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Chief Editor's Note

In the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan has entered the important phase that provides Pakistan with enormous opportunities to become an epicenter of industrialization. While sustainable growth and development is expected from proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Pakistan needs to formulate policies that boost steady and inclusive growth impacting socio-economic development. The viability of this undertaking merits ownership and collective support of all stakeholders to turn this visionary project of Pakistan-China friendship into an enterprise for shared destiny and prosperity.



Infrastructure projects, energy units and industrial parks shall potentially lay foundation for much sought after economic activity in Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan directed the ground-breaking of three of nine SEZs in the current financial year. The proposed SEZs aim to achieve huge economic dividends. According to an estimate, industrialization phase would help realize objectives of foreign exchange earnings, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), export growth, technology transfer, export diversification, and enhancement trade efficiency by establishing appropriate and sustainable industries. SEZs in Pakistan shall not only open for Chinese financiers but shall be an equal incentive for all investors world-wide. In this regard, Board of Investment has prepared a comprehensive plan for fast-track development for SEZs in next two years.

Understandably, CPEC is an undertaking promising substantial rise in trade and industrial growth in Pakistan that witnessed stagnation for decades. The mega project has emerged as remarkable opportunity for Pakistan not only to address issues its industry faced for long but also steer connectivity in the region and beyond. As success of CPEC essentially hinges on the success of industrialization phase, so it is vital to work on war footings to achieve desired results. It is imperative to learn from Chinese experience as China managed SEZs and has requisite skill and practice since 1980s. It is therefore, necessary to carry out serious appraisal of impediments that cause unnecessary delays in processes related to CPEC projects and create enabling environment to achieve desired results.

Talat

Dr. Talat Shabbir

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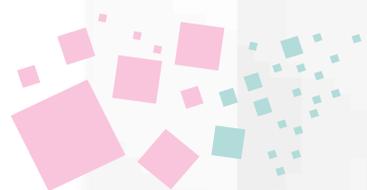
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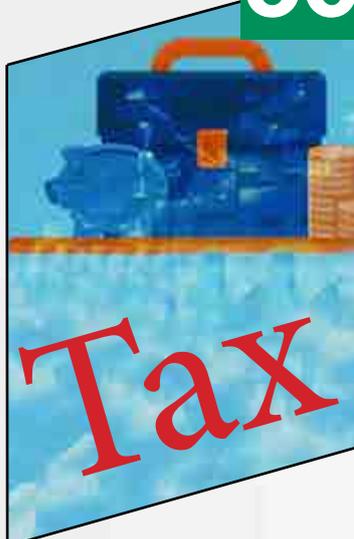
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China and the New World Order of Trade

By Muhammad Nauman Hafeez Khan



The fall of Berlin Wall and the end of Cold War brought many changes in International Political scenario. United States of America (USA) emerged as the sole superpower. World saw conversion of world order from Bipolar to Unipolar system. After 1995, the economy of USA witnessed meteoric rise in GDP and purchasing power parity. The base of US economy after the end of Bretton Woods System was made so strong that even war against terror, Iraq war and

the 2008 economic recession did little harm to the overall economic structure of USA. Yet, the title of USA as the sole superpower of the world is in danger, and that too from a state which is not inclined to wage a war against USA in battlegrounds, but in free markets created by USA itself.

China has emerged as a giant in manufacturing world. From around the world, China targets markets that provide it with absolute advantage in trade, and USA is one of the biggest markets where China

is gaining absolute advantage in mutual trade. While the great Athenian philosopher Thucydides in his 'Thucydides' Trap' thinks that war between an existing superpower and a revisionist power is almost always inevitable, the case between USA and China seems otherwise.

Apparently, China appears to be in no hurry of taking the driving seat of the world politics. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by China is the manifestation of this idea. BRI and its flagship project, CPEC cannot proceed

if China opens military fronts to gain strategic leverage in battlefield which is very obvious because China needs strategic partners to successfully execute its BRI. Wang Yi, the foreign minister of China said that 'China lacks the gene of external expansion', but to what extent this claim is plausible?

The title of USA as the sole superpower of the world is in danger, and that too from a state which is not inclined to wage a war against USA in battlegrounds, but in free markets created by USA itself

Since 2016, when Donald Trump took his office as the President of the USA, the foreign policy of USA was pushed more towards protectionist posture that adversely impacted the concept of free markets and liberalization of trade introduced by USA. Trade war with China, an end to NAFTA, rift with Europe on trade gap and withdrawal from Iran Nuclear Deal has completely changed the position of USA as the harbinger of the world order. But what is more important here is that who is going to take advantage from the protectionist posture of USA? The answer might lie in the trade diplomacy of China that it is pursuing since President Xi took office.

China is reshaping the world order. It might not be the same order of economic liberalisation that was introduced by USA, but China is making the best use of this order to reshape its own. Through trade diplomacy

and investment in developing countries, China has gained its access to key trading routes and chokepoints. Chinese investment in Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka and Gwadar Port in Pakistan has provided an easy approach to Strait of Hormuz that controls 30 per cent of the world's energy supply coming from Middle East. This supply of energy can help energy deficient China to boost its industrial output. The strait will also provide China with new markets to export its domestic industry in Middle East and Central Asia.

The trade diplomacy is helping China to win allies in South Asia, Central Asia and Middle East that USA has not been able to win through decades of war, making alliances and counter alliances of temporary nature. China on the other hand is using the liberalised order of trade to introduce its consumer goods at less expensive rates than Western markets particularly the European Union. The recent 'Huawei' episode in US-China Trade War shows the presence of 'trade security dilemma' that USA is facing from China. The hasty decision of USA to call for ban on Huawei followed by the withdrawal of ban for two years shows that USA has no clue how to tackle the increasing influence of China in the consumer markets of USA.

China in future is likely to increase its political influence around the world and predominantly in South Asia and Middle East. It is in best interest of China to balance deterrence between Pakistan and India. In Afghanistan, China will have to play a role of mediator between

Afghan government and Taliban to find a way for peaceful exit of USA from the region followed by sustainable peace in Afghanistan. In Middle East, China should play its role for the stability in the region.

For China, future has promises and it is likely to gain its foothold in the region. China is the biggest beneficiary of the protectionist posture of USA. Stable GDP growth rate of China and absence of any major military conflict has given China a much needed stability to emerge as the strongest economy in the world.

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For now, the main focus of China is on meeting its energy requirements and finding new avenues to further its export net. But China needs to equally improve its military capabilities in line with economic strength. Chinese military has never been in an open conflict with any country in decades that gives the war hardened US military an edge over Chinese military. The ball falls in the Chinese court and it is Chinese leadership that would steer the New World Order of trade ■



The writer is an Environmental Consultant.



China-Pakistan Cybersecurity Cooperation

By Aamna Rafiq

With cutting-edge technological development in the field of artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum computing and world's top class information and communication technology (ICT) companies, China is all set to rule the global cyberspace. With over 802 million users, China has the world's highest number of internet users. Among them 788 million (98 %) are mobile users which is a proof of China's increasing presence in the cyberspace and capability to replace US dominance over the internet. According to Global Innovation Index 2018, China is among the world's top 20 most innovative economies. The government of China has

developed a comprehensive cyberspace regulation system consisting of new policies, laws and institutions which has transformed the national and international cyberspace landscape. The Chinese model is based on the ideology of cyber sovereignty. Beijing believes that every country should be independent to regulate cyberspace in accordance with its national law and cyber culture. Pakistan also shares a similar ideology. Both countries emphasize on the establishment of reliable international cyberspace regime that promotes mutual cooperation and have agreed to bridge the cyberspace development gaps. Both are willing to construct international and multilateral partnerships for the growth

of digital economies. Pakistan along with China is playing active role in negotiation process for international cyberspace treaty at First and Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and United Nations Groups of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) at United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The government of China has developed a comprehensive cyberspace regulation system consisting of new policies, laws and institutions which has transformed the national and international cyberspace landscape. The Chinese model is based on the ideology of cyber sovereignty.

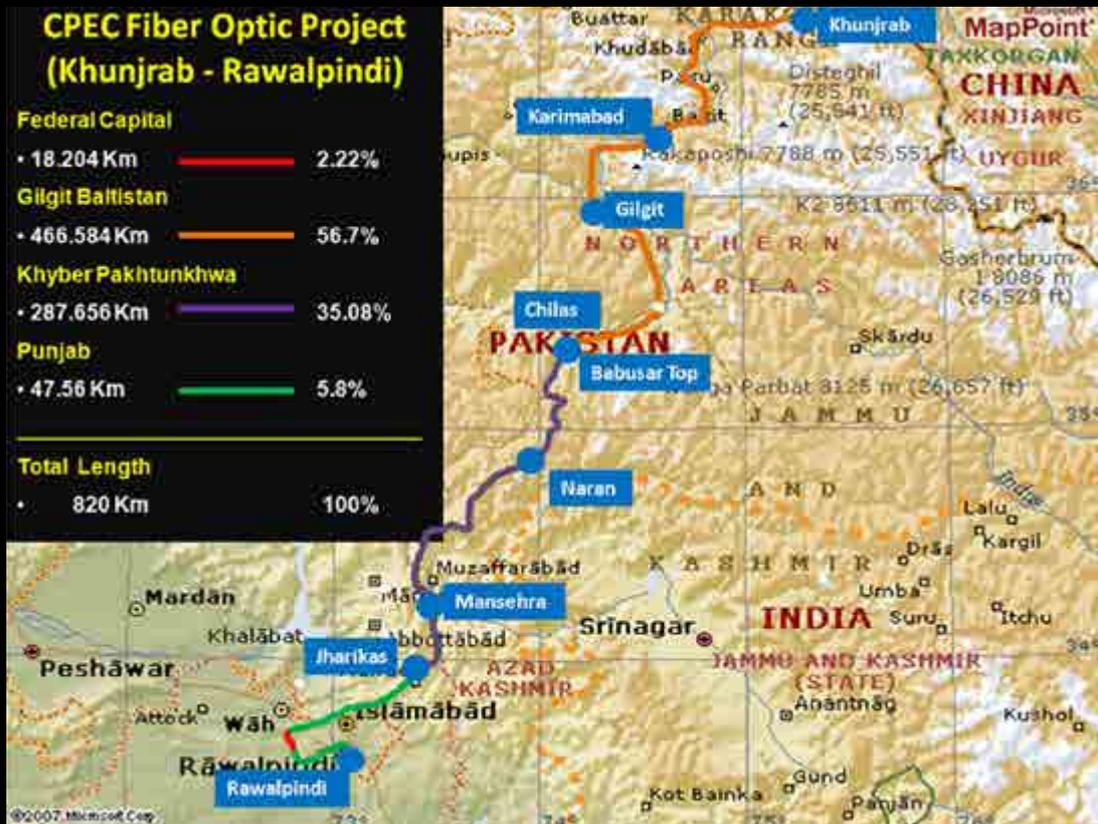


At bilateral level, the Long Term Plan for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (2017 - 2030) identified the ICT infrastructure development as one of the key areas of cyber security cooperation between the two countries. The Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform in collaboration with the Chinese National Development & Reform Commission envisioned the promotion of cyberspace connectivity through the construction of a “cross-border

optical fiber network” in 2016. This 820 km long cable from Rawalpindi to Khunjerab, constructed with the total cost of US \$ 44 billion became commercial in February 2019.

