empire was ravaged by the Plague of Justinian in 541 CE. The fourteenth century Europe suffered from Black Death which wiped out over half of Europe's population of that time.

What is valid for Vienna and proved effective in its development would also be valid for the world as it confronts the COVID-19 epidemic

The Great Plague of London (1665 CE), Marseille (1720), Russia (1770), Philadelphia (1773), wiped out significant proportions of populations. The flu epidemic of 1889 CE killed a million people all over the world despite the fact that there was no air travel at that time. The Spanish flu of 1918 (though it did not originate in Spain) affected over 500 million people, killing one fifth of them. AIDS, swine flu, SARS and Ebola are recent reminders that human being is vulnerable.

I have, therefore, every confidence that we can overcome COVID-19, just like our predecessors survived for thousands of years all epidemics in past

The literature, much of which is available on internet today, is full of details of all these and other epidemics that have afflicted the humanity throughout the history. However, the study of these past epidemics also establishes the fact that human beings are resilient, homo sapiens. We have survived epidemics, as indeed the man-made wars, that brought death and destruction throughout the history. We all have a short memory. We get so absorbed in the day to day life that we forget the bigger picture. We forget that what goes up comes down. We forget that every dark night opens up to a bright day. I have, therefore, every confidence that we can overcome COVID-19, just like our predecessors survived for thousands of years all those epidemics that I mentioned above and many more that I did not. The advantage that we

have over our predecessors is that we are far more aware and technologically advanced to combat the epidemic more effectively and minimize the casualties. That's what the present governments all across the world are doing. That is what China did and proved that we can fight this epidemic.

I am confident that here in Pakistan too we shall prevail inshaAllah. What is required of us all is to cooperate in the widely accepted remedy of self-isolation and government lockdown for as long as is necessary.

We will re-build all that we have lost. It's time to stay focused on the present so that we can save our future

We must help break the chain, which is the key to stop the spread of any disease that goes out of control. If we can do that with patience, perseverance, and tenacity, we will come out of this calamity stronger in our resolve and determination. We will re-build all that we have lost. It's time to stay focused on the present so that we can save our future ■



The writer, former Foreign Secretary and Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, is Director General of Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad.



CHINA AND PAKISTAN JOIN HANDS TO FIGHT AGAINST THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

By Professor Tang Mengsheng

The virus has no national boundaries, and no country is immune from the outbreak. Only by working together we can defeat the epidemic and stabilize the economy. Around the

world, the novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak globally has left serious political, economic and social impacts. The novel Coronavirus outbreak has been confirmed across the global with approximately 460 thousand cases (As of when this

article was written). Under such circumstances, it is essential and need of the hour for the whole international community to strengthen cooperation and further pool strong forces to fight the deadly epidemic.

China is joining hands with the world to fight the pandemic and is putting all efforts to make all possible contributions in order to help other nations combat and contain the spread of this virus.

It is essential and need of the hour for the whole international community to strengthen cooperation and further pool strong forces to fight the deadly epidemic

International cooperation is crucial and a key factor in the face of the rapid spread of the global pandemic. Since the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus, adhering to the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, and with a highly responsible attitude towards the Chinese people and the international community, China has united its national strength to carry out the most comprehensive, strict and thorough preventive and control measures quickly, to promote prevention and control of the pandemic and accelerate the restoration of production and living order.

At the same time, China, as a responsible country, has actively carried out extensive collaboration with the rest of the world on pandemic prevention and control. China has worked with other countries in the same direction, provided timely help to countries in need, provided medical and financial assistance to other countries facing the pandemic and have also shared their

own experience regarding social distancing and quarantine patterns with others.

The fate of the world is closely knitted together. This pandemic is the common enemy to the entire human race. In the era of globalization, all countries are even more closely connected and are inseparable. No country can stand or exist alone without strategic partners and its neighbours. In the face of this pandemic, all countries must work together to support each other and build a community of shared future for mankind.

Pakistan donated a large number of surgical masks to China during the outbreak. It has always stood by China in difficult times and same goes for China. Pakistani President Dr. Arif Alvi said, 'This is what friends should do. Leaving a way out is not in consideration. If our friends are suffering, we will help them. As the famous proverb says, a friend in need is a friend indeed.'

In the face of this pandemic, all countries must work together to support each other and build a community of shared future for mankind

We all are well aware that this outbreak is merciless and has devoured many lives. Our Pakistani brothers are also suffering from it and are facing a testing time. The number of people infected in Pakistan has

exceeded 2700, and 41 have died (as of the time when this article was written).

This is a very critical situation for Pakistan. At the same time, Pakistan is also facing the attack of locusts. The people and society of Pakistan are suffering from two outbreaks at the same time. It's hard for China to just sit by and see Pakistan grapple with this situation on its own. China has extended a helping hand to its brother!

China is ready to share its experience of prevention and control with Pakistan, and has provided Pakistan with urgently needed medical equipment and supplies, and is working together to tackle the common challenges

At present, both China and Pakistan are facing challenges posed by this pandemic. China is ready to share its experience of prevention and control with Pakistan, and has provided Pakistan with urgently needed medical equipment and supplies, and is working together to tackle the common challenges. We believe that through close cooperation, China and Pakistan will win the battle against the novel CoronaVirus pneumonia ■



The writer is a Professor and Director of Centre for Pakistan Studies Peking University, China.

COVID-19 AND THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER

By Dr. Huma Baqai

The leap year 2020 will unfortunately go down in history for the COVID-19 pandemic. What started as an outbreak in China near the end of 2019 has now developed globally. Among other things, the coronavirus pandemic has unveiled the vulnerabilities of political systems worldwide and the world order now has a tendency to change gradually at first and then all at once.

Infections and pandemics recognize no borders, and COVID-19 is already reshaping how we, as countries, as governments and as individuals, respond to the crisis. In fact, the global change had already started; the pandemic seems to have given it an impetus, which may result in all the predictions coming true. The prevalent disease is emerging as a stress test for globalization and existing norms of global conduct. Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor has called it the most challenging crisis the world has faced since World War II. The Second World War definitely changed the world order, which with some tweaking

has now survived for several decades.

International epidemics have often impacted the course of history, bringing social, economic and even political upheavals at the end. COVID-19 is not only killing people, but it is also leading to an economic recession that will leave global fast pace economics limping and wondering what to talk about.

The geo-political manifestation of it is bound to come. According to the estimates by the John Hopkins University, the total number of recorded coronavirus cases has surpassed one million and the confirmed deaths have exceeded 49,000. The U.S. now has the highest number of cases in the world at 215,417 and more than 5,000 deaths. However, while burdening public-health systems, the epidemic disease COVID-19, seemingly easy to transmit, is also notably survivable by the majority of the population. 210,838 have survived and reportedly recovered after the disease.

In 1956, a botched intervention in the Suez laid bare the decay in

British power and marked the end of the United Kingdom's reign as a global power. The COVID-19 could mark another 'Suez Moment' this time for the United States, if it does not rise to meet the moment. The novel coronavirus pandemic could lead to Beijing supplanting it as global leader.

COVID-19 is not only killing people, but it is also leading to an economic recession that will leave global fast pace economics limping and wondering what to talk about

Coming back to the gradual bit, U.S. has lost opportunity after opportunity to play the global leader role, it was known for. The status of U.S. as a global leader over the past seven decades has been built largely on wealth and power. It inherits the legitimacy of global leadership which flows from its domestic governance, provision of global public goods and ability and willingness to master and co-ordinate a global

response in times of crisis. However, the U.S. is failing the test on all three fronts of wealth, power and legitimacy in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. It is failing its own people and it is failing the world.

The United States is emerging as the epicenter of the pandemic with the grim likelihood that things are going to get considerably worse in the country's mega cities. U.S. lacks the production and procurement capacity to meet many of its own demands, let alone to provide aid in crisis zones elsewhere. The U.S. Strategic National Stockpile, which keeps critical medical supplies, is believed to have only one percent of the masks and respirators and perhaps ten percent of the ventilators needed to deal with the pandemic. The rest will have to be made up with imports from China or rapidly increased domestic manufacturing.

According to the former CIA Director John Brennan, 'Trump's message has been that America is going to look out for its own interests, not for the interest of others'. Brett McGurk, who was formerly the Trump administrations' top civilian official in the fight against the Islamic State, says that 'Diplomacy and global leadership are long standing attributes of American power. Trump risks squandering both'. On the other hand, a state-funded news agency reported, President Trump has asked South Korean President Moon Tae for supplies to help combat coronavirus. This speaks volumes about the existing state of U.S. leadership.

Micah Zenko, a writer at the Foreign Policy, calls it 'willful negligence' of Trump Administration, as the intelligence community warned White House

at the year's start, about the threat. However, the senior officials were influenced by Donald Trump's response to the threat. Trump's first tweet about coronavirus stated, 'We have it totally under control. It's one person coming in from China, and we have it under control.' Later on, he reportedly called the virus a 'Chinese virus', which created controversies between the two states.

Interestingly, China seems to have seized the moment. Despite the fact that it was the first victim, it is fast emerging at the savior who has also survived the crisis, giving the world the confidence to trust it to do the right thing. Even WHO gives the sense that it is echoing a 'Chinese line' on the fight against the virus.

According to the Harvard Kennedy School Professor Belfer Center, 'the relatively slow and haphazard response to COVID-19 in Europe and America will accelerate the shift in power and influence from West to East. Corona is both a public health and global financial crisis, but it will soon manifest itself into a geo-strategic challenge to American power and influence in Indo-Pacific. The competition between China and U.S., however, will only intensify.

'China is fighting not just for itself, but also for the world', a Chinese ambassador stated to the United Nations. China is fast emerging as a part of the solution, rather than the problem. Although many hold China responsible for the pandemic, China has had notable success in reshaping its image as a 'savior; with its latest efforts to contain the disease. Its outreach to Italy, Iran, Pakistan, France and even the U.S. is commendable. China has provided Pakistan

\$4 million to build a hospital, twelve thousand test kits and ten thousand protective units. It has donated coronavirus testing kits to Cambodia, sent ventilators, masks and medics to Italy and France, stationed medics to Iran and Iraq and pledged to help the Philippines, Spain and other countries. It also stands in the forefront to help Africa with massive donations and has given a \$20 million gift to WHO, to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

China is now seen as a country that is taking extraordinary efforts to save maximum lives abroad, and is willing to share its capabilities, knowledge and most importantly its finances to help the world

Karl Taro Greenfeld, the author of China Syndrome writes that there are four stages of epidemic grief: denial, panic, fear, and if all goes well, rational response. According to this design, China has gone through first three phases and has arrived to rational response to the pandemic. Most part of the world is on the phase of fear, which will dissipate eventually, replaced by a more realistic approach of taking rational response.

China is now seen as a country that is taking extraordinary efforts to save maximum lives abroad, and is willing to share its capabilities, knowledge and most importantly its finances to help the world. Has China seized the moment, when traditional global leadership is struggling, or is in a state of disarray ■



The writer is the Associate Dean (Faculty of Business Administration) and an Associate Professor of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts at IBA, Karachi.

PIVOT: Pursuing Ideals of Shared Future

By Uroosa Khan



To mark one successful year of publishing PIVOT magazine launched by China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in January 2019, the Centre organized an event titled 'PIVOT: Pursuing Ideals of Shared Future' on January 16, 2020. Ambassador Zahoor Ahmad Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the Chief Guest at the occasion. While addressing the audience he said that, 'China has stood by Pakistan on its core interests, and Pakistan has supported China's core interests, and now Pakistan - China relations are in a phase where economic and people to people contacts have increased manifolds. We need to have an understating of this relationship and PIVOT magazine is important in this regard.'

