

Report

In-House meeting at ISS with 6-member Communist Party of China delegation

November 22, 2012



**THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES,
ISLAMABAD**

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The relationship between China and Pakistan is growing stronger than ever and these relations are considered unique in the world of international affairs. This was stated by Li Junru, former Vice President, Central Party School of the Communist Party of China (CPC), who visited the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad for an In-house meeting on November 22, 2012. He quoted Deng's saying that "Sino-Pak friendship is eternal" and that Pakistani leadership repeatedly stressed that China-Pakistan friendship is "higher than Himalayas and deeper than the ocean". We believe that the government and the people of China and Pakistan will promote traditional friendship and enhance bilateral strategic cooperation to enter into a new historical phase of development.

Other members of the CPC delegation included Huang Huaguang, Director General, Research Office, International Department of CPC (IDCPC); Zhang Yansheng, Secretary General, Academic Committee, National Development & Reform Commission & former Director, Institute for International Economics Research; Zhang Guanping, Deputy Division Chief, Research Office, IDCPC; Liang Bihan, Assistant Secretary, Bureau I, IDCPC and Tang Yu (F), English Translator, Coordination Bureau, IDCPC

Earlier, the Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Ambassador (Retd.) Ashraf Jehangir Qazi expressed his deep gratitude to the distinguished members of the Chinese delegation and extended them a warm welcome. He said that the visit by the delegation to Pakistan came at

a historic time when a new leadership has been elected in China, and we hope that the new leadership would enhance our bilateral relations at the highest level. Furthermore, he criticized the current US election campaign in which both candidates gave negative perceptions about China that was totally unrealistic. On the situation in the Middle East, he condemned the Israel attack on Palestine. He claimed that although US soft power is declining, yet it wants to maintain its military supremacy in the world which has made world peace fragile. He referred to President Obama's recent visit to Myanmar which shows their long-term interest in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Li Junru, highlighted the prime role of 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and said that the CPC completed its most comprehensive transfer of power in more than six decades of rule and unveiled a new leadership headed by [Xi Jinping](#). Furthermore, he said that China's political reforms appear to be remarkably conservative; seemingly in line with old-fashioned Marxist doctrines and that the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics would be followed by the new leadership. He said that the 18th Congress meeting got worldwide attention and the leaders of the world sent congratulatory messages to China on the successful change of leadership. We also received the congratulatory message from all political parties of Pakistan and we respect Pakistan's best wishes towards Chinese nation.

Elaborating the goals of the 18th Congress, Mr Junru explained that it emphasized solution of domestic issues and that the Chinese people are very satisfied of these proceedings. A post Congress survey was conducted in which more than 80% people believed that the new leadership has the

capacity to resolve the issues and lead the country in the right direction. More than 85% said that they have seen improvement in their daily life that would continue in the future. He believed that China's development can bring positive changes for the world, domestically China's economy is back on the track and we hope that we would be stronger in the future.

Furthermore, he emphasized that Chinese government is adopting the mechanism of consultations with experts, which was started during Jiang Zemin's government and that this mechanism is providing better understating on many policy matters and issues. He said that after his election as a president, Xi Jinping constituted a committee and that committee will submit their reports on many issues. For time to time that committee would brief president and make the friendly policies for the Chinese people. He said that the newly elected government is committed to fight against corruption which was deep-rooted at almost every level in the country.

According to Mr Junru, China believes in peaceful coexistence and would not involve itself in any conflict inside and outside the region, but it would enhance its strategic capabilities. In the contemporary world, China has been facing more challenges then opportunities that is why it needs to adopt concrete policies to tackle those challenges. Furthermore, he said that US has long-term and high profile interests in the region and we are well aware of these developments. Keeping in views these developments, China will make assertive policies for its defense. US would not leave Asia and is planning to get airbases in the region which would bring fatal consequences for the regional countries. Pacific Ocean is large and it is not

possible for any single country to take control over it, US presence is always there, but we are not afraid of its presence. We hope that US would respect our interests in the region; we are the part of G-20 and would continue to work together. We refused the idea of G-2 and are not interested in this kind of notion which was presented by the US in 2011. China is the second largest economy and largest developing country in the world, and both China and US can work together for the peace and stability of the world.

He said that Chinese economy does not match with that of the US and we have much dissimilarities, such as history, cultural legacy and huge population. If US imposes trade restrictions on China that would not only affect the whole world, but the US too could lose a huge market. We hope it would not do this, China is not in competition with the US, and wants to see a peaceful and harmonious world. We have no intentions of competing with the US, and, neither do we want to lead the world.

We have disputes with some neighboring countries, but we believe in peaceful negotiations in order to create a new kind of friendly relations with the regional countries, and make sure that they would respect our interests. The force structure of our military together with its emerging military doctrine would be aimed at supporting China's "core interests" including long-term political unity with Taiwan, and protection of China's territorial and maritime claims in both the East and the South China Sea.

Mr Junru said that the 18th Congress of the CPC has adopted five goals for future plans, which include developing a prosperous society; new amendments in party's constitution; new layout for economic, political and

cultural development; comprehensive reforms for better relations between market and the government; and party's scientific development.

On economic side he said that China has developed a vision for 2020, in which it will try to enhance itsr GDP to US\$8000 which would be almost double compared to 2010. China would also focus on scientific research and address the climate change in effective manner because it feels that this has become a non-conventional threat to economic prosperity. He further elaborated that in 'Vision 2020' China would focus on enhancing the living standards of the people and would try to eliminate corruption inside the party. President Xi Jinping has made it clear that we should try to provide better standard of life for everyone and we have a vision for a bright future. Xi Jinping is very optimistic about the Chinese progress and his government will adopt more market-oriented strategies in which the relationship between business community and the state would flourish in order to ensure that more business comes to China.

Responding to a question, Mr Junru said that we have adopted the correct path to lead our people from poverty to prosperity and we would continue these steps in the future. We have serious concerns over the social gap, which is widening with the passage of time and we are trying to reduce that gap. There are more than 200 million indigenous migrant worker and they are earning well as compare to other rural workers. Shanghai and other coastal areas are already full with migrants. We admit that there is wealth gap but they are getting better life standards. We don't give high expectations to people and tell them that China is a developing country and we assure that gradually their wages would increase.

In conclusion, Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Director General of the ISSI, thanked the Chinese delegation for their comprehensive and insightful talk and said that such high level visits and exchanges will further strengthen political, economic and technological cooperation between two old friends.

Prepared by

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