The construction of another optical fiber network from Sukkur to Gwadar is on the cards to complete the North-South optical cable silk route which could be expanded eastwards to the landlocked countries of Central Asia.

This digital corridor will not only ensure a reliable, fast, cost-effective connectivity between the two neighbors and other regional countries but also generate a significant amount of revenue for Pakistan. It will increase the internet penetration rate of Pakistan especially Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan. Another landmark achievement is the construction of China’s first-ever privately owned submarine cable system



Source (s): Government of Pakistan, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Official Website, “CPEC Maps,” accessed May 14, 2019, cpec.gov.pk/map-single/3.

known as the “Pakistan & East Africa Connecting Europe (PEACE) in collaboration with Pakistan and South Africa. The Chinese company PEACE Cable International Network Co. will construct 12,000 km cable system in collaboration with Pakistani Company Cybernet. This cable will have landing stations in France, Kenya, Djibouti, Egypt and Pakistan. It will add 96 Tb/s to the total internet capacity of Pakistan.

Before the operationalization of this network, Pakistan was dependent on the other networks developed by the consortium of Americans and Indian companies which were posing challenges to the national cybersecurity of Pakistan and China e.g. communication surveillance, loss of connectivity with global network in conflict situation.

The Chinese company PEACE Cable International Network Co. will construct 12,000 km cable system in collaboration with Pakistani Company Cybernet. This cable will have landing stations in France, Kenya, Djibouti, Egypt and Pakistan. It will add 96 Tb/s to the total internet capacity of Pakistan

Another issue directly linked with this project is the only submarine internet cable landing station in Karachi that connects Pakistan with the global submarine network of internet cables. The governments of China and Pakistan have planned a joint construction of second landing station at Gwadar to minimize the disruption of internet traffic

in case of damage to the Karachi station. The construction of this new station is expected to start in 2021 after final feasibility report. According to the initial plan this station will cover the 10,000 square meters’ area of Gwadar.

The second initiative mentioned in the Long Term Plan is the extensive up-gradation of network facilities and national data centers in Pakistan. The core objective of this initiative is to increase and diversify the ICT based development projects in Pakistan e.g. safe city projects, digital monitoring of international borders, e-governance and e-commerce systems. A significant progress has been achieved in this respect. Safe City Projects were successfully completed in Lahore and Islamabad in collaboration with the Chinese company Huawei. The Safe City Projects will be soon started in Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Gwadar as well. Pakistan’s first-ever “National Data Center” established in collaboration with Huawei is already operational. Another gigantic and centralized data center will be completed in 2020 for the improved e-governance services for the citizens of Pakistan.

Enhancement of Pakistan’s ICT human resource through technical expert exchange programs is another core area of cybersecurity cooperation. Under this initiative, an MOU was signed between the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and the Beihang University for

the establishment of advance Cybersecurity Research Center (CSRC) at NUST in January, 2019. The objective of CSRC will be to organize workshops, conferences and summer schools to create and increase cybersecurity awareness. This center will also facilitate the mutual exchange of faculty and students enthusiastic for the research and development of cyberspace.

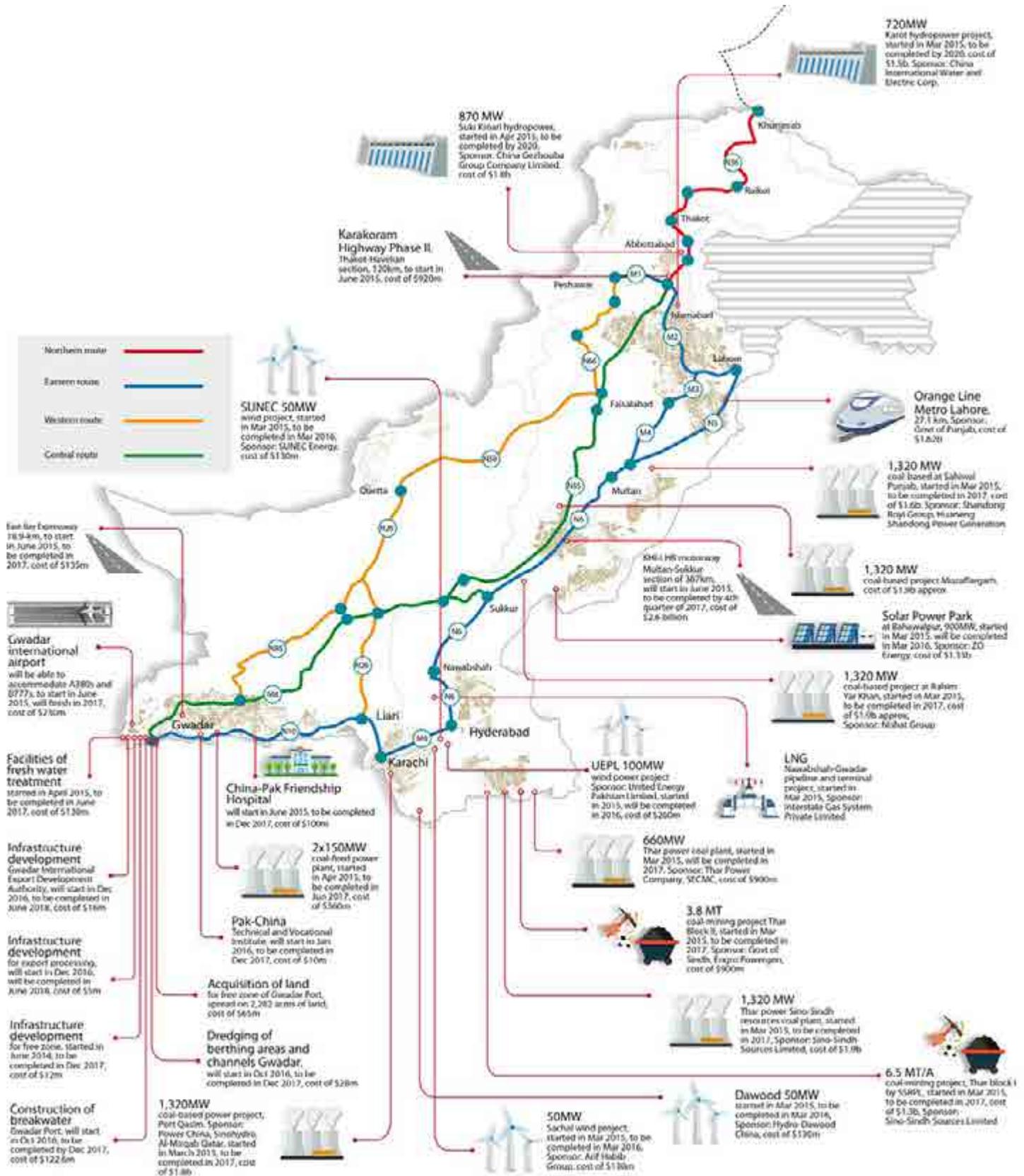
The cooperation in cyberspace will strengthen the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China. The mutual efforts to achieve a secure, stable and accessible ICT will promote regional security, peace and development. It will unleash the huge geopolitical and commercial benefits for both countries

The cooperation in cyberspace will strengthen the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China. The mutual efforts to achieve a secure, stable and accessible ICT will promote regional security, peace and development. It will unleash the huge geopolitical and commercial benefits for both countries. It is a golden opportunity for Pakistan to achieve the policy objectives and development of strategic as well as non-strategic components of ICT, accurately identified in the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2012 and Digital Pakistan Policy 2018 ■



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

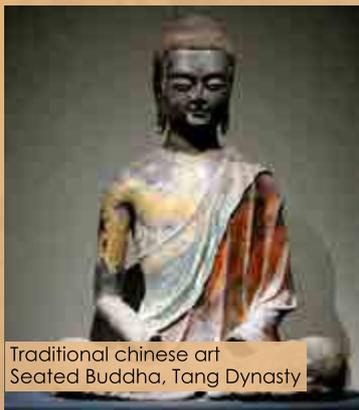
China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projecting its economic and geopolitical importance for Pakistan and China.



The artistic China

By Mahak Hamid

China is custodian of one of the world's richest cultural and artistic legacies. It dates back to thousands of years ago. As China is one of the earliest ancient civilisations of the world, one can see its deep cultural influences on Chinese arts and architecture. Chinese art is a blend of traditional and modern values. Until the 20th century, Chinese art was resistant to change. Early 'stone age art' consisted of simple clay sculptures.



Traditional Chinese art
Seated Buddha, Tang Dynasty

Archaeologists trace these artistic pieces back to 10,000 BC. After Stone Age period, the Chinese art shows the heavy influence of Buddhism. Most of the focus was on calligraphy where the paintings of this era resembled to simple symbols and brush strokes devoid of

colour and hues. After this period, the Chinese art reflects ruling dynasties of Chinese emperors which lasted several hundred years.



A painting by Huang Binhong

Traditional Chinese artists were not professionals, they were scholars influenced by the teachings of Confucius. The purpose of their art was to present philosophical approach towards life. The art focused on mastery of brush and technique and it depicted high level of abstraction.



A painting by Huang Binhong

Traditionally, the brushwork would reveal artist's moral character.