The key objective of this magazine is to elucidate all facets of Pakistan-China relations, including various regional and global dimensions of this long-standing strategic partnership.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, said, 'PIVOT aims to fill the knowledge vacuum regarding Pakistan-China relations in rapidly changing regional and global scenario.' He thanked Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Chinese Embassy and the contributors of the magazine for supporting the magazine.



Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, stated that Pakistan-China relationship is pivot for regional cooperation. Peace, stability, connectivity and prosperity are the elements on which shared future between Pakistan and China is envisioned. He thanked Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of China for extending support to various initiatives being pursued by China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Yao Jing, Ambassador of People's Republic of China said, 'There is deep analysis of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt and Road Initiative to counter doubts being raised by detractors, and



PIVOT is playing an important role to advance it.' He appreciated efforts of the Institute's leadership and CPSC team for publishing PIVOT. He underlined that the name of magazine itself is reflective of the nature of bilateral relationship i.e., Pakistan-China relationship is PIVOT for regional peace, stability, connectivity and development. He noted that after wide-ranging cooperation in recent years, China-Pakistan strategic relationship has entered into a new stage and with time, mutual trust is deepening. Ambassador Yao emphasized that in a changing world for our shared future, we need to expand our research and analysis of bilateral relations. As many countries raise questions about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), we need to respond to them with accurate information and analysis about current state of Pakistan-China relations and CPEC. In doing this, PIVOT has an important role to play. Only through such hardwork we can build a shared future and PIVOT is doing just that.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Zahoor Ahmad congratulated the Institute and China Pakistan Study Centre for completing one year of

the publication of PIVOT magazine. He noted that PIVOT is a research-based magazine, helping in building a research-based narrative of the relationship between Pakistan and China. He underscored that presently, Pakistan-China relationship is in a phase where economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts have been enhanced through China Pakistan Economic Corridor and other initiatives. And it is very important at this stage that we build a counter-narrative and come up with publications like PIVOT. Ambassador Ahmad underlined that China has stood by Pakistan on its core interests, and Pakistan has supported China's core interests. This cooperation will continue through generations.



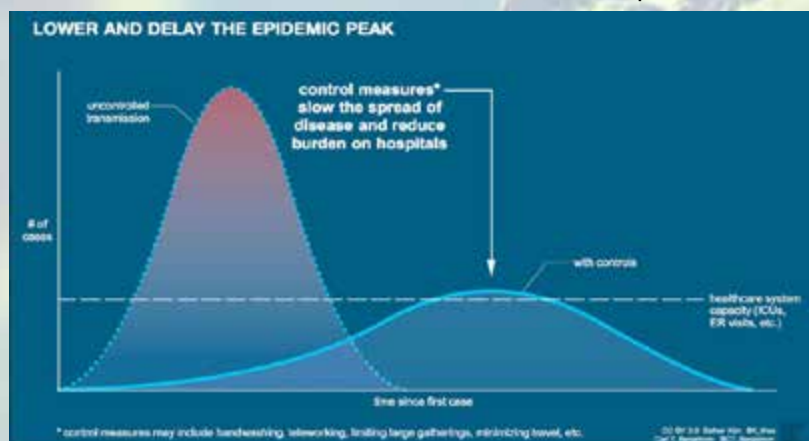
In his concluding address, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI stated, 'PIVOT was required to fill the gap in public understanding of the various dimensions of the Pakistan-China relationship.' He commended the editorial team of PIVOT for putting together a comprehensive magazine for the readers ■



By Dr. Abdul Rauf

Novel coronavirus disease started from Huanan seafood market, Wuhan in Hubei province, China in December 2019. Initially this was considered

disease was realised and reported by Dr Zhang Jixian on December 27, 2019. The disease was found contagious as similar symptoms were found in the people who were in contact with the patients.



Preventive measures can effectively reduce coronavirus infection rate that could reduce the impact on hospitals and healthcare system

Doctors dealing with such patients were given protective clothing and a separate isolated area in a hospital was designated for them.



Disinfection robots used in China

Public notice about pneumonia from unknown causes was posted on December 30, 2019. Huanan Seafood market was closed on January 1, 2020 and samples were collected for further investigation.



Social distancing is most effective against spreading coronavirus

A new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) causing this pneumonia was discovered on January 7, 2020. The first coronavirus related death was confirmed on January 11, 2020. On January 19, 2020 over 40,000 families in Wuhan joined an annual potluck banquet festival, despite the virus outbreak. China's Chunyun (spring festival travel season) started on January 10 and a lot of travelling in the next ten days took place, despite escalation in coronavirus outbreak. So the virus spread to all provinces of mainland China by January 29, 2020. World Health Organization declared it as public health emergency of international concern on January 31 and pandemic on March 11, 2020.

World Health Organization declared it as public health emergency of international concern on January 31 and pandemic on March 11, 2020

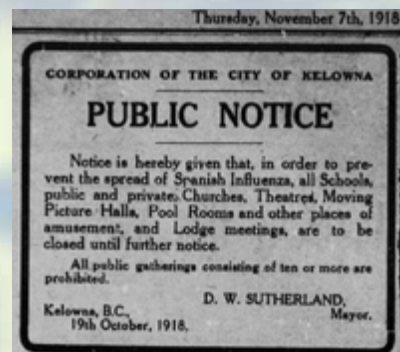
As a result, Chinese New Year celebrations were cancelled and spring holidays were extended. Public gatherings of any type including sports events, fairs,

festivals and happenings of all sorts were postponed. Body temperature screening was started, intercity / interprovincial public transport was suspended and by January 29, 2020 all cities of Hubei with around 60 million people were quarantined.

Effective measures like social distancing and quarantine were taken in all provinces of China to avoid wide spreading of this disease

Travel ban was imposed and travellers coming from affected areas were initially quarantined for fourteen days. Effective measures like social distancing and quarantine were taken in all provinces of China to avoid wide spreading of this disease.

China made unprecedented efforts to control the COVID-19. As a result of this China provided enough time to the rest of the world to formulate their response. Two dedicated hospitals in Wuhan with 2300 beds in just ten days were fabricated.



102 years old Notice for Spanish flu is still valid for COVID-19

Normally China produces 10 million face masks daily which

is half of the world production, however during the crises the production was increased to 116 million masks daily.

Subsidy to effected people including medical staff was given; import duties on goods used to prevent and control the epidemic were lowered and even removed. Disciplinary actions were taken against the officials who failed to perform their duties. To ensure transparency, epidemic data was shared with WHO and their officials and US officials were invited to China. Foreign citizens were asked not to leave Wuhan to avoid spreading of the disease which actually proved very effective.

Normally China produces 10 million face masks daily which is half of the world production, however during the crises the production was increased to 116 million masks daily

During this time, technology was effectively utilised to control coronavirus. Scientists were encouraged to do research and share manuscripts even without publishing so that knowledge was shared and response could be generated quickly.

To avoid spreading of virus by avoiding people-to-people contact and to reduce pressure on staff, robots and drones were used to disinfect large areas, to monitor body temperature,

preparing and sharing food, to deliver medicines, groceries, mail etc. People who were suspected to be suffering from the disease were asked to fill-in an online form instead of coming to hospitals and infecting others. Medical staff was communicating with the patients and if required, brought patients to a dedicated hospital in a special ambulance. Facial recognition, Artificial Intelligence and Big Data technologies were used to detect the suspected cases through infra-red cameras and monitored the infected individual with facial recognition system using modern communication means to inform concerned departments. China also fought a media war to suppress fake news propaganda and brought the real facts forward.

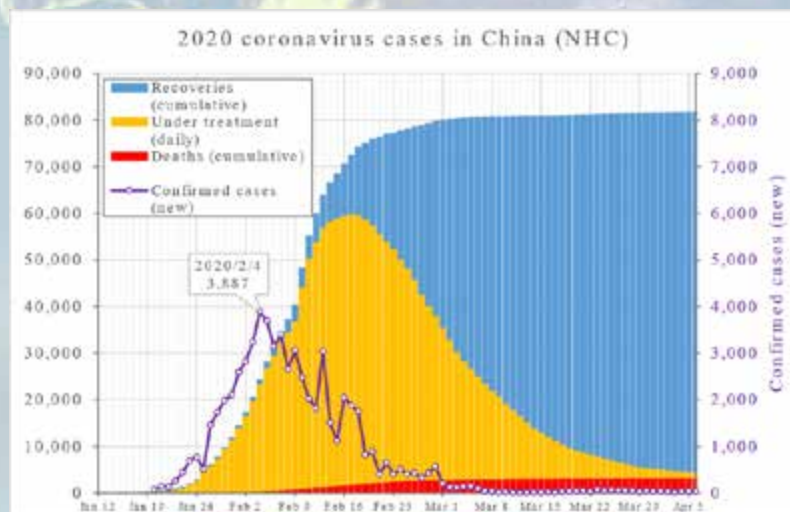
China also fought a media war to suppress fake news propaganda and brought facts forward

As we can see from the graph above confirmed new cases in China by end of March are almost negligible. Patients are recovering

and their numbers have reduced significantly. These statistics suggest that China effectively defeated the coronavirus and World Health Organization has praised the Chinese efforts.

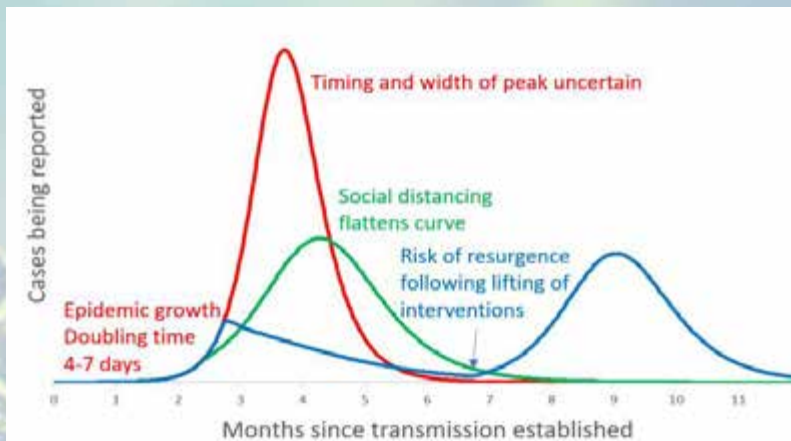
From Chinese experience we can see that social distancing is the most effective measure to control this disease as so far no medicine is found effective

Like rest of the world, coronavirus has now started effecting Pakistan too. Initially, two cases of coronavirus in Pakistan were



officially confirmed on February 26, 2020, both with a recent travel history from Iran. As of March 30, 2020, total number of confirmed cases was 1,650 with 29 recoveries and 20 deaths.

From Chinese experience we can see that social distancing is the most effective measure to control this disease as so far no medicine is found effective. The government of Pakistan has so far been successful in controlling



Social distancing controls the spreading of disease however resurgence of the disease may occur after lifting of control measures

the wide spread of this disease by adopting the same method of social distancing. Educational institutions and offices have been closed down and government has asked people to stay at home, restrict interaction with others and be in self-quarantine. Law enforcement agencies have also been employed to restrict and control people's movement.

There must be a comprehensive plan giving a way forward on how to react to mitigate the negative impacts. People on daily wages without any job in the current situation and underprivileged class needs to be looked after economically

Even developed countries with well-established medical infrastructure are suggesting the same as no health system can effectively handle the COVID-19 patients due to non-availability of

effective drug, contagious nature of the disease and large number of patients.



