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**Remarks by Ambassador Sun Weidong at
Seminar on the 65th Anniversary of China-Pakistan
Diplomatic Relations and China-Pakistan Economic
Corridor**

(21 July 2016, Marriott Hotel)

Hon. Rana Tanver Hussain, Minister for Defence Production,

Hon. Abdul Qadir Baloch, Minister for States and Frontier
Regions,

Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi, Editor-in-Chief of Diplomatic Focus,

Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening!

I am very pleased to attend the seminar to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations. I feel honored that Minister Rana Tanver Hussain, Minister Abdul Qadir Baloch and other dignitaries could grace the Seminar. I also

want to thank Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi for your wonderful arrangements for this event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past 65 years, China-Pakistan relations have maintained strong momentum. It is now a good example of state-to-state relations with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence as the cornerstone. We always respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We always regard each other as equal partners and carry out mutually-beneficial cooperation. We always extend helping hands to each other whenever in need. We always maintain close coordination and collaboration on major international and regional issues. We always have the strong guidance from our leaders and extensive support from our peoples. This is why our relations can withstand changes of time and becomes an evergreen tree.

In the new era, our traditional friendship is getting revitalized with great vigor. For example, Pakistani leaders and the people recently expressed their sympathy for the flood-stricken areas in southern part of China. This shows that "a friend in need is a friend indeed". Pakistan is among the first to express firm support to China after the so-called South China Sea arbitration. Another example is the agreement we just signed on the Chandelier Maintenance Project at Mausoleum of

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This Chandelier
represents our goodwill and love to the great people of Pakistan.
All these examples show that we will pass on our deeply-rooted
friendship from generation to generation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With China-Pakistan relations being promoted to
all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, we are now
standing at the new historical starting point with new
opportunities. One of the most remarkable features and
achievements of our relations, I think, is the China-Pakistan
Economic Corridor or CPEC.

CPEC is the major and pilot project of the Belt and Road
Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping. It is also
the main platform of the substantive cooperation between our
two countries. It has won the extensive support from both
governments and peoples from all walks of life.

Right now, CPEC has entered into comprehensive
implementation and is making smooth and gratifying progress.
For example, projects such as Port Qasim Power Plant, Sahiwal
Power Plant, Karot Hydropower Station, KKH Phase II
(Havelian-Thakot section) and Karachi-Lahore Motorway
(Sukkur-Multan section) are under construction. Both sides are
working together to promote the New Gwadar International
Airport, the East Bay Expressway, Suki Kinari Hydropower

Project and Up-gradation of ML-1 Railway Lines. And in the future, the cooperation fields under CPEC will be expanded to finance, science and technology, education, among others.

I'm confident to say that CPEC is delivering benefits to the people. According to our incomplete statistics, the major projects of CPEC have directly created at least 10,000 local job opportunities. More and more people will benefit through vocational training or overseas study in China financed by Chinese companies. Livelihood of local people will improve greatly by schools and hospitals built alongside the corridor.

I'm glad to see that CPEC is facing all Pakistan, including the western part. CPEC is a long process and should be implemented in a gradual way with scientific planning. CPEC will bring win-win results and deliver benefits to the whole region. As one of the outcomes, it has promoted foreign investors' interest in Pakistan. ~~Recently~~, both the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund chose Pakistan as the destination of their first investment.

As you may know

I want to appreciate the efforts of Pakistani government and the relevant ministries and departments to advance CPEC. We have set up the Joint Cooperation Committee or JCC and 4 working groups for the planning and building of CPEC. Under these working mechanisms, both sides have maintained smooth communication and coordination. I also want to appreciate the

efforts of Pakistani army for providing security by deployment of special forces. We have maintained close contact with the Pakistani government, army and law enforcement agencies to ensure the security of the Chinese citizens and institutions in Pakistan. Obviously, it has become the national consensus to support and promote the CPEC in Pakistan. That is the fundamental driving force for the future progress of CPEC.

The smooth progress of CPEC has also greatly promoted people-to-people exchanges between our two countries. From early this year, we have successfully held a series of activities, including happy Chinese Spring Festival, the Chinese film week, arts and photo exhibition, receptions and seminars. These activities have strengthened the mutual understanding and friendship between our two peoples. And we will continue to organize more exchange programs of youth, parties, legislatures, local governments in the days to come. I firmly believe that CPEC will get our two countries closer and closer, both geographically and emotionally.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There's an old saying in China that goes "Distance tests horses, while time proves sincerity." The past 65 years of our diplomatic ties proves that only by true heart can we earn friendship, only by sincerity can we earn trust, and only by cooperation can we achieve win-win outcome. The past

achievements are great treasure to us. They will surely enhance our confidence of our future.

And there is another saying that goes “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Our bright future is based on solid action. We must stick to the consensus reached by our leaders and move forward resolutely. We must renew our commitment and redouble our efforts. Only by this can we take the good opportunities and create our new prospects. And only by this can we achieve our common dream of the China-Pakistan Community of Shared Destiny eventually!

Lastly, may I wish the Seminar a full success!

Long live China-Pakistan friendship!