The traditional Chinese paintings were based on The Six Principles of Painting by Xie who was a famous Chinese writer and art historian. According to Xie, the six elements that defined paintings were Spirit Resonance, Bone Method, correspondence, suitability to type, division and planning. Spirit resonance is the artist's energy translated into his work. Bone method refers to the brush technique. Correspondence to the Object includes shape and line. Suitability to Type is the application of colour, division and planning refers to composition, space and depth.



Chinese Art Representatives

According to Xie, the aim of Chinese painting was to capture the innate essence or spirit (qi) of the subject and endow it.

Early painters dwelled on the human figure and moral teachings, while also conjuring up scenes from everyday life. Landscape paintings came into existence during Tang Dynasty

and were in full bloom during Song and Yuan dynasty. The landscape paintings mostly rested on the artist's skill in capturing light and atmosphere. These paintings were black and white without any hues and emotions.



A painting by Wang Kangle



The classical landscape paintings consisted of two main kinds of scenes and techniques. The artists from the northern parts of China mostly used black lines, ink wash, dotted brushstrokes techniques throughout their paintings.

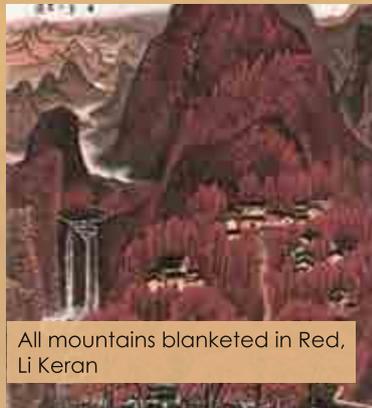


Chinese porcelain art pieces of Ming dynasty, Xuande mark and period (1426-35) Blue and White jar (Five-Clawed Dragon Print)

While their southern fellows painted peaceful scenes with softer rubbed brushwork.

Some of the renowned traditional artists are Jing Hao, Li Cheng, Fan Kuan, and Guo Xi, Dong Yuan, Juran. Things began to take new shape for Chinese Arts in the late 19th century.

The imperial Qing's dynasty ended with the cultural, political and social revolution in China. Due to the effects of modernisation and the Culture Movement, the traditional style of Chinese arts was abandoned. Chinese artists started incorporating modern touch in their technique and content. In an effort to modernise Chinese Art, the Arts institution started teaching European techniques to the artists. Modern artists started using western techniques of oil paintings, water-colour paintings and drawing in their artworks.



All mountains blanketed in Red, Li Keran

Traditional Taoist and Buddhist philosophy was overturned. Some major themes of Modern Chinese art were based on contemporary socio-economic realities such as consumer culture, materialism, urbanisation and social change. By 20th century, Chinese artists started incorporating socialist-realism in their paintings. However, the traditional artists greatly opposed these new concepts of arts and believed



Put Down Your Whip, 1939 by Xu Beihong's

that innovation could be achieved only within China's own traditions. As a result, the main theme of Chinese art remains the same which reflects the very soul and essence of the Chinese nation.

Today's China is much more adaptive and open towards modern artistic methods and techniques. According to a report by Adrienne Mong, there are an estimated 20,000 artists in the Peoples' Republic of China and one thousand more graduates every year.

Some of the well renowned modern Chinese painters include Huang Binhong, Qi Baishi, Xu Beihong, Cai Jin, Chang Ta Chien, Pan Tianshou,



Chinese Art Representatives



Wine jar, Western Zhou dynasty (1050 BC–771 BC)



Ceramic female attendants, from the tomb of Empress Dou (d. 135 BC), Western Han dynasty, Shaanxi History Museum, Xi'an



Tang dynasty tomb figure of horse, sancai glaze, 8th century



Chinese jar, Ming dynasty, Jiajing period (1521–1567), porcelain, Honolulu Academy of Arts

Wu Changshi, Fu Baoshi, Wang Kangle, and Zhang Chongren.

There is a great demand of Chinese Artwork throughout the world. Some of the well-known representatives of the Chinese Arts and Crafts are Paintings, Clay sculptures, Chinese Silk, Chinese traditional and religious music, Operas, Paper-cut items, Chinese handmade silk embroidery, Porcelain, Chinese folk toys made from cloth, grass, straw, clay, paper, paper umbrellas and lanterns.



Chinese Art Representatives

Much of the best work of Chinese arts can be seen in ceramics and textiles. These items are typical symbols of Chinese traditional culture and reflect the lifestyle and beliefs of Chinese people.

In the international market, traditional and contemporary Chinese Arts both attracts a large number of buyers from all over the world.



Chinese Art Representatives

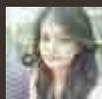
According to a report, Chinese art accounts for 23 percent of world's total art which makes China the world's second biggest market for art and

antiques. The artwork of artists such as Zhang Xiaogang was sold for a total of \$56.8 million at auction in 2007. Some of the Classical paintings such as 'All the Mountains Blanketed in Red, 1964' by Li Keran and Xu Beihong's 'Put Down Your Whip, 1939' were sold for almost \$35 and \$72 million respectively.

Chinese art is reflective of China's cultural, political and social dimensions. The way China embraced changes in their politico-economic structure; they also began to focus on modern techniques and contents.

Chinese artists have contribution in reflecting religious and

political philosophy, contemporary socio-economic realities, transformations that Chinese society has gone through since ages and of course, the Chinese art reflects the soul and essence of China as nation ■



The writer holds a Masters degree in Applied Psychology from Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad.

CPEC: A futuristic Outlook

By Asma Hanif

On June 17, 2019 a workshop was organized at Azad Jammu & Kashmir University Muzaffarabad by CPEC Centre and China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad. The workshop focused on the futuristic outlook of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The workshop commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Dr. Samina Sabir, Coordinator of CPEC Centre at University gave opening remarks. Professor Dr. Ayesha Sohail, Dean of Arts welcomed all the distinguished speakers and the participants of the workshop and spelled out the concept and importance of the workshop. Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC while discussing the aims and objectives of the workshop, moderated the proceedings of the workshop. He said it was important for all the stake holders of CPEC to know what it entails.



The first speaker Dr. Liaquat Ali Shah, Executive Director of CPEC Centre of Excellence at PIDE discussed all the problems relevant to the project. He spoke about Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and one SEZ is planned at Mirpur. Besides generating employment opportunities, SEZs promise an increase in the well-being of people including improvement in their living standards.



Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Assistant Professor at Pakistan Institute Development Economics talked about impact assessment of the project and deliberated on how the projects are evaluated. He threw light on the need and resources of the project. Dr. Shazia Ghani, Director BRI and CPEC at South

Asian Strategic Stability Institute shared her vision with the audience as a practitioner of project. She told that CPEC was able to overcome some of the extreme crises. For instance, the energy crisis have been overcome by the project and infrastructure too improved to a great extent.



She indicated some of the complications in CPEC loans and spelled out as how these issues can be addressed. Mr. Yasir Masood, Deputy Director Media, CPEC Centre of Excellence also explained the need and importance of the project. He told that for quite some time no one came to Pakistan for investment. Energy crisis was on peak at that time. But CPEC has overcome this problem.



There is substantial progress in different projects of this mega-venture. However, need of the hour is to initiate domestic and foreign investment and trade. It is up to the people of Pakistan to take advantage of this golden opportunity. A detailed Question-Answer session followed each presentation and participant asked the many pertinent questions with regards to current position of CPEC and future trajectory of the project. At the end of the workshop, Dr. Abdul Qayyum, Dean of Sciences addressed and admired the organisers of the program. He appreciated the CPEC Centre and China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad for conducting such an excellent workshop. At the end of the event, the chief guest distributed the certificates among the participants of workshop ■



Environmental Impact Assessment of CPEC Projects and Mitigation Strategies

By Dr. Abdul Rauf

Climate change, global warming, environmental degradation, are some of the terms we hear quite often nowadays. All these issues not only exist but are getting worst with each passing day. Thus we owe it to our future generations to find ways to mitigate these effects. These problems are created in the name of improving quality of life but have actually brought the world to a level where basic human needs of water, food, and energy are endangered. Climate change or global warming is the greatest environmental threat humans have ever faced in the recent history.

Global warming is evidently the main cause of rise in global greenhouse gas emissions from human activities mainly due to burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and land-use change.

Global warming is causing climate change and because of that global average surface temperature is increasing, glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, recurrence





of deadly heat waves are on rise, precipitation patterns are changing, droughts are common, flash floods are getting worse, cyclones are getting stronger and lot of other indicators are creating alarms.

be mitigated whereas, micro level assessment of each project needs to be carried out separately. Major projects under CPEC include rail and road transport infrastructure, energy generation, construction

Global warming is evidently the main cause of rise in global greenhouse gas emissions from human activities mainly due to burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and land-use change

Sahiwal Coal Power Plant



We also know about three road corridors that involves development (up-gradation and new construction) of road infrastructure and special economic zones (industries) along these corridors as well as up-gradation / expansion of existing railway lines and construction of new railway track from Havelian to Khunjerab Pass is also planned. All infrastructure developments need cement and steel. Cement production requires limestone, water and burning of lot of fossil fuel, producing carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is a major greenhouse gas responsible for global warming, limestone on heating also produces additional

Pakistan currently ranks 7th most vulnerable country on the Global Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch think tank report 2018).

It is therefore important to carry out a brief Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of CPEC projects and see how the negative environmental impacts can

of special economic zones, Gwadar port development, and social sector development projects. Gwadar master plan includes a large number of infrastructure development projects including creation of deep sea port facilities, special economic zones with industries including steel, petrochemical, airport, power plants and living facilities in Gwadar.

CO₂. Steel production is also very energy intensive process producing lot of CO₂.

Implementation of Gwadar master plan including construction of deep sea port must ensure that it does not affect the environment and marine life.



The blue beaches in the area must remain blue. Sewerage water shall not go to the sea without proper treatment. All other waste from the city including domestic and industrial waste may be disposed off properly as at present plastic is the main source of pollution in seas.

It is important that immediately after the construction, native trees are planted and maintained in the area. In addition to producing clean air and lowering temperature, trees on road sides are also useful to reduce traffic noise

Construction of new roads and expansion of existing roads may cause cutting of trees / flora and use of fertile agricultural land, which needs to be minimised by carefully designing the route and employing environment-friendly construction practices. The issues of soil, water, air and noise pollution during the

construction work need to be controlled.