Social distancing and other preventive measures to control the coronavirus disease

However, separate portions in hospitals need to be established with protective clothing given to medical staff so that the staff can work safely and other patients are also protected. Medical staff in China has now relatively less pressure and can also be contacted for expert advice and help. The fallout of coronavirus will be on every sector and all people. There must be a comprehensive plan giving a

way forward and how to react to mitigate the negative impacts. People on daily wages without any job in the current situation and underprivileged class needs to be looked after economically.

Public awareness is most important which has to be ensured. Responsible use of social media is an effective way to fight misinformation and to spread real facts instead of fear and panic that may cause more harm than coronavirus itself. Unlike China that has used a lot of economic resources, our country lacks such assets, resources and

modern technology. We thus need to be more careful in taking the preventive measures, which are actually proving most effective. Social distancing, quarantines or lockdowns as the government suggests need to be followed. The most important means to fight coronavirus, which we must learn from China, is to have the nation's collective, coordinated response and self-discipline ■



The writer holds PhD in Telecom Engineering from University of Sheffield, UK and is a faculty member at NUST.

Interview of Famous Painter Li Yong

By PIVOT Team

PIVOT: What is art in your opinion?

LY: Art is a form of expression. It gives voice to a person and I believe it is a representative of human emotions. Art has different forms which include painting, sculpture, music, craft and architecture.

Painters are bound to depict its beauty. It is the responsibility of every painter to use colours and lines to translate and do justice to the beauty of nature

PIVOT: What is your concept of nature and how do you form a connection between nature and art?

LY: Nature is beautiful. It enriches human aesthetic experience. I think every human should relish and love Nature. Humans, I think, have obligation to further beautify nature. Painters are bound to depict its beauty. It is the responsibility of every painter to use colours and lines to translate and do justice to the beauty of nature. Everyone should live in peace and harmony with nature.

PIVOT: How do you think the nature and culture of art has evolved in China over the past few decades?

LY: In the past few decades, there has been no qualitative change in Chinese art, except the model of inheriting ancestors, and only small progress has been seen through innovation.

In the art of calligraphy, new progress has been witnessed which added a new style called 'Bai Qing Ti- Cypress.'

PIVOT: Do you think traditional Chinese calligraphic art should be kept the way it is or there is a need to blend it with modern art and Western expressionism?



LY: The art of calligraphy cannot be combined with that of the Western art because it is only found in Southeast Asia. Calligraphy is an independent form of art and it does not blend with western art.

PIVOT: Please tell us about the history of Chinese calligraphy and your association with it?

LY: Chinese calligraphy has a long history. It is considered a high form of art in order to educate mankind through calligraphic expression. Calligraphic art has been an important part of my life since I was five years old.

PIVOT: How do you think calligraphic art can play a role in building an image of a nation?

LY: Chinese Calligraphy, in the international art field, is a wonderful work and it has a central position in the world of art and aesthetics. Calligraphic art has strong historical and religious importance.

In the art of calligraphy, new progress has been witnessed which added a new style called 'Bai Qing Ti- Cypress'

Due to the socio-historic and cultural element calligraphic art can be used as a tool to build soft image of a nation. Chinese calligraphic works symbolize peace, harmony and sense of unity. Such works are responsible for forming a world-view of a nation.

PIVOT: Do you think there are any difficulties in introducing Chinese art beyond Asia?

LY: It should not be difficult, but, they should first familiarize themselves with Chinese language and the symbols used in Chinese writing.

PIVOT: Can art act as a bridge to bring people of China and Pakistan together?



LY: Zhong Ba You Yi Wang Sui- said 'Long Live Friendship of Pakistan and China'. I certainly believe that art can act as a bridge to bring both China and Pakistan even more closer than they already are. Art and media both can enhance people to people contact. Joint film productions, joint art exhibitions/displays and cultural caravans would bring the people of both nations in a close contact.

Due to the socio-historic and cultural element calligraphic art can be used as a tool to build soft image of a nation. Chinese calligraphic works symbolize peace, harmony and sense of unity

PIVOT: How important are both Western and Eastern artistic tradition to your paintings?

LY: Western and eastern traditions are equally important in their respective cultures and domains. It should not be compared and contrasted as two of them are entirely polarised and different and there is no competition as such.



My work is more focused on Chinese culture and traditions. But I admire and appreciate Western art too. Art should be celebrated no matter when or where it is created.

It would not be wrong to say that in art, calligraphic art will always be placed in the highest order

PIVOT:

What is your inspiration and objective behind the art you produce?



LY: Nature inspires me; it is the driving force. The beauty, mysteriousness and the ever-giving attribute and generosity which we get from the nature is reflected into my works.

Through my work I try to pay homage to nature and through my brush and ink I try to preserve beauty and magnificence of nature onto my canvas. I have experimented a lot and worked on various mediums and chosen different forms and themes of art.

PIVOT:

What is the future of calligraphy art in China and beyond?

LY: Calligraphic art is a never ending and never dying discipline, may it be religious



calligraphy or historical/social calligraphy. This particular form of art will always be admired and celebrated. People from different countries learn Chinese calligraphy. So it would not be wrong to say that in art, calligraphic art will always be placed in the highest order ■



COVID-19

A Test of World Leaders

By Ahsan Illahi

Wuhan was locked down on January 23, 2020, while in the last week of December, 2019, cluster of cases with a mysterious pneumonia were reported. By December 31, 2019, Chinese health officials reported emergence of a novel disease to World Health Organization. News of lifting of lockdown of Wuhan in Hubei province started circulating in the last week of March. This was not only a sign of relief for China but it is a ray of hope for all the countries where it is still spreading. Especially the European countries of Italy,

Spain and France besides UK where it is not under control and even the United States (US) is unable to have effective control with all abundant resources at its disposal. US is still undertaking research to produce a vaccine to fight and eliminate the COVID-19 permanently.

This is the first time in the living memory of world history that any pandemic has encircled the entire world

Coronavirus disease was first recognized in China in December, 2019 but was declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 when it started spreading across continents on a large scale. Now, it has reached to more than 200 countries. It is a unique and horrid occurrence in the history of mankind. Probably this is the first time in the living memory of world history that any pandemic has encircled the entire world.

Due to availability of modern communication gadgets it has taken social media by storm and every culture and religion is chalking out methods and

strategies to find out the cure of this viral pneumonia. This is the first time in the history of the world that Mosques, Synagogues and Churches are being closed to contain the spread. Saudi Arabia still remains undecided about Hajj in 2020.

Meanwhile, world is coming together and everyone is feeling the pain of others, death in Italy has left the international community in a state of horror and panic. After such tragedies, common men are coming close to each other but world leaders are still apart on the issue. US President is not ready to ease or lift the sanctions on Iran despite spread of disease which is hampering the capability of the country to effectively control the disease. USA is not ready to lift the sanctions on Iran even temporarily which speaks very low about the US present leadership.

The way Chinese President Xi Jinping has led his nation against this battle against COVID-19, it has started raising new questions about the systems governing the world. Now governments and people are talking about the Chinese way of handling the crises.

Although it is customary not to talk against the democratic system but many democratic countries are still in the process of debating the issue and requesting passing of different bills to counter the Corona threat but China has done it. World leaders have disappointed their people by not taking the appropriate measures to stop this menace.

Every passing day, death toll rises because of COVID-19 and more people are catching the virus which is making this challenge for the world even more difficult and complex.

Although few leaders have themselves gone to quarantines due to detection of disease and few realized they have met Corona positive people during their official interactions which compelled them to isolate from public engagements.

This is the first time in the history of the world that Mosques, Synagogues and Churches are being closed to contain the spread. Saudi Arabia still remains undecided about Hajj in 2020

Some of the political officials are feeling themselves to be in a challenging situation due to economic shutdown. Without doubt the world has never seen such form of catastrophe previously, therefore, text book solutions are not applicable or available. Time is of the essence in this fight. Crisis brings out natural leadership and when crisis is of such magnitude it invites wise leaderships.

The way Chinese President Xi Jinping has led his nation against this battle against COVID-19, it has started raising new questions about the systems governing the world. Now governments and people are talking about the Chinese way of handling the crises

President Xi Jinping has emerged as the strongest leader on the world arena. He has brought his country out of this disaster, now there is a need that other world leaders must follow him and bring their countries out of this catastrophe because human lives weigh much more than the loss to our economies. COVID-19 has challenged all the systems and leaders of world and has taken the shape of an unbeatable pandemic. Will the world leaders respond to the crisis and rise above their national interest to save the humanity not from disease only but from economic debacle as well? I rest my case ■



The writer is an entrepreneur and has interest in futures and foresight.



Impact assessment of COVID-19 on Tax Revenues of Pakistan

By Ahsan Kaleem Khan

The global economy has experienced a knee jerk due to the crippling COVID-19 pandemic which has affected more than 160 countries. Without any doubt, COVID-19 is the most challenging situation after World War II and far more severe than the Great Depression of 1930s. Currently, the entire economic structure has come to a standstill. USA is effectively in a recession where more than 6.6 million workers signed up for unemployment benefits and a USD 2 trillion Corona-virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) stimulus is approved by the Congress; China has an economic seizure since the virus outbreak took place in December, 2019 in

Wuhan. Europe is battling hard for survival and Asia is putting up a reasonable fight against the pandemic. The spillover effects of the economic crisis as a result of the pandemic have impacted the economy of Pakistan as well. Subsequently, the tax revenues are anticipated to be impacted adversely.

As the pandemic is ongoing, the actual impact of it on tax revenues cannot be approximated, however different scenarios can be presented to understand the impact of COVID-19 on tax revenues in Pakistan in the short and medium term.

In the near term, a decline in government revenues and economic growth for at least

a quarter is expected as the coronavirus hits economic activity.

The spillover effects of the economic crisis as a result of the pandemic have impacted the economy of Pakistan as well. Subsequently, the tax revenues are anticipated to be impacted adversely

It is expected that Pakistan will most likely lower its tax revenue targets for FY2020-2021. The already revised tax revenue target of PKR 4.8 trillion for FY2019-2020 looks difficult to achieve.

In the current scenario, there will be a likely contraction in imports and contracts due to overall decrease in aggregate demand in manufacturing and services sector due to the pandemic

The impact of COVID-19 crisis will be different than the one during the financial crisis of 2008, as even at that time FBR showed exceptional upward growth in revenues year-on-year basis. However, now due to the lockdowns in major economic centers of the country, and large scale 'social distancing', it will reduce consumer spending and worker's wages and, in turn, cause sales and income tax revenues to plummet. It will have a significant impact on government coffers, business profits and the underlying backbone of the country's infrastructure.

Major taxes in Pakistan are i) Direct Taxes, ii) Sales Tax, iii) Federal Excise and iv) Customs Duty. Significant portion of revenue comes from Direct and Sales tax where as the other two taxes are also important contributors to the overall receipts.

Direct taxes contribute approximately 38% to FBR revenues in which withholding tax approximately generates 67% of revenues and out of which 80% of it comes from withholding deductions for contracts, imports, salaries, bank interest, electricity bills, export, cash withdrawals and telephone. In the current scenario, there will be a likely contraction in imports and contracts due to overall decrease in aggregate demand in manufacturing and services sector due to the pandemic. Similarly, due to reduced commercial activity, revenue from electricity bills will see a negative trend as well. In near future, there are expected delays in export realizations as economies of major trade partners of Pakistan have been crippled by the corona pandemic. This will cause a dip in withholding tax collections. Advance tax / payments with returns being another major component of direct taxes will need to be adjusted due to the performance of economy in the coming quarter which is expected to be lackluster due to the prevailing global economic slowdown which is triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak. Revenue proceeds from this component are likely to be depressed.

