



**INSTITUTE OF
STRATEGIC STUDIES**

web: www.issi.org.pk
phone: +92-51-9204423, 24
fax: +92-51-9204658

Report – Event

“PIVOT: Pursuing Ideals of Shared Future”

January 16, 2020



Rapporteur: Muhammad Faisal

Edited by: Najam Rafique

To mark one successful year of publishing PIVOT magazine launched by China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in January 2019, the Centre organized an event titled ‘PIVOT: Pursuing Ideals of Shared Future’ on January 16, 2020. Ambassador Zahoor Ahmad, Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was the Chief Guest, and Ambassador Yao Jing, Ambassador of People’s Republic of China was Guest of Honor. The event was widely attended by members of academia, think-tanks, diplomatic corps, government, media and civil society.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, in his introductory remarks said that the objective of PIVOT magazine is to elucidate all facets of Pakistan-China’s relations, including various regional and global dimensions of this long standing friendly relation. He underscored that the magazine focuses on the time-tested strategic partnership between both the countries that reflects aspirations of people from both Pakistan and China. Meanwhile, the editorial team of PIVOT aims to fill the knowledge vacuum regarding Pakistan-China relations in the rapidly changing regional and global scenario. Dr. Shabbir thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Embassy and the contributors of the magazine for supporting PIVOT.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, stated that Pakistan-China relationship is PIVOT for regional cooperation. Peace, stability, connectivity and prosperity are the elements on which shared future between Pakistan and China is envisioned. He underlined that for Pakistan, relationship with China is a pillar of its foreign policy. Thus, it needs to be preserved and advanced in a holistic manner. PIVOT magazine is aimed at realizing these goals. He lauded CPSC team for producing every edition on time, and improving the quality of content and printing with every edition. He thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of China for extending support to various initiatives being pursued by CPSC.

In his remarks, Ambassador Yao Jing said, PIVOT right now is a regular and major publication for libraries and institutions in China. He appreciated efforts of the Institute’s leadership and CPSC team for publishing PIVOT. He underlined that the name of magazine itself is reflective of the nature of bilateral relationship i.e., Pakistan-China relationship is PIVOT for regional peace, stability, connectivity and development. He noted that after wide-ranging cooperation in recent years, China-Pakistan strategic relationship has entered into a new stage and with time, mutual

trust is deepening. Ambassador Yao emphasized that in a changing world for our shared future, we need to expand our research and analysis of bilateral relations. As many countries raise questions about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), we need to respond to them with accurate information and analysis about current state of Pakistan-China relations and CPEC. In doing this, PIVOT has an important role to play. Only through such handwork can we build a shared future and PIVOT is doing just that.

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

In his concluding address Ambassador Khalid Mahmood stated, "PIVOT was required to fill the gap in public understanding of the various dimensions of the Pakistan-China relationship." He underscored that relationship with China has been a constant in Pakistan's foreign policy for decades. Bilateral cooperation is crucial for regional stability and peace in Asia. Ties with China enjoy a broad national consensus in Pakistan, be it any political party, all support a strong relationship with China. Publications such as PIVOT are an asset for bringing forth stories of Pakistan-China relationship. He commended the editorial team of PIVOT for putting together a comprehensive magazine for the readers.

PICTURES OF THE EVENT