Areas on either side of road can be isolated and converted into pockets which may hinder movement of local population, wild species and flood water flow, unless overhead bridges, underpasses, culverts and wildlife corridors are carefully planned. It is important

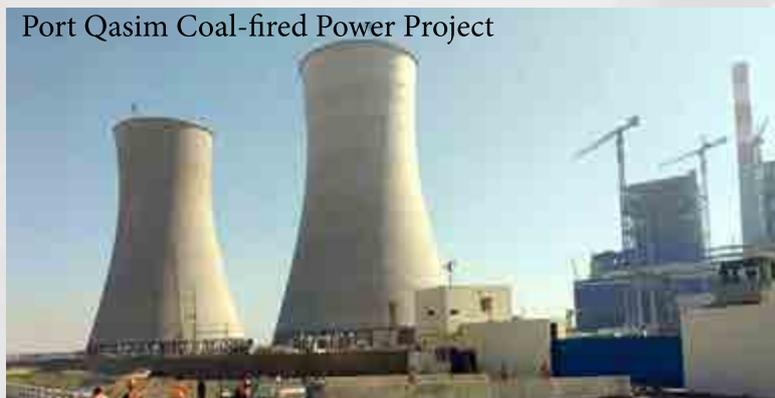
that immediately after the construction, native trees are planted and maintained in the area. In addition to producing clean air and lowering temperature, trees on road sides are also useful to reduce traffic noise.

The routes of CPEC are constructed for the movement of goods. Trains, especially electric powered using power generated by renewable sources, are much better for environment than road transport that produces excessive CO₂ by combustion engines.

Environmental issues should be given due weightage during planning and execution phase of CPEC projects

Oil and gas may be transported by pipelines instead of road or rail transport. All three CPEC routes converge in Gilgit-Baltistan region, with one of the largest glacier system in the world, and global warming is already causing recession of these glaciers. Moving a large number of trucks will not only increase greenhouse gas emissions in the area but carbon on snow causes snow to be less reflective resulting into increased melting rates.

Port Qasim Coal-fired Power Project



Although there are certain renewable (hydro, wind and solar) energy projects planned which are environment friendly but still bulk of energy in CPEC projects (69%), is planned to be produced by coal including, 660 MW at Port Qasim, 660 MW at Sahiwal, 300MW at Gwadar, 1,320MW at Hub and large number of coal-fired power plants at Thar using local coal.

High efficiency, low emissions technologies with working efficiencies of nearly 45% using supercritical or ultra-supercritical steam cycle technology that releases less pollutants are required to be employed in the newly constructed coal-fired power plants under CPEC

These coal power plants will emit a lot of greenhouse gases bulk of which is CO₂. Though bulk of global electricity generation (around 40%) still uses coal, due to its availability and being cheap, nonetheless, its effect on environment cannot be ignored. Pakistan has vast reserves of coals and hence coal power projects are economically viable. But there is a need to look into controlling the emissions from these plants. High efficiency, low emissions technologies with working efficiencies of nearly 45% using supercritical or ultra-supercritical steam cycle technology that releases less pollutants are required to be employed in the newly

constructed coal-fired power plants under CPEC.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology involving capturing and safe disposal of CO₂ produced by coal power plants is mature enough to be deployed. Beside CO₂ emission coal also produce particulate matter (PM) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) which causes air pollution. Efficient scrubbers will be required to control the PM and other pollutant gases from the exhaust. Our local coal including Thar coal is inefficient and rich in sulphur contents, burning this coal will release lot of SO₂ in the atmosphere which may cause acid rain and respiratory diseases, unless efficient and effective desulfurization equipment to clean sulphur from the smoke is utilised. Proper disposal of coal ash (including fly ash, bottom ash and boiler slag) to avoid any environmental impact is also required.



Although a number of special economic zones are planned as part of CPEC but at the moment not many details about the actual industries are available. Detailed EIA of each industry is required as these industries may cause soil, air and water

pollution. Natural resources especially underground water need to be utilised by industry in a sustainable way as water table in most part of the country has already gone down to dangerous levels.

CPEC projects are critical for the development of this region, no one can deny the positive economic and social benefits of these projects. Energy is a dire requirement and in fact it is the energy consumption per capita that indicates the standard of living. Road and rail communication is also critical. During this progress we need to make sure that these developments have least impact on environment. Therefore, environmental issues should be given due weightage during planning and execution phase of these projects. Detailed EIA of each project is essentially required. Global regulation for safeguarding the environment

exist, we just need to implement these regulations for CPEC projects. To make CPEC projects really beneficial and fruitful in economic and social sectors it is important that these do not cause any harm to our environment ■



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



CPEC: Strategizing Pakistan's Narrative

By Uroosa Khan

Mr. Jiang Han, Political Counselor at Chinese Embassy Islamabad while speaking at a seminar on CPEC: Strategizing Pakistan's Narrative organized by China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on 25 April, 2019 said that 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has been very well received and appreciated world-wide. He said that it is built around prosperity, win-win outcome and progress for all countries. However, if we do not build our own positive narrative on CPEC, this will leave plenty of room for propagation of negative perceptions.' The eminent speakers of the seminar were: Mr. Amir Jahangir, Chief Executive Officer,

Mishal Pakistan; Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Chairman Department of Media and Communication Studies, International Islamic University, Islamabad.

Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry in his introductory remarks





stated that CPEC is very significant for Pakistan not only in the context of economic success but also in terms of the strong commitment and historic friendship that Beijing and Islamabad have upheld ever since their diplomatic relations began. Pakistan-China relations are multidimensional and, henceforth, there is much more to this bilateral equation than only economy. Ambassador Chaudhry explained the shades of negatives narratives and described how some of them have run their course. He said that we are holding this seminar to counter the negative narratives and deliberate on how should we strategize the narratives on CPEC.



In his opening note, Director CPSC, Dr. Talat Shabbir contextualized the need for planning narratives on CPEC and stated that the project is a mega venture which has been shown in both positive and negative light. With made-up narratives being churned out in a massive amount, Director furthered, the need for Pakistan to strategize narratives on such mega project like CPEC has increased ever more.

Mr. Amir Jahangir, Chief Executive Officer of Mishal Pakistan, spoke about comprehending the narrative gap on CPEC. In a cosmopolitan world

like ours, Mr. Jahangir said, fresh narratives are emerging with every interaction on social media, with every post and opinion article. He suggested that 'synergizing of minds and mending of hearts is the creation of a new hope for humanity' should be the new narrative of CPEC under the wider framework of China-Pakistan relations. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Chairman Department of Media and Communication Studies, International Islamic University, talked about the ever-growing importance of figurative interactionism that has come to play an instrumental role in structuring narratives on any topic.

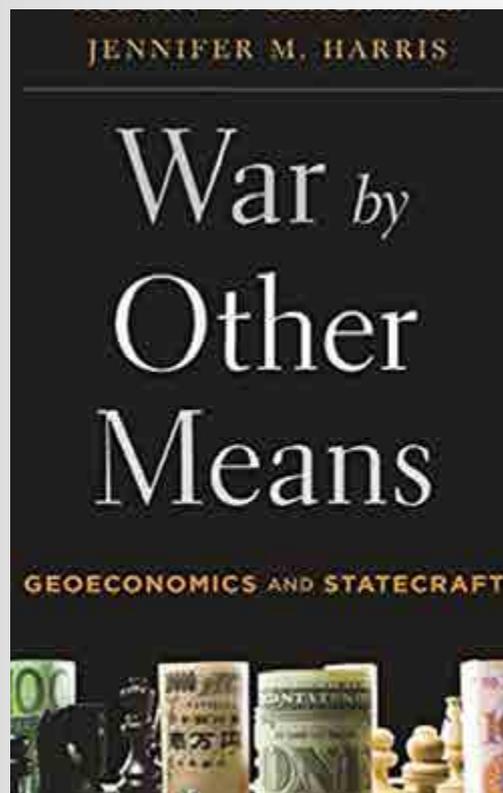


In the concluding remarks, Chairman ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood emphasized the need for counter narratives to compete against the existing destructive narratives concerning CPEC, particularly in the West. A series of seminars on this subject should follow up so that ideas may come out and an inter-governmental group can also be set up including all stakeholders like all concerned ministries and civil society. This should be the approach to strategize the narratives on CPEC. The seminar was attended by diplomatic community, academics, media personnel, students and think-tanks representatives ■



War by Other Means: Geoeconomics and Statecraft

By Ali Haider Saleem



Authors: Robert D. Blackwill and Jennifer M. Harris
Publisher: Belknap Press (April 11, 2016)
Pages: 384

Geo-economic tools have gained a lot of relevance in recent years for policy makers. In the era of globalization, the interconnected nature of the world economy allows countries to exert their influence in multiple ways. Conventional weapons are no longer the main tool of achieving foreign policy and security objectives. As major powers across the globe have

extended their efforts in applying geo-economic strategies, the traditional superpower, the United States of America, is facing difficulties in maintaining its grip over the world order.

The authors of this book have both served on key posts of the United States government. Robert D. Blackwill served as deputy assistant to President George W. Bush and also as deputy national security advisor for strategic planning during Bush administration. Jennifer M. Harris worked for U.S. Department of State under Obama's administration. She was a member of the Policy Planning Staff there. They share extensive foreign policy experience and in this book they have presented many of their observations along with policy recommendations.

They are critical of United States' extensive reliance on military power to achieve its strategic and foreign policy objectives. For them, the United States should add more weight behind the use of its economic power. The authors claim that if the United States does not effectively integrate economic and financial tools in its strategic planning then the likelihood of losing its global influence will grow. In the past, US did apply these successfully, like the Marshal Plan,

which supported the economic recovery of war ravaged European countries and prevented those countries from aligning towards the Soviets or coming under their influence.

The authors note that the United States' Grand Strategy started overlooking geo-strategic instruments in the later part of the 20th century and that move didn't work out favourably for the United States. As a result, its economic resources have been underutilized in serving its interests. They argue that the American government has to go back to the drawing board and adjust its policy initiatives. Failure to do so will allow rival countries who are presently taking this approach to build up their influence at the expense of the United States.

The authors suggest that the rising powers of the world are increasingly turning towards economic statecraft as it allows them to gain favourable sentiments from other countries and let them push their geostrategic objectives without facing hostility or drawing criticism. This also clears the possibility of any armed conflict and therefore ensures a sustainable policy track.