Revenues from FED may remain steady and are expected to be stable. The likely downward trend in the trade activity of Pakistan will be reversed once COVID-19 is curbed

Sales taxes contribute approximately 38% to FBR revenues and its major components are i) Domestic Sales tax (~45% share) and ii) Imports Sales tax (~55% share). The collection of domestic sales tax is concentrated in few commodities. The major commodities are petroleum products (38%), electrical energy, withholding agents, sugar, cigarettes, cement, food products, aerated water/ beverage, iron and steel products and motor cars, which shared around 70 % of domestic sales tax revenue.

Now is the time when concrete steps should be taken to ensure fair distribution of the tax burden among various sectors of the economy and everyone is contributing in these testing times which lay ahead for the country

The decrease in demand for POL products due to lockdown and subsequent decrease in its imports will impact both domestic and import sales tax (which is 60% from POL products) revenues. Big shortfall is expected in the next quarter revenues if the current consumption and import trend continues for POL products. Additionally, demand for machinery import, iron and steel consumption, cement and other allied products will see a dip in the coming quarter and revenue losses are expected in these

areas. The COVID-19 lockdowns have had a negative impact so far on the country. Overall, a significant decrease is expected in sales tax revenues.

The COVID-19 lockdowns have had a negative impact so far on the country. Overall, a significant decrease is expected in sales tax revenues

Custom duties and Federal Excise has a cumulative contribution of approximately 24% to FBR revenues. Customs duties collections are likely to take a big hit due to decrease in imports for the upcoming quarter. Significant contributors to customs duties are POL products, machinery, iron and steel and vehicles (non-railways). Revenues from FED may remain steady and are expected to be stable. The likely downward trend in the trade activity of Pakistan will be reversed once COVID-19 is curbed.

Now is the time when concrete steps should be taken to ensure fair distribution of the tax burden among various sectors of the economy and everyone is contributing in these testing times which lay ahead for the country. Some of the recommended steps are:

- Documentation of economy to curb prevalent black economy
- Reduce corporate rates and encourage voluntary compliance
- Broadening the tax bases: The overall services sector, including wholesale, and retail trade, as well as agriculture are potential candidates which will enable the government to reduce marginal tax rates which will help further stimulate investment and production and will promote voluntary tax compliance.
- It will also ensure fair widening of the tax base by reducing exemptions (such as taxing the agriculture sector), incentives and concessions
- Shifting the incidence of tax burden from production to consumption
- Transfer of major services sectors to FBR from poorly

performing provincial authorities for a grace period to allow enhanced revenue collection, hence shifting of burden from manufacturing and taxing all value additions including services.

All things considered, FBR can expect a revenue shortfall of PKR 350-400 billion against revised revenue target of PKR 4.8 trillion for FY2019-2020. Further, if the current pandemic situation remains stagnant and continues for another six months or so, irrespective of measures by FBR, the projected revenue collection for FY2020-2021 may be between PKR 5.0-5.3 trillion due to acute economic challenges both domestically and globally.

In best case, where Pakistan is able to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic soon, the tax revenues will likely be stabilized FY 2020-2021 and economic activity will pick up again

Hence, it is important that Pakistan implements revenue protecting and enhancing measures proactively. In best case, where Pakistan is able to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic soon, the tax revenues will likely stabilize for FY 2020-2021 and economic activity will pick up again ■



The writer is a civil servant and a former investment banker.

Round-table: Islamic-Chinese Cultural Dialogue in Contemporary Times

By Uroosa Khan



China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a roundtable with Dr. Haiyun Ma, Associate Professor of History at the Frostburg State University, Maryland at its premises today. The agenda for the session was to discuss Islamic-Chinese cultural dialogue in contemporary times. Dr. Nadeem Omer Tarar, Executive Director at the Center for Culture and Development, Islamabad also spoke at the occasion. Experts from academia, think tanks and media attended the roundtable.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, welcomed the speakers and participants. He highlighted the need to bridge the cultural gap between Pakistan and China through intellectual discussions and generation of new ideas.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that the people in Pakistan are deeply attached to Islam and Islamic values. The people-to-people contact between Pakistan and China are only just beginning to open up and it is important to work upon them. He added that there are ample opportunities for bringing together Pakistan and China outside of the economic and security realms, and these must be pursued with perseverance and diligence.

Dr. Haiyun Ma shared his views on culture from geographical and historical perspective. He posited that Pakistan has always been at a crossroad, and therefore it has struggled to develop its cultural identity. In reference to Islamophobia, he said that unfortunately there is this notion that fundamentalist elements exist in Pakistan which smear the country's image in China. Dr. Haiyun Ma suggested that cultural communication needs to be strengthened in order

to eliminate misconceptions and bridge people-to-people contact between Pakistan and China. He also emphasized the need for Pakistan to strengthen its relations with other East Asian countries as well.

During his presentation, Dr. Nadeem Omer Tarar said that intercultural dialogue is the only way to eliminate misconceptions. He added that religion has an important role in shaping human societies, and so cannot be ignored. He highlighted the deep historical affinities between Islamic and Chinese societies. He said that China and the Islamic world have over 1400 years of cultural contact starting from around the 7th century. Dr. Tarar said that despite obvious religious differences, the value systems of Chinese and Muslim society resonates with similar ideals and concerns, such as respect for tradition, family honor and deference for women and elderly. He also talked about how Pakistan and Buddhism share a common history and noted that it was high time Pakistan focused on building and promoting its culture, and think of it as a strategic asset.

During the interactive session, topics such as Islamophobia and cross-border linkages were discussed. The participants shared their personal opinions on Pakistani culture and role of Islam in the society. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry stated that Pakistan was not just a frontier of Islamic empires, but home to ancient civilizations like Indus and Gandhara as well. He added that Pakistan is a place where multiculturalism flourishes, which is a matter of great pride for the people of this country.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, stated that Islam is a living religion in China. He said that dialogue is very important in bringing understanding and harmony between people hailing from different civilizations ■



COVID-19

The Rise of an Alternative Global Governance System

By Professor Dr. Muhammad Khan

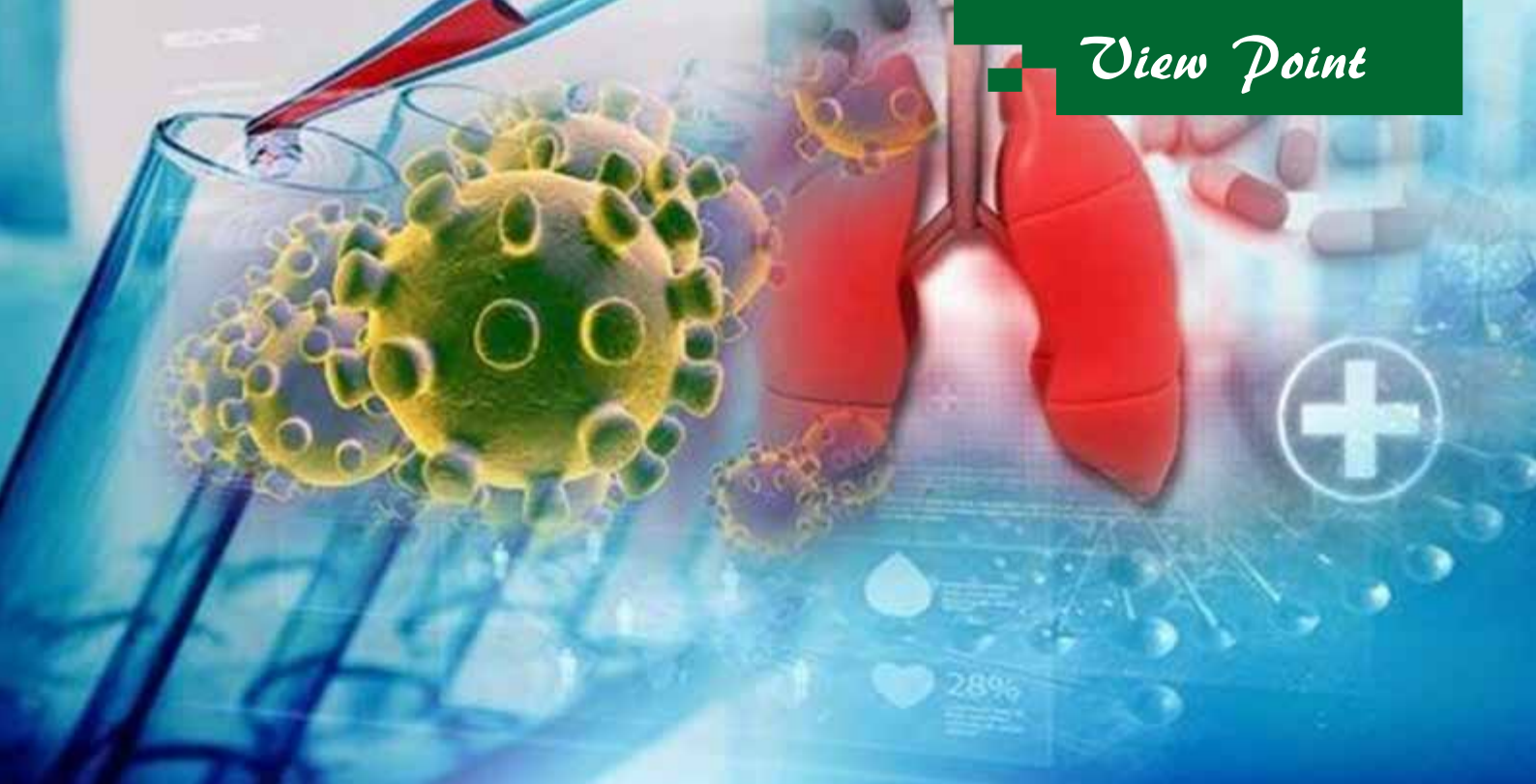
At the beginning of the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus-19 in Wuhan city of China in December 2019, very less was known about this deadly virus and the epidemic which took the shape of a pandemic. Soon, the epidemic started expanding, initially creating an atmosphere of fear in China and later on spreading venomous scare all over the globe. By end of March-2020, the pandemic had spread over to 193 countries with thousands of deaths and millions declared as Corona-Positive or suspected patients. Through a gigantic national mobilization and devoted efforts, China was able to primarily contain the epidemic to Wuhan city and gradually condensed its impact over the wider population within that city.

After an initial panic and criticism, Chinese Government handled the entire crisis with utmost patience, sagacity and as per the new and innovative medical techniques

In the subsequent phase, Wuhan was declared cleared-off the COVID-19 and open for routine businesses and routine public activities. After the mopping-up exercise in Wuhan, the city stands cleared-off the coronavirus pandemic as it was before the outbreak. All the temporarily built hospitals established for the treatments of COVID-19 patients have been rolled back and temporary quarantine homes and centres

have also been minimized. After an initial panic and criticism, Chinese government handled the entire crisis with utmost patience, sagacity and as per the new and innovative medical techniques.

All credit goes to Chinese governance system through which this Asian nation of 1.3 billion populations overcame the deadly Coronavirus (COVID-19). In a short span of time, China was able to control it with a lot of professionalism and without letting its spreading out to other cities. Indeed, China was able to contain COVID-19 in an early time frame, later managed its further spread and finally reduced its impact to minimal level through innovative measures and available medication. An in-depth analysis of this controlling mechanism of COVID-19 proves



that, Chinese governance system played a pivotal role in reducing and finally winding-up its impact.

Whatever were the veiled causes for the outbreak and spread of coronavirus, United States along with some of the western partners were found accusing China for this infectious disease. Seeing the spread of COVID-19 and number of casualties due to this virus in Europe and United States, one would find striking difference how it was handled by western countries in comparison to China. The centuries old highly defined and set procedures of Europe and America failed to even contain the spread of this infectious virus which has killed thousands and affected millions in just ten weeks' time.

A decade ago nobody could have imagined that Western countries especially US will be found helpless and would be in a tight spot to control such a pandemic in the presence of all the high quality modern hospitals systems, highly qualified doctors and with a highly informed society. At this trying time, the learned European and American

societies have failed to cope with the challenge in an efficient manner.

Without holding back even a single experience and expertise, Chinese President shared experiences of his country about 'prevention, containment, and treatment' against deadly coronavirus

In direct comparison with Europe and America, no-one expected an accredited class and modern hospital facilities in China which ultimately demonstrated extremely well to cope with the horrifying challenge which has rattled the whole world. Assessing the governance system of China with that of America and its European allies in dealing with COVID-19, other natural calamities and particularly the global climate change, the leading hypothesis is that, 'This Trans-Atlantic alliance has lost the rationality of global governance which clearly echoes losing the global leadership too.'

Criticizing China for the out-break

of this virus and using offensive phrases like 'China Virus' President Trump had to give up and ask for help from China. He spoke to his Chinese counter-part President Xi Jinping to discuss the ways and means to counter the spread of COVID-19 in United States and Europe. By end of March 2020, the number of COVID-19 affected people in US surpassed Chinese figures. Besides, the deadly virus has engulfed most of the European nations, among which Italy and Spain are among the most hard-hit countries.

President Xi Jinping has positively responded to the call of President Trump, promising Beijing's help to all affected countries and a cooperative mechanism to deal with this pandemic, which has taken the shape of a global killing machine. President Trump termed the telephonic conversation 'very good'. He said that, 'Just finished a very good conversation with President Xi of China, discussed in great detail the Coronavirus that is ravaging large parts of our Planet.' On his part, President Xi shared information about COVID-19 in an open, transparent, and responsible manner. Without holding back even a single experience and expertise,

Chinese President shared experiences of his country about 'prevention, containment, and treatment' against deadly coronavirus.

China assured participants of G-20 countries for its full cooperation and dedication to fight against COVID-19. G-20 countries had a video conference on March 26, 2020 and discussed the impacts of world-wide spread of coronavirus. The conference participants decided to inject over US\$5 trillion into the global economy, to rebuff the financial, economic and social impacts of COVID-19. However, the international stock markets have badly suffered in the wake of this pandemic. Chinese stock markets and economic system however remained unhampered even during the peak days of this pandemic.

Across the Atlantic, one could see a fractured system of governance everywhere. Neither could European states succour each other nor United States was able to support its European allies. An incoherent and disjointed effort at the level of inter-state and between the allies further created chaotic situation in Europe and undermined a united fight against the pandemic. Being the sole super power, United States was found accusing its European partners for the spread of the COVID-19 in US, which displeased Europeans.

While the Trans-Atlantic partners remained divided over a common fight against this pandemic, China extended its complete help to Europe. The COVID-19 medical experts of China had a video conferencing with their European counterparts

under the '17+1' (Central and Eastern European countries plus China) mechanism.' The Chinese government and its various organizations provided necessary medical and other assistance to European countries for fighting against this pandemic. On this occasion, the Chinese Ambassador to the EU, Mr Zhang Ming said that, 'the pandemic is a mirror reflecting China-EU relations which are driven by cooperation-and by combating common challenges together, the two sides can further consolidate their relationship.'

Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping has handled this challenge with a lot of magnanimity and foresight. The governance system Chinese leadership has demonstrated while handling the COVID-19 is the true manifestation of what President Xi Jinping had earlier envisioned

Besides, President Trump felt highly obliged after talking to President Xi Jinping in the outbreak of COVID-19 in United States. Notwithstanding the embarrassments and blames levelled by Washington, Beijing showed optimism and cooperative approach towards a joint venture against COVID-19, as a global challenge. The positive gestures, China has demonstrated towards Europe, US and rest of the world, after the global outbreak of coronavirus

has largely enhanced the status of China with a new and positive perception about Beijing.

Indeed, the world has started looking towards China not only for countering the COVID-19 but also for a greater partnership and cooperation in the field of trade, commerce, economic collaboration and larger aspects of human security. This is an indirect adequacy of Chinese role towards global governance. The declining sign of global governance from Trans-Atlantic partners, as witnessed during the on-going COVID-19 crisis has inevitably paved the way for an alternative global governance system which calls for an alternative international leadership.

Under the prevailing global environment, China has demonstrated highest responsibility in countering the challenges posed by COVID-19. Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping has handled this challenge with a lot of magnanimity and foresight. The governance system Chinese leadership has demonstrated while handling the COVID-19 is the true manifestation of what President Xi Jinping had earlier envisioned, 'lead the reform of the global governance system' which is the set of international rules, institutions, and enforcement mechanisms the global community uses to solve common problems.' Indeed, COVID-19 has exposed the shortcomings of the contemporary global governance system with a clear indication toward rise of an alternative global governance system ■



The writer is a Professor of International Relations at International Islamic University, Islamabad.

Thank you CPAPD

Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) a partner organization of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad has shared documents titled 'Diagnosis and Treatment Protocol for Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia (Released by National Health Commission & State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine on March 3, 2020)' and 'Protocol on Prevention and Control of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia (National Health Commission on March 7, 2020).' We thank CPAPD for sharing important information which has been widely disseminated on Institute's network.

Chief Editor



COVID-19

How China Won

By Muhammad Nauman Hafeez Khan

Today, the world has transformed into a global village. Globalization in the present century has become the buzzword to define human advancement in the new era. We are living with common opportunities and common threats. People are enjoying the perks of the globalization in this present century. Borders are either porous or completely meaningless. The last decade saw airlines registering record earnings on foreign routes. International transportation, free-trade markets and people to people contact grew exponentially. Meanwhile, the global integration has become equally threatening. In 2008, the world faced a challenge in shape of an economic depression. It started when a US based investment

giant - Lehman Brothers, collapsed, sending its ripple effects across the globe. However, with the help of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, countries around the world were responded to the economic crisis and rebounded within next few years. The 2008 economic depression was the first challenge of its kind that the globalized world faced and fought collectively.

Fast forwarding to December 2019, Wuhan, the capital city of the Central China's Hubei province was operating as the commercial hub of the province. With a population of 11.08 million, Wuhan had a busy lifestyle, local markets were integrated showing the cultural richness of China. In late December, cases of pneumonia type illness were received in the

Wuhan city. By first week of January, 2020, the illness became an epidemic in the Wuhan city. The illness had all its similarities with the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) caused by the coronavirus (CoV). But this new disease resisted all the available treatments used against the existing SARS-CoV disease. The scientists named this new disease the novel coronavirus (nCoV) or Coronavirus Disease 2019, now commonly named as COVID-19.

The epidemic in Wuhan was not going to limit itself to the boundaries of the Hubei province. Within weeks, the epidemic crossed the boundaries of China and cases of COVID-19 started surfacing around the world. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19

a pandemic and initiated a global campaign to fight the virus. In the first week of April, 2020, the COVID-19 infected 1,133,455 people with 60,381 deaths in more than 190 countries worldwide. The mortality rate of the COVID-19 is 3-4% with higher risk rate in elder population.

What has caused such a rapid spread of disease worldwide? The answer is in the first part of this article - Globalization! China is the second largest economy of the world, leading just behind the USA. It has the largest trade markets, with trade surpassing US\$ 4.6 trillions, making China the epicentre of the global trade. In 2018, 141 million people visited China from all over the world. This global integration increased the vulnerability of the world to an epidemic spreading in one of the busiest provinces of China. The pandemic at its initial stage was difficult to limit for two primary reasons. First, the world was not prepared to fight a non-conventional biological enemy, as military might and modern weaponry cannot counter such microscopic threats. Second, the COVID-19 mutated from animals to humans and its progression from humans to humans was faster than the other SARS-CoVs. A newly mutated virus needs new vaccinations and COVID-19 has no such vaccines available at the moment.

In wake of the Coronavirus crisis, China showed unprecedented strength and unity to counter the looming threat. In a short period of 4 months, China declared itself pandemic free. The key to success in fighting off the coronavirus in such a short period of time was China's early realization of the exponential increase in the pandemic. To flatten the curve of increasing coronavirus cases, China

imposed strict regulations on its citizens by locking down cities across China. For world, this response was aggressive and extreme. But for China, complete lockdown was the only available option. The lockdown created a breathing space for Chinese health officials to flatten the exponential growth of the COVID-19 cases.

Only national resolve, national character and unity of the masses are the tools to engage and wipe out the pandemic from the earth. China has manifested all these characteristics in its quick recovery from the hidden enemy

How people of China responded to the call of their government is also unprecedented. They traded their freedom against the greater good of the nation. All factories, business and public transport were closed. People accepted the new terms and stayed indoors. By acting upon the government's directives, the people of China avoided a complete catastrophe similar to one witnessed during the Spanish Flu that resulted into 50 million deaths (1918-1920). As a result, the COVID-19 spread in China is limited to approximately 81,000 cases and 3,000 deaths.

Outside China, the situation is entirely different. Italy and the USA have turned to be the epicentres

of the Coronavirus pandemic. By the end of March 2020, the USA recorded approximately 130,000 cases with 2,300 casualties while Italy has recorded highest mortality rate with 10,000 deaths. But what has led these two countries to succumb to the pandemic? The answer is obvious, yet important to understand. The delayed response of Italy and the USA to lockdown their cities and contain people inside their homes worsened the situation. On the other hand, while Chinese citizens responded to the call of their government, the response of the Italian public was otherwise. The incubation period of 14 days is extremely critical in defining the future trajectory of the COVID-19 spread. Both the USA and Italy failed to take decisive decisions in the early phase of the pandemic spread. Resultantly, the exponential growth of the cases became difficult to control by the government and health authorities.

Today, in wake of the coronavirus pandemic, politics, territorial boundaries, world orders and international systems are rendered ineffective. Only national resolve, national character and unity of the masses are the tools to engage and wipe out the pandemic from the earth. China has manifested all these characteristics in its quick recovery from the hidden enemy. China successfully fought the challenges offered by the globalized world in a race against time to overcome the pandemic. For the world, there are many great lessons to learn from China, not only to sanitise the pandemic, but also to develop a permanent sustainability in the globalized world ■



The writer is an Environmental Consultant.

Corona Positive

By Mizna Nasir

The first sun of the year 2020 dawned amid celebrations and since then, the world has seen a plethora of events that have rattled the core of the worldly sphere. Be it a menace of a war or blazing fires, nothing could top the jolt given by a minuscule virus. Hitting the global giant first, the COVID-19 cases emerged from Wuhan, China and soon trespassed into other countries. Within a span of less than 4 months the unwelcomed virus had made its way into 199 countries and 2 of the international conveyances. The outbreak of the Coronavirus led to a domino effect. As the apocalypse of the virus broke out, the world was shadowed by frenzy and panic. China became the front-liner in coping with the newly mutated strand of Coronavirus. From the relentless efforts of the paramedics,

to setting up well-equipped hospitals within days and to the iron fist with which the Chinese government dealt with the crisis, China has been successful in bringing Wuhan back to life after weeks of standstill since January 2020.