The geo-economic approach adopted by China is also well discussed in this book. The authors maintain that China has successfully achieved many geopolitical objectives without entering into any war. They argue that China's soft strategy, which is largely based on economic factors, has helped it induce a number of countries to support its regional and global rise. For the United States, this approach poses both economic

and security threats. China has been able to strengthen countries that are hostile towards the United States and it is also becoming an increasingly important partner for countries that usually oblige to the desires of the United States.

War by other means is an important and timely contribution. It will help the readers understand the importance of geo-economic strategies and how the United States looks to achieve its foreign policy objectives. Furthermore, the authors have also provided substantial information to understand the rise of China in global politics which is one of the most crucial topics nowadays.

The present trade war between China and the United States encompasses geo-economic strategies. The economic friction between the two powers is going to have major implications on the global order. The withdrawal of United States from Trans-Pacific Partnership has already limited prospects of international cooperation mechanisms. With the international system coming under stress due to offensive policies, global peace and stability remain at risk.

This book provides a sound understanding of how countries attempt to gain influence in global affairs and what makes them successful. It also highlights that policies of economic superpowers have multiple objectives and partner countries are pushed to make tough choices. Moreover, this book will help policy makers in different parts of the world to better understand global dynamics and shape their strategies accordingly ■



The writer is Research Associate at China-Pakistan Study Centre, Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad

Special Economic Zones: Future Prospects and Potentials

By Dr. Samina Sabir

A One-Day National Conference was hosted at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir under the title of 'Special Economic Zones: Future Prospects and Potentials', organized by China Pakistan Economic Corridor Centre, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with China-Pakistan Study Centre, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.



In her briefing, Dr. Samina Sabir Coordinator CPEC Centre highlighted the sharp contrast in growth experiences of both countries and noted that the economic uplift of China and industrialization of its economy is linked with the development of Special Economic Zones which strategically keep in view the natural factor endowments. Moreover, their location provided China a launch pad of for growth in the decades to come.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Vice Chancellor University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in his welcome remarks lauded the efforts of His Excellency Muhammad Masood Khan, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in highlighting the Kashmir cause effectively on national and international media and at various international forums. He emphasized the need to counter the negative campaigns around the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and highlighted the importance of collaboration of China Pakistan Economic Corridor Centres across Pakistan.



Hasan N. Ansari, Group Director Strategy and projects at JW Special Economic Zones limited during his remarks visualized the Belt and Road

Initiative as a patron of peace in the region. He stressed that the benefits of CPEC are contingent upon effective implementation strategy for the project, continuance of policy along with keen hunt of potential opportunities. While elucidating the industrial potentials of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, he suggested that focus might be shifted on light mining and minerals processing, tourism and adventure, light manufacturing, and green and clean Energy.

His Excellency Muhammad Masood Khan Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and President, Azad Jammu and Kashmir was the Keynote Speaker. He highlighted the need of methodological rebuttal of negativity around the China Pakistan Economic Corridor through coordinated efforts of CPEC centres across Pakistan. While highlighting the importance of Special Economic Zones he emphasized upon the need to consider the natural factor endowments of respective regions and to offer due regard to environmental and ecological impacts. He pointed out the need to enhance the access to finances for the entrepreneurial community and investments from Kashmiri diaspora.



A Memorandum of Understanding on the collaboration between the CPEC Centre, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and China Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad was signed by Dr. Ayesha Sohail, Dean Faculty of Arts, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, China Pakistan Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

The first working session was on 'Special Economic Zones and Socio-Economic Impacts' which was

chaired by Dr. Talat Shabbir Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre, ISSI. Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, Senior Research Fellow, department of land economy, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, highlighted the importance of energy efficiency in the context of Pakistan. Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah Executive Director, CEO-CPEC Centre of Excellence, spoke on industrial relocation and opportunities for Pakistan under China Pakistan Economic Corridor and emphasized that there is a need to initiate SEZs to use them as a policy tool



and to boost production efficiency.

Dr. Nasir Iqbal, associate professor at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics connected the employment creation with Special Economic Zones. He stressed that in this context, Special Economic Zones under CPEC will be a life-time opportunity for Pakistan to work with China for the development of export-oriented manufacturing industries to achieve growth and employment objectives. Dr. Shazia Ghani, Director Belt and Road Initiative and China Pakistan Economic Corridor, SASSI University discussed the future prospects and potentials of Special Economic Zones for Pakistan. She discussed the challenges that Pakistan is facing in the form of lack of infrastructure, skilled labor force etc.



Dr. Talat Shabbir in his concluding remarks said that Special Economic Zones will lead to massive development of the economy through increase in export, Foreign Direct Investment, creation of employment and Gross Domestic Product.

The last working session was on CPEC: Regional

Connectivity, Environmental Aspects and Development. This session was chaired by Dr. Shazia Ghani, Director BRI and CPEC, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute followed by three speakers.

Dr. Sohail Ahmed from International Relations department COMSATS University Islamabad said that the Special Economic Zones will create an overall impact on industrial development and socio-economic uplift in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan will be the gateway for land-locked countries of Asia, including Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan to undertake marine transport. Over \$33 Billion will be invested under CPEC to build energy infrastructures constructed by private organizations which will help to alleviate Pakistan's chronic energy shortage. CPEC will give opportunities to Gilgit-Baltistan traders to export their fruits and handicrafts via Xinjiang road, he said. Dr. Inayat Kaleem from International Relations department COMSATS University Islamabad stated that a high level of competition since late 90s, with "race-to-the-bottom" fiscal incentives, has led to significant overlaps and declining efficiency of the zone programs.

Mr. Yasir Masood from CPEC Centre of Excellence



at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics said that the vision of BRI, of which CPEC is a lynchpin, can contribute to regional and global growth by integrating more than 70 economies of the region.

In the concluding remarks of the last session, Dr. Shazia Ghani said that economic benefits of CPEC are not beneficial for Pakistan only but for the whole South Asian region. Pakistan has entered the second development phase of CPEC, being a nation we should be committed to reap benefits from it.

Prof. Dr. Ayesha Sohail gave the vote of thanks and appreciated her organizing team for managing and organizing the National Conference successfully. ■

BRI and CPEC: Beyond Excellent Hardware, Towards Matching Software

By Irfan Shahzad

The month of July 2019 marks the 6th anniversary of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between China and Pakistan for the Long-term Plan of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The MoU was signed on July 5, 2013, in Beijing. During these past six years, CPEC has emerged as the flagship project, and so far most successful component, of China's mega Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

On a larger global and regional scene, BRI has doubtlessly emerged as one of the greatest-ever plans of trans-national connectivity and development. That is well-established, globally, now. It needs little mention that excellent communications infrastructure, the much needed hardware of trans-national connectivity; and large-scale energy generation projects, the key to smooth running of any economic activity - have been ensured in a number of countries as part of BRI.

The largest of such initiatives - both in case of communications infrastructure and energy generation - are being witnessed as part of CPEC.

So far, according to Pakistan Economic Survey 2018-19 released by, Economic Advisor's Wing, Ministry of Finance, and Government of Pakistan on 10 June 2019, "Pakistan and China has successfully launched 22 projects on the ground, costing more than US\$ 28.5 billion." Overall portfolio of the CPEC

is said to be around \$ 62 billion, by 2030, while additional projects to be added later will add to the overall total investment that the corridor will generate.

However, as is universally known, every set of hardware needs matching software for it to be of any meaningful use. This makes us to state that for BRI, at this point of time, the need of the hour is to move towards matching software. This holds equally true for CPEC.

So what this software should contain?

The first and foremost is image building. Negative portrayal by anti-BRI forces is too strong as compared to positive projection of its benefits by China and recipient countries, for their own respective people. Ironically, untrue propagandas about the so-called 'debt trap' and 'dumping', even in the name of 'new colonialisms' is increasing despite a number of clarifications from Beijing as well as capitals of other partner countries. The need is to bring forth the truth, forcefully. Enhanced, and specifically targeted, media collaboration between China and partner nations needs to be stepped up.

In case of CPEC, in particular, while the negative propagandas such as the 'new East India Company' have met the reality of potent Pakistan-China on-the-ground cooperation, certain misconceptions about the flow of goods, services

and natural persons need to be tackled with jointly devised strategies.

Connectivity is primarily for the purpose of cross-border trade and movement of the people. This is supplemented by free and preferential trade arrangements, for desired results. China and the partner countries need to ensure win-win bilateral and regional trade arrangements; where no country feels flooded with one way traffic of goods and services.

On a larger global and regional scene, BRI has doubtlessly emerged as one of the greatest-ever plans of trans-national connectivity and development. That is well-established, globally, now

It is good to note that Pakistan and China have now started implementation of FTA 2 (Free Trade Area Agreement, Second Phase) which would facilitate enhanced bilateral trade and to some extent would address the negative trade balance - presently hugely in favour of China. Yet, if an initiative of the size and scope of CPEC is to be seen as a successful venture; it would require an across-the-board feeling of win-win trade cooperation on both the sides.

Connectivity also is the name of smooth movement of people: for this, immigration and customs laws, regulations and procedures have to be harnessed in ways that BRI- and particularly CPEC-built infrastructure becomes rewarding for all the partners.

Wherever there is increased business, inter-business frictions are bound to grow. A full-fledged Business Disputes Settlement Mechanism - the journey

towards which has already been started - would be pivotal for the long-term success of BRI and CPEC.

With increased people-to-people exchanges, it becomes vital to sensitise businessperson, workers, and other visitors about religious, cultural and social norms of China and its partner countries. This is significant for the mutual goodwill to continue, and for much needs acceptance of each other in the long-run. Recent, not-so-positive incidents necessitate it all the more, and without delay.

And last but not the least: it is the time for meaningful partnerships for socio-economic development and poverty reduction so that every person in the partner nations sees the fruits of BRI as a mega global initiative coming directly towards him/her. CPEC, in this case too, is emerging as an example for the rest of BRI partnerships as Pakistan and China embark upon a \$ 1 billion (grant from China to Pakistan) initiative for 27 projects of socio-economic uplift.

It is good to note that leadership in China and partner countries realizes the need for this rather lesser focussed 'software' in addition to the great infrastructure that BRI has built and is building. There was notable progress towards this 'software' in the recently held 2nd Belt and Road Forum of international leaders held in China at the end of April 2019. This needs to be taken forward and with greater vigour ■



The writer is a policy analyst and focuses on China-led connectivity and development initiatives



Sports: Collaboration Potentials of Pakistan and China

By Haider Ali Daud Khan

Sports hold the power to reform the world. It is a universal language that transcends religion, race, ethnicity and language; uniting people for a common cause. Sports serve as the forum to create better relations between individuals of one group or team with other group or team. During the Cold War era, the field of sports was seen as one of the main battlegrounds between the US and the former USSR. To prove their might, both countries would field hundreds and thousands of athletes at international events in a bid to secure the most number of medals. China too, has harnessed the power of sport to help build a great empire. With China soon becoming the top contender to be the next global superpower, another factor that builds on its impressive image is the massive development of sports in the country. China ranked at the third place in the medal tally for the Rio Summer Olympic Games, 2016 and has cumulatively, won 608 Olympic medals and ranks 8th. At the Asian Games, China leads the medal tally with 3,187 cumulative medals.

Pakistan-China relations have been a symbol of strength and unity in the world. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project brought Pakistan and China even closer as both countries embarked upon joint ventures in variety of fields.

With China soon becoming the top contender to be the next global superpower, another factor that builds on its impressive image is the massive development of sports in the country

CPEC is tipped as the Game Changer for the region and not just for Pakistan and China. Both countries are co-operating in



energy, infrastructure, education, health and other areas. Sports however is a domain that remains mostly when it comes to the mega-venture CPEC. While there have been talks about improving the field of sports as well, nothing has materialised as yet. Both China and Pakistan have huge potential in sports and if they are able to leverage their respective strengths and experiences through bilateral exchange, sports can develop and flourish as industry in Pakistan.

Globally, sports is a multi-billion-dollar industry. China's sports industry has grown by leaps and bounds. In 2016, the sports industry was worth \$295 billion and this accounted for 0.9% of the country's GDP. China's sports industry employs more than 4.4 million people. By 2025, the Chinese government wishes to build a sports empire that will be worth more than \$800 billion. The sports system in China has been enormously successful ever since the country returned to the Olympic field in 1980. Sports schools were established throughout the country. The objective of these schools was to groom children as future champions. The schools recruited children as young as six year olds and trained them in various Olympic sports. The result was seen several years later, when at the Beijing Summer Olympics (2008) saw the host nation becoming recipient of the most medals.

For the Chinese government, football is a vital component for the country's transformation into a global powerhouse. Although China has so far failed to leave its mark at the global football scene, China's ever growing influence and presence was felt during the 2018 FIFA World Cup as several major sponsors of the event were Chinese giants such as Vivo and Wanda.

A sports policy unveiled in 2016 aims to build 70,000 football pitches, producing 20,000 new academies and 30 million children playing football by 2020. China has also invested into Football leagues, with the Chinese Super League at the very top of the pyramid. Players, coaches, nutritionists, technical experts and data analysts have all been imported.

Under the same plan, China has planned several projects for improvement of sports, sports parks, games and competition and also a water-sports park aimed to uplift water sports in the country. Pakistan was a global sport power house, excelling mainly in Squash, Hockey, Cricket, Kabaddi, Snooker, Boxing, and Wrestling. Besides this, Pakistan hosts polo at the highest altitude polo ground in the world. Pakistan also has five out of the fourteen eight-thousand meters peaks that are





a treat for mountaineers from across the globe. Unfortunately, in last two decades, Pakistan has become a single sport nation with cricket being the only sport that receives media and commercial interest. This combined with dysfunctional sports policies and practices have brought the various other sports in the country to a fight for their survival.

Both countries can work together to help each other. The mutual benefits are numerous. China's persistence in sporting excellence must be applauded. If Pakistan wishes to emerge as a sports nation, the country needs to understand and benchmark practices in China. Pakistan can benefit in sports like table tennis, badminton, shooting, weightlifting, diving, and gymnastics. China is leading table tennis and badminton at the Olympic Games.

Pakistan can seek coaching as well as benchmark best practices from their Chinese counterparts in these sports. While China can take advantage from our experience in world class sports like Squash, Hockey, Cricket, Kabaddi, Snooker, Boxing, and Wrestling.

Sports goods have been one of Pakistan's finest exports. The industry has been known to produce quality footballs for FIFA World Cup over the years. During the fiscal year 2016-2017, the revenue generated by the sports goods manufacturing industry was

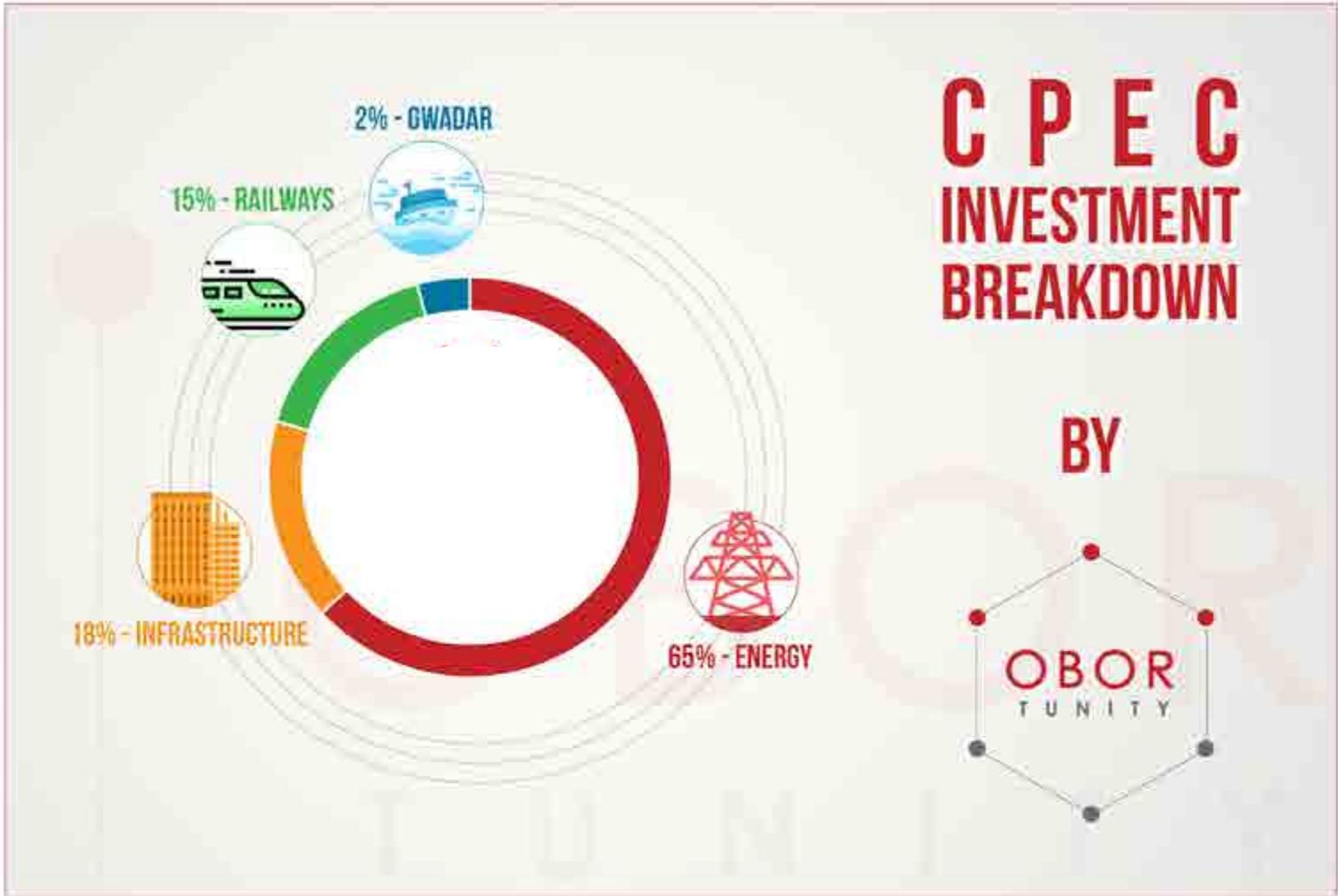
\$307 million. This marked a decline in revenues when compared to previous years. While Pakistan's industry battles on, China has achieved excellence in sports goods manufacturing as well, earning more than \$27 billion in 2015. The trend has not been in Pakistan's favour, but there are lessons to be learned here as well.

China has planned several projects for improvement of sports, sports parks, games and competition and also a water-sports park aimed to uplift water sports in the country

Pakistan and China enjoy a brotherly relationship. Collaborations of numerous projects exist between the two countries. CPEC has already captured the imagination of the region and the world as the potential Game Changer. The huge potential of sports that these two countries possess remains unexplored. Should the two nations combine their efforts for sports, the benefits will be manifold. Youth shall be engaged in unprecedented ways that shall create employment and financial well-being besides bringing pride and honour for the countries ■



Haider Ali Daud Khan is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Strawberry Sports Management.





China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Forum-2019: One Day Think-Tank Dialogue

By Neelum Nigar

an era of shared prosperity.’ The event was organized by China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in collaboration with Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and Research and Development International (RDI) at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad.

Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi during his address as Chief Guest, at a One Day Think-Tank Dialogue as part of the CPEC Forum 2019 on June 20, stated that the close relationship between Pakistan and China is a net contributor to the stability of the region and its economic integration. Together, we stand for globalism and inclusivity. We are opposed to regional hegemony and unilateralism. CPEC reflects the common resolve of our two countries to surge ahead with projects of economic and social cooperation, and usher for both countries,

Mr. Qureshi affirmed that China and Pakistan are not just neighbours, they are good friends and ‘Iron Brothers’. ‘This friendship has stood the test of time, and is underpinned by shared values and interests. Here, in Pakistan, this relationship is a defining feature of Pakistan’s foreign policy. The political goodwill between our two people is now translating into newer, more impactful ways of cooperation from diplomacy to economy to defense. There is so much that the two countries can gain from each other. The leadership of Pakistan is determined in pursuit of our vision of Naya Pakistan, of which our friendship with China is a pillar of strength.’ The Foreign Minister of

Pakistan said that a people-centred approach is the need of the hour. Furthermore, collaboration in areas such as science and technology, agriculture, social sector cooperation, blue economy, people-to-people and cultural linkages, and figuring out mutually beneficial ways of boosting Pakistan’s industrial capacity along with broadening our export base is also of crucial importance, he added.