China has yet again taught the world that it has all the capabilities to spin the wheel for collective growth and development around the globe, as emphasized in her foreign policy

Though, the virus has not been eradicated completely from China, yet the essential measures taken by the mammoth power caused the corona cases

to plummet to a low. Aggressive 'social distancing', closure of businesses, shutting down of schools and offices and curbing local and international travel slowed down the virus which was clearly on a warpath. The question arises, that will the other countries which have now become the epicenter of the virus be able to take measures as stringent as those taken by China?

The Chinese model to curtail the domino impact of COVID-19 has given the third world countries and other majorly hit states a lead to look for a cure. Breaking the chain is the tactic that China initiated. Tracing back to 'Patient Zero' was made a priority by the Chinese government. Timely isolation of the people who had come in contact with the first patient to contract the disease capped the exponential growth of the virus which was likely to create havoc in the country to

a larger extent. Thus, although the world has been struck by a calamity, the direction to contain the pandemic has been paved by the first host of the unwelcomed virus itself.

Amid all the chaos and frenzy caused by the virus, we cannot help ignore the good that came along. China has yet again taught the world that it has all the capabilities to spin the wheel for collective growth and development around the globe, as emphasized in her foreign policy. Despite having to battle with the unseen enemy within its boundary, the country did not shy away to send help to Italy and other virus stricken countries, including Pakistan. Sending batches of testing kits, face masks and safety equipment as well as expertise in the form of their paramedics, China has the back of its allies and other COVID-19 hit countries.

Moreover, as people have been confined to their homes due to the virus scare, the world has been nursing its wounds. The resulting closure of industries and fall in vehicle traffic has resulted in a sustained drop in noxious nitrogen dioxide, as reported by The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The carbon emissions have also fallen by 25% according to an estimate by CarbonBrief. This dramatic drop has led to a decline in air pollution with the air quality index being at its best in years. This change has not only been observed in China but also Hong Kong and various other countries. As the earth heals itself amid the Coronavirus outbreak, one shall not ignore the return of swans and dolphins in the Italy waterworks as well as the end of its murky water which has been substituted by crystal blue.

One may not ignore the Corona Positives being felt in the air within Pakistan. Karachi, especially, has jumped to the 21st spot for the World Air Quality Index. The littered beaches are now as clean as ever, after being stranded by tourists who are locked down in order to curtail the spread of the deadly, novel Coronavirus. Thus, amid the havoc wreaked by the invisible enemy, it should not be overlooked that the virus has helped clear the skies, probably postponing the menace of the other major enemy which the Pre- COVID-19 world had to deal with: climate change. The question arises that, did Mother Earth really press the reset button?

Since its emergence in Wuhan, China has not only taken the lead to eradicate this amorphous monstrosity from China but has also been playing the role of a global doctor to this global ailment

As the Corona Virus ensured that people stay at home, many firms and offices have asked their employees to work from homes. Schools have now been shifted to digital classrooms and even markets have found new hubs in internet connectivity and even health care has been found to be in dire need of digitalization. The likes of China have already emerged as digital powers, yet the COVID-19 has pushed third world countries like Pakistan to become a part of digitalization. Since the inception of the PTI government, Prime Minister Imran Khan has highlighted

initiatives such as Digital Pakistan, yet today, the crisis has automated the system. This is where the digital cores are helping the peripheries to learn and develop systems to battle with the COVID-19 from the safety of self-isolation and quarantines. Mainly China and South Korea have been models for emerging states like Pakistan and this upsurge in digital connectivity can be considered as a gift of the Coronavirus outbreak.

With more than 876,651 confirmed cases of coronavirus in the world, the pandemic has sheathed the world in its fear and panic. The lack of Corona Cure and the struggle to produce its vaccine has caused the globe to lay its eyes upon the directives of World Health Organization. The uncertainty of the capabilities of the virus and its eagerness to mutate has emanated a bleak vibe that has spread like this contagion around the world. In these trying times, it is of utmost importance that we look at the silver lining of this cloud of disease and loss. Since its emergence in Wuhan, China has not only taken the lead to eradicate this amorphous monstrosity from China but has also been playing the role of a global doctor to this global ailment. Yet, as the virus has hit the pause button to the daily activities, the earth is taking a breather. With collective help and support, this virus will become history, yet what is important is to learn from the crisis and emerge stronger than before. The post pandemic situation remains uncertain, but if we vow to be Corona Positive starting today, we can already jot down the 'things to do' in our priority list after the virus meets its fateful end ■



The writer, an Electrical Engineer is a freelance contributor.

LIFE OF A PAKISTANI LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR IN CHINA

By Tayyaba Sadaf

Success is a journey; it is not just a single destination. Since, destination signifies the end of journey where as success is a never ending upward spiral in the development of nations.



I have worked in China for three years as a Foreign Expert on English Language. Afterwards, I co-founded a training school and set up a trading company in Beijing. Both of these ventures have enabled me to have a deeper and closer look at the nation's disposition.

Social psychology of Chinese is to 'work hard and play harder'

Living in China and working with Chinese expanded my horizons. Achievements just became a pathway for me to go an extra mile; all these attainments turned into stepping stones to explore new horizons.

What inspires me the most is their never-ending enthusiasm. Upon my asking 'ni lei bu lei- are you tired', they always respond me like: 'wo bu lei- nope, I'm not tired'. Such is the spirit of the Sino children

In shaping a nation and its individuals, culture is and has always been a key factor. Chinese culture and work ethics could be a role model for any progressing country. In spite of the fact that China's GDP curve is on rise, the country's inhabitants have been persistently toiling hard to make their motherland super in all facets of life. From top to bottom, from government to corporate sectors, from institutes to individuals, a unique coordination is seen everywhere. Jobs, career, hobbies, self care, community, friends and businesses all are interconnected to create a balanced life.

Social psychology of Chinese is to 'work hard and play harder'.

Work always comes first for them no matter what. They meditate in terms of 'work'. It is the goddess which is being worshipped every moment, every hour. Everyone is open to help and motivate



one's family, friends or colleagues; be it at homes, offices or playgrounds. Group work is manifested by Chinese nation all the time. I have had umpteen observations and experiences at their schools, universities and business halls. Their problem solving techniques and teamwork helps them to achieve everything with flying colours. I would describe their team work behaviour' by Ken Blanchard's famous quote, 'None of us is as smart as all of us.' Talking about my school, Chinese children come to the school on weekends, in afternoons and even in evenings of weekdays.

Success is an incantation which inspires people around us

Basically, my school is a training school, therefore students join us to get extra training in multiple disciplines. We have language classes, painting, pottery, mathematics and classes of various others subjects. I always notice how ambitious they are and they never get bored of learning new things. After spending a long day at their public schools when they attend classes at our school, they feel energized and fresh.

What inspires me the most is their never-ending enthusiasm. Upon my asking 'ni lei bu lei- are you tired', they always respond to me like: 'Wo bu lei- nope, I'm not tired'. Such is the spirit of the Sino children.



There is a lot more to say and I can keep going on but to sum it up I would just say that we have to keep treading upon the paths of our life. The show must go on and we need to play our part sincerely by working hard. We are on a never ending journey towards success. Success is an incantation which inspires people around us. Learning from each other; inspiring each other and by helping each other we could make Pakistan a great nation as it once used to be. We should live and let others live too and keep struggling to achieve self-actualization which is the greatest goal of all ■



The writer is Associate Editor of PIVOT magazine.

Battling COVID-19 Through Artificial Intelligence

By Muhammad Armughan Tufail

Ever since we heard about Corona virus (COVID-19) outbreak in Wuhan in December 2019, it has become a global challenge. Thousands of people have died across the globe, millions have become infected, economies of developed as well as developing countries have derailed, and many cities across the globe have been completely locked down. Initially, China from where this novel virus originated was hit severely. By utilizing all its resources and latest technology, China tried to mitigate the spread of virus to other countries. Interestingly, during the Foshan SARS outbreak (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in December 2002, it took scientists more than a year to accurately decode the genome of SARS virus but thanks to Chinese technological advancements, the genome of corona virus was decoded in less than a month. The battle for defeating corona virus continues and China is utilizing many latest technologies in fighting this deadly virus.

Robots played a key role in limiting the spread of COVID-19 virus from Wuhan city. Chinese authorities immediately used robots to spray disinfectants in Wuhan city thus limiting the exposure of virus to the people and surrounding areas.



Photo courtesy: Getty Images

In Hangzhou city of China, more efficient and large-size robots are being used. These robots are tank shaped and have chains for movement instead of wheels, so they can easily climb the stairs of buildings and disinfect buildings in less time. They are also used to spray disinfectants in the city.



Photo courtesy: Reuters

Also in Hangzhou city, China, a small robot Peanut was deployed by city government to supply food to 300 Chinese nationals who arrived by air from Singapore to China and were tested positive for corona virus and were placed in quarantine in a local hotel at Hangzhou.



Photo courtesy: Business Insider



In Shanghai city government has used specially designed hand sanitizer-dispensing robot to prevent the spreading of COVID-19. Similarly, in Chinese city of Shenyang, temperature monitor robots have been used to stop spreading of the deadly virus.

Interestingly during the Foshan SARS outbreak (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in December 2002, it took scientists more than a year to accurately decode the genome of SARS virus but thanks to Chinese technological advancements, the genome of Corona Virus was decoded in less than a month

Drones have revolutionized the aerial surveillance technology in recent years. In the wake of COVID-19, China has started utilizing drones technology for three purposes .



First one is to spray disinfectants, second is to collect medical samples from infected people as well as supplying medical kits to hospitals and third to drop pamphlets from air with QR codes to educate public about corona virus. Chinese government's agriculture ministry is already

using drones for spraying disinfectants against crop insects like locusts in recent years. Chinese used their wisdom and technological advancement by reflecting on their past experiments with technology and by making its usage more effective in the current scenario to limit the spread of COVID-19 in China.

In Xinchang County, Zhejiang Province drones were used to supply CoronaVirus testing kits from Chinese Center for Disease Control to nearby hospitals to save time and lives of people by transporting the medical gear in time.

Apart from this, Chinese government in collaboration with the technological giants like Alibaba, Ant Financial and Tencent has made use of its latest android technology for public safety. Along with the help of these three tech giants the government developed a smart phone application which uses color-coded health rating system that helps government health officials to track millions of people daily. The android application was first launched in Hangzhou. It segments people into three group's i.e. green, yellow or red which helps to identify the status of their medical health and about their travel history. Tencent developed a similar type of android application for the city of Shenzhen in Guangdong Province.

The android application through its data analysis technology only considers the people with green color-code fit and healthy and they are the only ones who are allowed to go to public spaces. It also has a mechanism to find out the location history of individuals. The application has a direct linkage with the city police and acts as a tracker and surveillance tool on the people. It gives a red alert to police if the people positive with COVID-19 or the ones showing

symptoms are seen at public spots, gatherings and are not find reporting their condition to medics. It was made mandatory for citizens of the specified cities such as Shenzhen and Hangzhou to log into smart app using services like Alibaba's Ali-pay and Ant's wallet etc. More than 150 cities in China are now using this gadget, and soon it will be expanded across China.