Earlier in his introductory remarks, Mr. Cai Fang, Vice President, CASS, stressed on international cooperation to advance the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and pursue policy research in this mega project of intra- and inter-regional connectivity. Rightly dubbed as Iron Brothers, Vice President of CASS said, Pakistan and China are entering a new phase and pursuing the great dream of national prosperity of their people through CPEC, a pilot project of BRI. Pakistan and China are not only good neighbours, but also trusted partners. CPEC is the finest reflection of the ancient Silk Road, based on inclusivity and mutual success, he said.

Expressing his views, H.E Yao Jing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan educated the audience of the near completion of the Early Harvest Projects. He emphasized that CPEC has roots in both countries and has the extension potential in the business sectors. He further said that under the new leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, China and Pakistan are dedicated to complete the other projects as well. China can provide a profitable market for Pakistan's products. Also, CPEC is open for third parties and together, we are looking forward to promoting the development of Pakistan and the region.

In his remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman PCI and Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, observed that BRI is the culmination of three words: corridors, culture and connectivity. He went on to single out twenty-seven projects that are going to be included under CPEC which will help the less developed part of Pakistan. The model given by China is about win-win cooperation, while the US has always been about hard power and, he said. Speaking about opening up CPEC to the regional countries, the Senator stated that CPEC is not about China and Pakistan, but regional connectivity. Commenting on US-China trade war, Mr. Sayed said that we reject any trade war because protectionism is not practical in today's globalized world, conversely the model of win-win cooperation is.



During her Keynote address, H.E Zhao Bai Ge, Vice Chair of the 12th NPC Foreign Affairs Committee stated that persistence is key to development. CPEC is for countries who want to progress. It is a prototypical model for the whole world, especially the developing countries. Pakistan is keen for development and China wants to help contribute to this. The private sector and its businessmen are ideal for success for any country. Pakistan has a big youth mass that has a lot to learn and China, in this regard, can offer a lot in the fields of agriculture, artificial intelligence. The question is to think of the next step which will help lead to further levels of cooperation. The CPEC Forum 2019 will help bring new ideas to the fore, she said.



The discussion of the dialogue was divided into two working sessions titled: Five Years of CPEC Cooperation and Shared Economic Development: Unlocking Future Potential respectively. The major points raised by the speakers during the seminar were that from the perspective of enterprises, a good social security environment and a good business environment are important considerations

for business investment and business activities. Concern about misperceptions regarding CPEC were also raised and how the ambiguity surrounding the project needs to be dispelled. Geopolitics cannot be excluded from CPEC. Therefore, a comprehensive security solution planned from the top level is necessary. In order to ensure the success of industrial cooperation, serious balance of payments gap should be eliminated as soon as possible to gain confidence of the international investors.



Moreover, in order for government efficiency to be improved, bureaucracy system reforms are badly needed. All activities under CPEC need to be linked to Gwadar. Gwadar is on the high and bright road of development, but this news is not reaching the people as one would expect it to be. Real benefits of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can only be realized once they are interfaced with the overall economic activities of Pakistan as a whole. Perceptions and misperceptions have come to play a decisive role in ensuring the success of CPEC, and eventually, of BRI. However, the mega project needs to be made as much transparent as possible to eradicate any probabilities of misunderstandings and foul assessments. Although CPEC is a component of the 'China Dream', it needs to be viewed in the context of bilateral gains. Sustainable development needs reciprocal policies and actions.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said that Asia has been witnessing not only unprecedented economic growth in the past few decades, it has also become the centre of the call for connectivity and globalism. In this backdrop,

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) stands tall as a program that is bringing people and countries closer. CPEC is a central plank of BRI. Hence, there is need to ensure that CPEC succeeds, and to that end, every stakeholder contributes, including think tanks like those gathered today and business community which would meet tomorrow.

Chairman BOG ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood in his concluding remarks said that today's event has captured the evolution of China-Pakistan relationship. In the past, it was usually restricted to diplomatic and government exchanges. Nowadays, people and business exchanges have become more frequent. This has enriched and diversified the relationship between the two nations, he said.

Speakers at the Forum included: Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute; Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman, Director, Pakistan Institute of China Study, University of Sargodha; Mr. Baozhong Zhang, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited; Dr. Liaquat Shah, Executive Director CPEC Center of Excellence; Mr. Yaobin Tian, Vice President of CETC International Co Ltd.; Mr. Faheem Sardar, MD TANGENT; Mr. Hailin Ye, Deputy Director General of the National Institute of International Strategy, Mr. Xiangyang Li, Director General of the National Institute of International Strategy, CASS; Mr. Hasaan Khawar, Independent Analyst; Dr. Sumeera Imran, National Defense University (NDU) and Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, Executive Director Zalmi Foundation ■



Reflections from the Past and Reasons for Optimism

By Major General Sikandar Hayat Khan (Retired)

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a major connectivity project that will help Pakistan realise its true geographical potential. Over the years, there has been a great deal of effort put in place to enhance connectivity with China as it is essential for Pakistan's economic progress. During my career, I have worked on multiple infrastructure and connectivity projects and witnessed the scale of commitment of both countries on ground.

We were the first unit of Corp of Engineers to work on cutting the mountain along River Indus in 1966 when construction of Karakoram Highway had just started. There was no place of making a camp so we had to create a track to reach a flat patch in our deployed area. With assistance from local labour, we carried air compressor parts to Chuchang top and reassembled them. It took us 3 months to cut the rock up to the overhang on the River Indus below. We restlessly drilled holes and blasted explosives to carve

open the area. The construction of Karakoram Highway is a great achievement for both the countries. It is really encouraging to see that China and Pakistan have continued to work collectively on projects of mutual benefits.



The Karakoram highway has offered great economic benefits to the people of Pakistan. Similarly, connectivity projects in Balochistan will also improve the livelihoods of the locals. Balochistan's coastal areas have a lot of potential but have

largely remained untapped due to certain limitations. While on the appointment of Chief Engineer in the Pakistan Navy (on secondment from Pakistan Army) I was tasked to find a suitable location for a Naval Base in Balochistan. With the help of specialists from Netherlands, we surveyed the coastal areas and ultimately Ormara was selected as a base. Today, the base at Ormara is critical for the security of CPEC projects that are underway in Balochistan. Better connectivity and integration with ports and other parts of the country will go a long way in uplifting the economic conditions of the province.

Infrastructure development and security are key for stability in the country. The progress made since the launch of CPEC is very encouraging and the dedication of Pakistan's Armed forces towards the implementation of CPEC projects is commendable ■



The writer is former Chairman Prime Minister's Monitoring and Evaluation Cell, DG National Logistics Cell and Chief Engineer Pakistan Navy



OF AUSTERITY, DOCUMENTATION AND TAX

Takeaways of Budget 2019-2020

By Raja Amer Iqbal

Federal budget amounting to Rs.7.288 trillion focuses on Austerity, documentation and higher tax. Austerity drive, for example no increase in senior military and civil bureaucracy, reduction of five percent in civil administration budget, no or substantial increase in defense budget along with ten percent voluntarily reduction in cabinet member salary etc. are symbolic and appreciable step. Many steps have been taken to strengthen the documentation of the economy and it's quite an uphill and tedious task to attain this as there are many constraints. Federal Board of Revenue, in this regards have to take the stakeholders on

board to contrive a mechanism to carry it out. Similarly, on line submission of 17% GST through electric bills seem unworkable as it's quite a challenging to categorize the retail shops in the country. Government needs to encourage and involve trade bodies and chambers to help implement this clause. For market based real value of property and immovable assets for the purpose of transfer, FBR has announced that new real values for twenty one major cities of the country and this will ensure the connectivity of missing wealth in the real estate sector along with the abolishment of non-filler taxpayer concept and consequently encourage the documentation.

Tax slabs with higher tax rates in the country is another effort to increase direct tax revenue.

For market based real value of property and immovable assets for the purpose of transfer, FBR has announced that new real values for twenty one major cities of the country and this will ensure the connectivity of missing wealth in the real estate sector along with the abolishment of non-filler taxpayer concept and consequently encourage the documentation

For salaried class the highest slab of 35% is imposed with an income of more than Rs. 75 million per annum as compare to Rs. 6 million per annum for individuals and Association of Partners (AOP). This huge difference remains unexplained. Individuals like sole proprietors and AOPs who in fact create job opportunities in the country are discriminated. The government therefore, needs to address this anomaly.

Unless we diversify our exports, we are not likely to have currency stability and may not attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). For value addition, countries like Pakistan are dependent on imported inputs therefore; exchange rate beyond certain point makes your exports uncompetitive in global market

The budget is likely to adversely impact the purchasing power parity (PPP) of the middle class. Middle class is always called the back bone of the economy, although government has allocated Rs. 100 billion for the Youth Scheme meant for 80000 educated individuals that comes to Rs. 1.25 million per individual. This too is a meager amount to start any reasonable business.

They may be urged to devise some viable mechanism to limit the ever increasing foreign exchange rate in the country. It is understandable that certain economists advise the government to devalue the currency primarily to boost the exports and check the fiscal deficit percentage in local currency especially in presence of fiscal responsibility and public debt limitation act.

It is imperative to remember that our traditional five export sectors have unyielding demands in global market therefore, unless we diversify our exports, we are not likely to have currency stability and may not attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). For value addition, countries like Pakistan are dependent on imported inputs therefore; exchange rate beyond certain point makes your exports uncompetitive in global market. It is therefore asserted that government must intervene to stabilize the currency. If government fails, uncertainty shall continue to prevail in the country which may be hostile to investments. At the same time, without enhancing exports there is no practical way to pay back external loan which has piled up to the tune of \$104.7 billion.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a mega

project that people of Pakistan have pinned their hopes to. In the current budget, no amount has been allocated for CPEC based Industrial Parks which are essential for generating employment opportunities and economic activities in the country.

Pakistan needs to enhance export through Chinese supply chain connectivity and for that we need serious appraisal of possibilities of Joint ventures among the business community of two nations on priority basis

Pakistan needs to enhance export through Chinese supply chain connectivity and for that we need serious appraisal of possibilities of Joint ventures among the business community of two nations on priority basis. It is therefore vital to think of all-inclusive solutions to problems that Pakistan faces today. We must take measures to improve governance, revitalize political and economic institutions, create fiscal discipline, attract FDIs, and create enabling environment for all stakeholders who wish to help our country develop and grow ■



The writer is Former President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader: Benefits of Reading

By Abid Hussain

Reading refers to the ability to comprehend a text. Reading skills are based upon a child's mental capability to grasp a text, an excerpt or any piece of writing. Apart from this, it also depends upon the innate knowledge which a child holds by birth. The key purpose of reading is to identify facts in written text, to connect text with real life situations and to become more informed about the world in which we live in.