Image Courtesy: New York Times

Another strategy which China made use of to avoid people to people contact and to overcome the pressing shortage of healthcare professionals was the use of autonomous vehicles. Autonomous vehicles are proving to be a great utility in China. These self-driven vehicles are distributing medicines and food items in cities like Shanghai and Chengdu. Apolong, which is Baidu's driverless vehicle platform, has collaborated with Neolix to deliver medical supplies and food to one of the major hospital in Beijing, taking care of a huge number of patients.



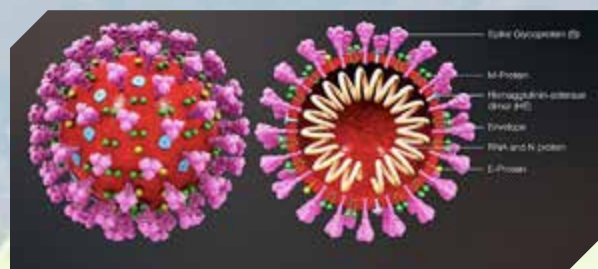
Neolix Autonomous cars on the streets of Beijing

To sum it up it would not be wrong to say that Artificial intelligence is playing a pivotal role when it comes to medicine. Through use of data analytics and predictive models, scientists and health professionals are able to decode virus structures more accurately which was not conceivable in previous years.

Chinese technology giant, Baidu has built Linearfold algorithm, which is available for healthcare professionals worldwide. The Linearfold algorithm was made in collaboration with Oregon State University in last half of 2018. It is very fast as compared to previous RNA structure algorithms at analyzing a virus's secondary RNA structure. Predicting the secondary structural changes between RNA virus sequences of mammals such as bats and humans, can provide scientists with a clue to how viruses spread across different species. During recent outbreak of corona virus, Baidu has used this algorithm to predict the secondary structure for Corona virus (COVID-19), RNA sequence, reducing overall analysis time from 55 minutes to roughly 27 seconds, meaning it is way ahead and much more faster than previous available algorithms.

Latest studies show that the secondary structure of RNA that instructs cells to make proteins, is correlated to its functional half-life and has an impact on protein production. Rapid viral structural analysis can significantly reduce the time to manufacture a potential RNA vaccine with higher efficiency, which can save thousands of lives all over the world.

Apart from Linearfold algorithm, Baidu is also collaborating with Chinese medical researchers as well as US and European researchers to produce a CoronaVirus vaccine which we expect to be available soon.



Corona Virus (COVID 19) RNA Structure

China's use of technology has saved thousands of precious lives in these difficult times. It is a lesson that Pakistan and other countries of the world need to learn. Firm resolve as well as mutual cooperation between the government and private firms regarding use of technology can beat this deadly pandemic ■



The writer is working as an Electrical Engineer in Oil and Gas Development Company limited (OGDCL) Islamabad.

CPEC in AJ&K: Regional Connectivity & Beyond

By Muhammad Faisal

China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies in collaboration with Center for Peace, Development & Reforms (CPDR) hosted a Report launch event titled 'CPEC in AJ&K: A Gateway to Regional Connectivity & Beyond' on March 10, 2020. Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider was the Chief Guest at the occasion. While addressing the audience he stated that 'CPEC projects will unleash opportunities for socio-economic development for people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Government of AJ&K is making all efforts to ensure that CPEC projects in the region are implemented without any delays.'



The report is authored by Sabur Ali Sayyed and published by CPDR. It provides a comprehensive overview of the CPEC projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, including Karot and Kohala hydropower projects, construction of M4 motorway, and a Special Economic Zone (SeZ) at Mirpur.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China Pakistan Study Centre, in his introductory remarks commended the author for producing a high-quality report that highlights economic potential of AJK and opportunities for connectivity under the CPEC initiative.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, in his opening remarks underlined that economic development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir region is a priority for Pakistan despite various challenges. Timely completion of CPEC projects will lead to enhanced connectivity and socio-economic development in Azad Kashmir.

Mr. Sabur Ali Sayyid, author of the report highlighted key takeaways from his research. He provided overview of the on-going CPEC projects in the AJK region. He recommended that now focus should be on advocacy of CPEC, non-politicisation, and above all, concerns of local communities related to the projects should be addressed.



Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider highlighted key socio-development indicators of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir region and the work being undertaken by the government to improve education standard and provision of quality health-care in the region. He noted that China Pakistan Economic Corridor will supplement Azad Kashmir's socio-economic development. He further said that human capital of Azad Kashmir is its biggest asset.

Mr. Zulfiqar Abbasi, President of Center for Peace, Development and Reforms, Dr. Syed Asif Hussain, Additional Chief Secretary Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Mr. Hasan Daud Butt, Chief Executive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade reviewed the report and shared their thoughts.



Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI in his concluding remarks also emphasized on the importance of CPEC for socio-economic development of AJK and Pakistan while delivering vote of thanks ■





China: A Resilient Nation

By Arhama Siddiq

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall-Confucius

Historical chronicles of thriving nations around the world show that their achievements were only possible after long hard-fought struggles combined with the resilience of both the people and their leaders. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is evidence of this. Over the past forty years, the PRC has not only developed itself into a lead economy but through its model

of South - South Cooperation, it has contributed to the global well-being and development of other countries as well. Under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China is carrying out a number of projects which aim to broaden its market access, craft attractive investment opportunities and expand its export base. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is at the forefront of all these initiatives. The China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the beginning of this mega connectivity project.

China's rise from an empire to a nation is remarkable to say the least. Even though its success can be measured in many ways, the most notable 'economic miracle' it has achieved is the 700 million people that the state has lifted from poverty in the past four decades. The country's metamorphosis into a global

powerhouse is principally due to its hard-working people. The Chinese modern society which has emerged in China has taken its imprint from its history, philosophy and socio-political thoughts. Chinese exemplary work ethic can be observed all over the world. Chinese international students at their respective universities reflect this zest of learning brilliantly.

Confucianism is at the heart of what has made China a driving force in contemporary times. Confucius was one of China's most famous teachers, philosophers, and political theorists in 551 - 479 BC.

More than 100,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide and the number of deaths from the virus has reached exponential rates globally. However, the silver lining is that since February 4th, there has been a downward trajectory of infected cases in China. According to Chinese public health authorities as of March 2020, the virus has very much been contained

One of his notable statements are that a person or a leader who only thinks of themselves is not able to hear any advice. As a result, they cannot learn to improve themselves. Learning encourages mind growth and averts one from being narrow-minded. It also helps build one's resilience, and for Confucius, it is very important for individuals to learn, and keep on learning. Sideways, it is important to lead

by moral authority, not force. The bottom line is that mistakes and problems should be seen as opportunities for learning and improvement.

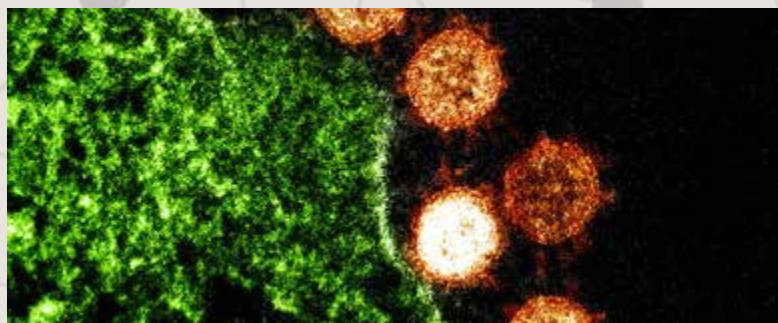
The headlines about the recent coronavirus which started in China are gloomy and depressing. More than 100,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide and the number of deaths from the virus has reached exponential rates globally. However, the silver lining is that since February 4th, there has been a downward trajectory of infected cases in China. According to Chinese public health authorities as of March 2020, the virus has very much been contained. In fact, China is now sending its doctors and medical health equipment to various countries to help contain the disease.

Health experts the world over have been quick to point out that China has progressed since the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003. Back then, there were rumors that the Chinese government was trying to conceal the existence of the disease. Newspapers were heavily censored and a few official government statements were the only news the public

had. This time around however, the Chinese government is determined that it must not replicate the same mistakes. The fact that despite it being close to the lunar new year, Chinese authorities locked down the city of Wuhan (the epi- center of the disease) and within days had built hospitals from scratch apart from taking all the required emergency measures.

The fact that despite it being close to the lunar new year, Chinese authorities locked down the city of Wuhan (the epi- center of the disease) and within days had built hospitals from scratch apart from taking all the required emergency measures

All this said, there is no doubt that China will rise again from this test, stronger than ever before. China is after all globalization's greatest success story and will emerge from the present challenge as a victor yet again and maintain its model of resilience for generations to come ■



The writer is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.



Public Talk-Pakistan-China Relations and Next Phase of CPEC'

By Ali Haider Saleem

China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a Public Talk on 'Pakistan-China Relations and Next Phase of CPEC' under the Ambassadors' Platform Series on February 20, 2020. H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan delivered the talk which attracted a strong turnout. Members of the audience included policy makers, diplomats, academics and students.

Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, Dr. Talat Shabbir welcomed the chief guest and

participants. He requested the audience to join him in expressing solidarity with the people and Government of China who were going through testing times in face of the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus. Acknowledging the efforts made by Chinese authorities to deal with this challenge, he stated that China will come out stronger and continue playing its positive role in regional and global affairs. He added CPEC is a mega-initiative for both countries. It has helped Pakistan transform while attaining sustainable growth.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI,

expressed solidarity with people of China and urged the international community to come together in support of China. He said that the two countries have always stood together and there has never been any divergence in this relationship. He added that some countries are envious of CPEC and China's rise.

Ambassador Yao Jing stated that right now China is in a very difficult situation but it



deeply appreciates the support extended by the government and people of Pakistan since the outbreak of the deadly virus. He also said that the Chinese government is committed to looking after Pakistani students in Wuhan.

The Chinese Ambassador went on to talk about the strength of Pakistan-China relations and also discussed the latest developments under CPEC. He said that CPEC is the latest stage of our friendship which is proving to be beneficial for the people of Pakistan. He added that 16 projects have now been completed while a number of new projects have been added in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In the next phase, there will be greater role of the private sector. Mr. Yao Jing stated that China's development relies upon peace and progress in its neighborhood therefore, it is committed towards Pakistan's development.

He said that the present government is very focused towards poverty alleviation and Chinese government is keen to support it in this objective. He added that the number of mega projects have come down under CPEC but projects that are more relevant for building Pakistan's capacity are well underway. He further said that China is helping build smart classrooms across the country along with upgrading vocational training centres. He said that the next phase of CPEC has attracted a lot of interest from the private sector.

In the interactive session, a question was raised regarding the possibility of shifting to local coal in CPEC energy projects. The ambassador replied that the power plants are designed to work efficiently and that can only be supported by imported coal. Responding to a question on the impact of coronavirus on the construction of projects, Mr. Yao Jing said that most of the technology has been transferred to Pakistani counterparts and the number of Chinese workers involved in the projects is also less. The projects will not face lengthy delays despite travel restrictions on Chinese personnel involved in CPEC projects.

Pointing to the excessive criticism from Western media on China, a question was raised regarding



China's perception building strategy and how it plans to counter false narratives. In response, the Chinese Ambassador said that China is not in favour of confrontation. He added that we should do our job with full commitment and focus on facts. Responding to objections raised against CPEC by Western countries, he said that our progress is not well received by these countries and they are always looking for opportunities to defame us. He posited that China's development cannot be sustained without the development of its neighborhood especially partners like Pakistan.