Being a bookworm has its own perks. People who read are more informed and hold

authentic knowledge about important issues. Reading is not only a thing of joy or mere flip through papers and pamphlets but formal reading helps in competitive exams and it may even become a step in ladder towards one's career.



It also helps with fluency, pronunciation, vocabulary and most of all it determines how you write.

Reading can be of any sort, sometimes people only skim and scan texts which are easy to understand while there are times when intensive reading exercises need to be done to grab the idea of the text. If a person develops a habit of reading from a very early age, then this mental exercise can become a habit, which pays off in the future.

To be a bookish person, there are certain strategies that need



to be adapted. If these skills are brought into one's reading practice, it could lead to better understanding of subject matter.



Holy Quran, reading it and understanding it opens our hearts and minds to us and leads us to the ultimate truth of being.

In a nutshell, it could be said that reading is just not mindless exercise but it pays off and it liberates you. Reading trains your mind to think big and act big. Reading harmonizes the relationship of body and mind. This quote is quite right that 'today a reader, tomorrow a leader.' If we reflect back on our history, reading opens you up to different regions and different cultures. Books take you to places which you might not afford to go but through books you can drift past Eiffel Tower, Hanging Garden of Babylon, splendid city of Athens and lush green and red tulip gardens of Holland. Books can be your outlet to where ever you want to travel. Imagination has no end in reading and writing.

For starters and for children, one could begin with reading news-headlines, book reviews, short-stories etc. This is a step forward in increasing fluency and comprehension.

Another tip which does wonders is to summarize or jot down important points after a detailed reading. This leads to better understanding of the text and in the long run helps in making coherent and well-structured arguments in academic writing. Reading and writing practice makes a person eloquent speaker and improves his/her interactive skills.

Apart from all these benefits, reading can simply be food for thought. During one's time of leisure and vacation, a productive source of enjoyment can be to read those novels, comics and poetry you love. Reading plays a great role in soul searching and helps one formulate own truths and realities. Furthermore, motivational books and even religious books are therapeutic and sort of link a person with his/her spiritual self. There can be no better example than

Acquiring books is not a hard job these days, if one cannot buy the expensive first editions there are always second, third editions available of exactly the same text and with good quality. There are also old book stores which makes it even easier to get hand on your favorite books. Also, technology has made everything easy, now books can be downloaded from various websites and you can read on your laptops, I-pads and even your cellular phones. Reading can be one of the inexpensive and in-exhaustive ways to sharpen your mind.



And sometimes the truths you create by reading and writing become universal truths. To sum up, George Martin very rightly puts

'A reader lives a thousand lives, before he dies. The man who never Reads lives only one!' ■



The writer is library officer at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.





Biryani

The ultimate deal-maker

By Arhama Siddiqua

Barring the Indo-Pak rivalry, there are many things which unite the desi community in both India and Pakistan and biryani is one of them. The 'King' of all the dishes, features meat or vegetables cooked in a subtle combination of spices. The dish has many historical, cultural and even social aspects to it.

There is much debate regarding the origins of this dish. It is opined that it originated in Persia and was brought to the subcontinent by Mughals. Here it was further developed into the dish we all love today. The famous traveler and historian Al-Biruni has precise descriptions of meals at the courts of Sultans who ruled parts of India prior to the

Mughals. These also contain mentions of rice dishes similar to the Mughal biryani.

Then there is another opinion that the Nawabs of Awadh were the real originators. Most of the money from their treasury went to various kinds of food. Biryani did not feature on their menu till half a century into their reign and that too after a famine hit the area. As a famine relief measure, the Nawab ordered the construction of the Bara Imambara- which is a main feature of modern day Lucknow. In order to feed the large number of people working for construction, large cauldrons were filled with rice, meat and vegetables and slow cooked for hours. When one day, the Nawab caught a whiff of the

Biryani, he ordered his royal staff to prepare the same dish for the royal tables and hence, Biryani became a famous dish in the Awadh household.

In fact, the kind of biryani you eat in India or Pakistan depends in which region you are living. Most of the regions have their own unique spin on the dish. Within Pakistan, Sindhis.



Different types of Biryani include Bombay Biryani, Dum Pukht Biryani and Hyderabadi Biryani.

Gone are the days when Biryani required hours if not a couple of days to prepare. Now ready made packet spices with complete instructions has reduced cooking time of this dish to a mere thirty minutes. One can walk into any desi store in any part of the world and find shelves filled with all varieties of the dish ranging from Sindhi Biryani, Bombay Biryani and Vegetable Biryani to even Fish Biryani.

Biryani has deep social and cultural connotations attached as well. Marriage ceremonies center around Biryani. It is as much a poor man's dish as it is a rich man's. While restaurants are judged based on the Biryani they serve, people are judged by what they eat Biryani with. While a spicy green chutney or raita is looked upon favourably. The recent trend of coupling Biryani with ketchup is looked down upon by many. There are many memes to that effect. People have indeed

cashed in on 'Biryani' in more ways than one. There is a website dedicated to providing the best Biryani education too (www.biryaniuniversity.com).



Biryani is what ties Desis living abroad to their home country. Students pay exuberant prices for a single plate of Biryani just to have a taste of home. According to foodpanda India, on the last day of 2018, they delivered 14 biryanis per minute!

In Pakistan, when mothers are searching for the perfect wife for their sons, one of the top criteria for many is that 'Biryani banani ani chahiyeh' (she should know how to make biryani). It is indeed one the first dishes the new bride is expected to make in her new household. In fact, for any girl or boy, the level of their cooking expertise is not judged by the number of international varieties of cuisine they can make. In the end it all boils down to how well do the Biryani rice grains stand out.

With the advent of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Shan Masala- one of the biggest food brands in Pakistan made a TV

Commercial about a Chinese woman making biryani for her Lahori neighbours. The importance of Biryani can be seen in that such renowned brand cashed in on it to increase its sales. Of course the aim was to highlight the increasing China Pakistan friendship, but the fact that Biryani was used to bring people of different cultures together cannot be disregarded. With the passage of time, the importance of food in large gatherings has increased and within this biryani more so primarily because of the ease of making it on a large scale ■

HAPPINESS IS



....Biryani



The writer tweets @arhama_siddiq and maintains a food website www.chakhoos.com.



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a round-table discussion on 'Role of Pakistani Diaspora'. Guest Speaker at the occasion was Mr. Irfan Murtaza, a prominent community leader based in California, United States of America- April 23, 2019

Launching ceremony of the book titled, 'UN Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia 1992-1995: A Pakistani Perspective' authored by Dr. Tughral Yamin, Associate Dean, Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, National University of Sciences & Technology at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad- April 10, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosting an In-House Meeting with a 5-member Chinese delegation from Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences- April 17, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosting a Public Talk titled, 'Resolving Pakistan's Energy Dilemma: Critical Starting Point and Role of China Pakistan Economic Corridor'. Speaker: Mr. Ziad Alahdad, former Director of Ops & Lead Energy Specialist, World Bank- April 18, 2019

Ambassador Tanveer Akhtar Khaskheli meets Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad- April 23, 2019



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts In-House Meeting with a 3-member Media Delegation from Maldives- June 18, 2019.



The China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a seminar titled, 'CPEC: Strategising Pakistan's Narrative', at its premises- March 25, 2019

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad conducting its 4th Tuesday Dialogue discussion on 'Pakistan-Russia Relations'- April 30, 2019



Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad welcomes Mr. Sohail Mahmood, the new Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs at its premises- May 3, 2019



Mr. Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, Director General Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls upon Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad - May 6, 2019

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad hosts a Public Talk titled, 'Global Climate Change and its Implications for Pakistan'. The talk was delivered by Dr. Adil Najam, Dean, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University- May 8, 2019



Ambassador of Republic of Tajikistan H. E. Mr. Ismatullo Nasredin visits the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad and calls upon Director General Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and Chairman Board of Governors, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood- May 08, 2019





Xi-Imran Talks: China Supports Pakistan's Counterterrorism Plan

A statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Minister after the meeting between PM Khan and President Xi on the side lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek noted, 'Xi Jinping pointed out that in the past eight months, I met with the prime minister three times. This fully reflects the high level of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership.' Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that given the changing dynamics of the international and regional situation, it is important for Pakistan and China to cement their partnership with closer cooperation and coordination to establish a close-knit community with a shared destiny.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) sets \$5 billion target for Pakistan's exports to China

After the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Pakistan's exports to China are expected to reach more than \$ 5 billion, said FPCCI Chairman Daroo Khan Achakzai, during the China-South Asia Cooperation Forum. Speaking at the China-South Asia Cooperation Forum, Mr. Achakzai said, 'we hope that our exports to China will double, as 313 items are included in the FTA, equal to the ASEAN tariff. So, we hope that our yarn, sugar, more agricultural and leather products can be exported to China in greater volume.'



China will provide \$ 1billion grant for socio economic development in Pakistan: Khusro

Minister for Planning and Development Khusro Bakhtyar says China will provide one billion dollars grant for socio economic development in Pakistan. Addressing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Forum - 2019 in Islamabad, he said cooperation in education, health, water, poverty alleviation and other sectors has been included in socio-economic development. The Minister said industrial and agricultural development will be focused in the next phase of CPEC. He urged the private sector to take lead in industrial development. He said cooperation in industrial sector will further strengthen relationship between Pakistan and China.

US and China to resume trade talks after Trump-Xi meeting

Mr. Trump and Chinese president Xi Jinping agreed to resume trade talks after the US president pledged not to put more tariffs on Chinese goods while negotiations continued. He also softened his stance on Huawei, the Chinese telecoms company. The truce came after the two leaders has what Mr. Trump called an 'excellent' meeting in Osaka. He said he had agreed not to target Chinese exports with new tariffs, while China had agreed to buy US agricultural goods. 'We are holding back on tariffs, and they are going to buy farm products,' Mr. Trump said at a news conference.



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