In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, stated that relationship between the countries has strengthened over the years while CPEC has added new dimensions to the partnership. He added that the people of both countries can look back at the last 70 years of this friendship with immense pride. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that both countries will continue to work closely in order to overcome common challenges ■



COVID 19 SPREAD A GLOBAL NEGLIGENCE

By Muhammad Abbas Hassan

Recently, some articles have been written in the international press where Chinese are blamed for the outbreak and spread of Corona Virus across the globe. Also it is shocking to learn that a well thought out effort is also taking place where this pandemic is linked to a global conspiracy planned by China. On top of that the same articles are saying that this new virus was developed in Chinese laboratories and a pre test was done in 2002 - 2003 in the shape of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) which killed almost 800 people and infected over 8,000 people.

First it is important to know a little about the history of Corona Virus. British virologists David Tyrrell and M. L. Bynoe in 1965 found that they could discover and decode a virus named B814. It was found in human embryonic tracheal organ cultures obtained from the respiratory tract of an adult with a common cold. This introduced the world to

Corona Virus. The first outbreak took place in 2003 and was named SARS - CoV. Later on the disease re-emerged in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and was called Middle East respiratory syndrome-corona virus (MERS-CoV). Of all the cases reported within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 38% of the cases were primary, 45% were healthcare-associated infections, and 14% were household infections.

What is different in this outbreak is that the virus is evolving and there are multiple mutations that are spreading across the globe. In China alone, the doctors witnessed six different mutations and that is why it was named novel corona virus or COVID-19

So the notion that this is the first time the world is witnessing a corona virus outbreak is completely wrong. Coronaviruses are common and spread through being in proximity to an infected person and inhaling droplets generated when they cough or sneeze, or touching a surface where these droplets land and then touching one's face or nose. What is different in this outbreak is that the virus is evolving and there are multiple mutations that are spreading across the globe. In China alone, the doctors witnessed six different mutations and that is why it was named novel corona virus or COVID-19.

On December 31 last year, China alerted WHO of several cases of unusual pneumonia in Wuhan, a port city of 11 million people in the central Hubei province. The virus was unknown then. On January 7, 2020 officials announced they had identified this new virus, according to the WHO. The novel virus was named 2019-nCoV

and then renamed to COVID-19. By then the virus had infected a few hundred people only but the Chinese New Year was just around the corner. China witnesses mass travel across the country as people travel to spend time with their loved ones. By this time the virus had spread to United States, Nepal, France, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan. Chinese authorities finally took an extremely bold decision and the whole city of Wuhan was put under quarantine on January 23, 2020.

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During these 23 days the international press was buzzing with news that how China is unable to contain a virus and pointed fingers towards the capacity and capability of the Chinese. On the other hand, China had launched a ferocious effort to fight with the virus. On January 25th, Beijing announced that it will be cancelling all the events related to New Year to avoid maximum people to people contact, WHO announced that there is no need of Public emergency or international concern.

This difference of opinion between China and the world is one of the core reasons for this epidemic to become a pandemic. While China was turning its community centers and schools in to quarantine centers to fight the disease, global leaders like Trump were making fun of the situation. After 5 long days,

WHO realized the mistake it had committed and called for a global emergency. By this time, it was effectively too late. The virus has spread all across the globe by now and instead of learning from the Chinese practices people were just busy making fun of them.

The global economy started to feel the impact of the virus as the world's production center was under a lockdown and fighting hard to get back on its feet. A malicious campaign on the internet was run which showcased that the Chinese are doing this on purpose where as in reality the Chinese GDP was taking an unprecedented beating. As the Chinese policy makers asked the global audience to take precautions, nations kept on ignoring the advice.

Not realizing the magnitude of this virus and how it grown exponentially, Corona was treated as a joke and fictitious references and racist remarks were churned against the Chinese. Instead of acknowledging the bravery and efforts of China, the world was ignoring and social distancing was taken as a joke. By the end of February the international cases of Corona virus were drastically rising and yet the nations were not gearing up.

By 7th April, the global cases had surpassed 1.4 million and death count was over 80 thousand people. While after a long battle of three months, China has finally managed to control the outbreak, Europe and U.S are still trying to figure out a way to combat the disease. Large events have

been cancelled, Olympics have been postponed and world has suffered trillions of dollars in economic loses. U.S is now the most infected country with Corona virus cases in the world. The British Prime Minister and Prince Charles have been tested positive for the virus and this is sending major waves across the world.

While after a long battle of three months, China has finally managed to control the outbreak, Europe and U.S are still trying to figure out a way to combat the disease

The fight against Corona is a reflection of the fact that this world is fragmented and people only chase their interests. Also it is very hard for the governments to convince people to follow a simple request. The Chinese nations stood up and supported its government in its battle with COVID-19. The same should be done by all other nations. The world has already failed in preventing this virus and turned it into a pandemic. If proper methods and techniques that were used by the Chinese are not adopted, the numbers will keep on rising. Not only will it destroy the global economic order but would also bring the smaller nations to their feet. If this happens, the world will be pushed back by decades and towards perpetual destabilization ■



The writer is working as a Research Associate at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.



Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Public Talk titled, 'Pakistan's Macro Economy: Current Situation and the Way Forward'. The talk is delivered by Dr. Ishrat Husain, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms & Austerity- December 26, 2019

China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Roundtable with a 6-member delegation from Guizhou Provincial Committee of the Chinese Provincial People's Consultative Conference. The delegation is led by Vice-Chairman H. E. Chen Jian- January 1, 2020



China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Round-table on 'Islamic-Chinese Cultural Dialogue in Contemporary Times'. January 13, 2020

China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts an event titled 'Pivot: Pursuing Ideals of Shared Future' to mark one successful year of publishing PIVOT magazine- January 16, 2020



Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Seminar titled 'Pakistan and the Kashmir Cause'. Chief Guest at the occasion is Honorable Syed Fakhar Imam, Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir. Mr. Ali Amin Gandapur, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan gave the opening remarks- January 30, 2020

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in collaboration with Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan hosts a National Seminar titled, 'The Kashmir Dispute: An Unfulfilled Promise', to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day- February 4, 2020





Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad inaugurates its newly established 'India Study Centre'. The Chief Guest at the occasion is Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman (R), Pakistan's Former Chief of Air Staff- February 7, 2020

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts an in-house meeting with a 2-member delegation from the United States Institute of Peace. The agenda for the discussion revolves around, 'Building Peace in Fragile States'- February 20, 2020



China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts an in-house event titled 'Combating Coronavirus: Pakistan stands with China' to express solidarity with people and government of China- February 20, 2020

China-Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Public Talk titled, 'Pakistan-China Relations & Next Phase of CPEC'. The Guest Speaker at the occasion is His Excellency Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador People's Republic of China- February 20, 2020



China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Report Launch Event titled 'CPEC in AJ&K: A Gateway to Regional Connectivity & Beyond'. Chief Guest at the occasion is Honorable Raja Farooq Haider, Prime Minister Azad Jammu & Kashmir- March 10, 2020

Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Roundtable Discussion titled 'Role of Planning and Development in Economy of Pakistan'. Chief Guest at the occasion is Mr. Asad Umar, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives- March 11, 2020





Pakistan, China extend number of CPEC Joint Working Groups to ten

The number of Joint Working Groups under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) extended to ten after signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) on establishing joint working groups on Science and Technology and Agriculture. Director of National Development and Reform Commission He Lifeng and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi signed the MoU on behalf of the two governments, according to China Economic Net.

The two countries signed the memorandum at the Great Hall of the People at the conclusion of a bilateral meeting of President Dr. Arif Alvi's with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his recent two-day visit to China.

March 22, 2020 (The Nation)

Chinese health experts arrive in Pakistan

A team of Chinese health experts reached Pakistan on March 28, 2020 to assess the preventive measures taken by the government so far to fight the COVID-19. Pakistan and China continue to collaborate closely and coordinate relief assistance to counter COVID-19. 'China once again has shown to the world that they are friends of Pakistan, they care for us and we stand together in difficult times. We thank the Government of China for sending a team of medical experts and relief assistance including test kits, masks, ventilators, protective suits and support to build an isolation hospital,' said Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Qureshi also talked to the Canadian foreign minister and sought help of the Canadian government in facilitating the stay of Pakistani nationals and students. They also exchanged views to facilitate the return of Canadian passport holders to Canada.

March 29, 2020 (The News International)



China will provide Rs2 billion for smart university project in Pakistan

China will provide Pakistan with an unrequited assistance of Rs 2.048 billion for completion of a smart university transformation project. The project belongs to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework to promote Pakistan's economic and social development. The first phase of the pilot program includes 50 public universities, according to qq.com, a Chinese news website. The project aims to create a more attractive university environment by introducing advanced digital technologies in universities. The project will also focus on developing distance education and promoting cultural progress, thereby expanding the influence and coverage of university education.

April 11, 2020 (The Nation)

China publishes timeline on COVID-19 information sharing, int'l cooperation

China on April 6, 2020 released a detailed timeline of the country's response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19); chronicling the main facts and measures it has taken in the global joint anti-virus efforts. Based on media reports and information from the National Health Commission, scientific research institutions and other departments, the timeline offers a glimpse of China's efforts in timely releasing information, sharing experience in epidemic prevention and control, and advancing international exchanges and cooperation. The timeline recorded major events from late December 2019 to March 2020. According to data from the World Health Organization, COVID-19 had affected more than 200 countries and regions with over 1.13 million confirmed cases by April 5, 2020.

April 6, 2020 (CHINA DAILY)



Open call

A multidisciplinary space to focus in ideas and projects

Time schedule:

Application submission: Open

Declaration of acceptance: Email confirmation

Description of residency program:

Sada ARTS is a residency space in Ping Gu, a tourist area of Beijing, China. We chose this location for its serenity to focus on Arts with a special accommodation and inspiring space for residents. However, Sada ARTS residency as a multidisciplinary space, focuses on contemporary art, research and dialogue rather than on traditional production formats. The program aims at the inter-cultural exchange of individual experiences, professional development, and International cooperation.

Residency program, Criteria & Facilities:

The Sada ARTS Program offers Art residency for Established, mid-career and emerging artists. Sada ARTS provide studio space (for ceramic, painting, writing, poetry & music), accommodation, open studio, presentation, final exhibition and other important resources with residency. Each resident will be asked to present their work and a day workshop with local artists during the residency. Residents from any discipline will be able to come, create and share their work.

About the Living Spaces and Studios

We have rooms where artists can stay and work (research, draw, write and paint).

Disciplines and media

Visual Art, New Media, Ceramics, Music, Literature, Land art.

Residency conditions

Fees:

Nominal fee will be charged

A deposit of \$200 when the applicant receives acceptance of the candidature.

Expenses paid by artist:

Travel and others

Expectations of the artist

Presentation

Leading Workshop or Class

Donation of Artwork(s)

Cleaning and other

Expenses paid by the organization

Accommodation

Food and others

Application who / how

We welcome everyone who is keen learner / Email us

Resources

Internet Connection ,office and kitchen

Type and size of studios

Shared Studio

Accommodation: Private Room and shared Room

Working language(s)

English and Chinese

Other activities happening at the space

Workshops, presentation and visit to museum

Application

Application Form 2020

A Portfolio of up to 5 media files (images, video/ and audio). Maximum size for the media files:

Images (up to 2MB each), Video (up to 250MB each) and __ Audio (up to 30MB each)

To learn more and to apply please contact us

andyrana2000@yahoo.ca

tayyabas@yahoo.com



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