



**INSTITUTE OF
STRATEGIC STUDIES**

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

Report – Launch

“Special Edition of PIVOT Magazine”

May 18, 2020



Rapporteurs: Neelum Nigar & Mir Sherbaz Khetran

Edited by: Dr. Talat Shabbir

China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a launch of Special Edition of PIVOT Magazine on May 18, 2020. Ms. Kanwal Shauzab, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiative was the Chief Guest while H.E. Yao Jing, Ambassador of People's Republic of China, was the Keynote Speaker at the occasion. Other speakers at the launch included: Ambassador Masood Khalid, Former ambassador to China; Dr. Huma Baqai, Associate Dean at the Institute of Business Administration; Dr. Abdul Rauf, a faculty member at National University of Science & Technology (NUST). The session was moderated by Director CPSC, Dr. Talat Shabbir.

PIVOT is quarterly magazine of China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad. CPSC has published a Special Edition of PIVOT titled 'China-Pakistan Combating COVID-19 Together' which carries special contributions from Foreign Minister of China, H.E. Wang Yi, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, and renowned Pakistani scholars and analysts on various dimensions of COVID-19 and Pakistan-China cooperation.

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, introduced the Special Edition of PIVOT and highlighted that PIVOT was launched with the goal of creating awareness among general public, academic, and media about diverse relations between Pakistan and China. Special edition focused on COVID-19 and sheds light on the steps taken by China to combat the pandemic. There were lessons that the world could learn from China to combat this outbreak. The magazine also focused on how Pakistan-China cooperation would turn out to be in post pandemic world.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director-General ISSI thanked H.E. Yao Jing and other dignitaries to attend the launch of special edition of *PIVOT* magazine. Ambassador Chaudhry underscored that we will fight COVID-19 collectively as humanity has faced and battled such pandemic before. History shows that beating pandemics requires collective actions from all nations. He noted that PIVOT magazine has become popular and CPSC could publish special edition on COVID-19 on short notice. The purpose was to bring out the message that more cooperation is required to fight this menace of pandemic and in doing so this magazine would contribute a great deal in disseminating the right account.

Ambassador Masood Khalid, former ambassador to China, reviewing special edition noted that

CPSC has done a remarkable job in a short period of time. Commenting on the pandemic, he noted that while the world has interconnected through globalization and made strides in the field of science and technology, yet we are helpless before the invisible enemy, the virus, which has brought havoc in our lives. Just imagine how powerful is this virus, which could lead to reshaping the global political and economic landscape impacting billions of lives. He further said that it is tragic to see the world divided in the face of this scourge and not fully prepared to cope with this changing dynamics. Instead of cooperation in combating this virus, we see a negative trend of scapegoating and shifting blames. He underscored that despite global divisions, Pakistan and China have once again demonstrated by upholding the example of cooperation and helping each other. Both the countries have once again proved that their relationship is time-tested, enduring and ever shining. Pakistan has expressed its complete support and solidarity to China when attempts are being made to isolate it. Similarly, we are thankful to China in supporting Pakistan to meet the needs of medical equipment at this time of crisis. Both the countries have demonstrated cooperation amidst the pandemic and will continue to do so in future.

Dr. Huma Baqai, Associate Dean at the Institute of Business Administration, in her review underlined that PIVOT is an important contribution in building the right narrative in challenging times. While emerging power and the current super power should have been fighting pandemic together, but unfortunately we have seen an element of confrontation and blame games, which will not help anyone. She noted that China as country has not only survived this pandemic but has also emerged as a savior of the world's humanity, in terms of its research, containment or helping countries across the world in dealing with this crisis. At such time, it is extremely important to put across the right narratives and deal with the propaganda coming from the western countries. Initiatives such as PIVOT play an important role in putting the right viewpoints across.

Dr. Abdul Rauf, a faculty member of National University of Science & Technology (NUST), and regular contributor to the PIVOT, commended CPSC for producing a comprehensive magazine covering broad range of topics. On COVID-19, he noted that early, swift and strong action of China helped control the spread of disease. China employed technology in its response as an enabler to deal with this crisis along with other compliances which helped in containing the spread to other countries. Pakistan can learn lessons in pandemic control from China and we

should find opportunities while enhancing our bilateral relationship by opening new avenues of cooperation.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Yao Jing commended CPSC for producing a special edition highlighting cooperation between Pakistan and China against COVID-19. He underscored that first Pakistan sent nearly 1million PPEs to China in February, and in the same month Prime Minister Imran Khan had a telephonic conversation with Chinese President showing Pakistan's solidarity with the people of China. In March President Alvi paid a visit to China to show support and solidarity with China. Similarly, when virus hit Pakistan, China has so far sent over 7 million masks and more than 6 hundred ventilators to Pakistan. He underscored that while Pakistan is undertaking preventive measures against COVID-19, China is collaborating in economic revival. Both governments are coordinating on next phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), particularly, supporting construction of new projects. China is willing to extend cooperation in development of hydropower projects and speed up negotiations on ML-I projects. In his remarks, Ambassador Yao especially referred to suffering of people of Kashmir, as they are facing extraordinary hardships of detentions and pandemic in these challenging times. He further asserted that it is time for the international community to cooperate and uphold peace and justice for the people in the neighborhood. This special issue of PIVOT has special significance not only for China and Pakistan but also for the international community to adopt joint and collective efforts to deal with this crisis.

Ms. Kanwal Shauzab, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiative addressed the event as Chief Guest. She underscored that COVID-19 carries significant challenges for socio-economic structures across the world, and dealing with it requires cooperation among international community. She highlighted that Pakistan can learn from China's experience of controlling the outbreak of pandemic and also opening up of economy. She commended CPSC for producing special issue with focus on COVID-19, which sets narrative for future discussions. The magazine is reflection of strong China and Pakistan relations and the current issue on COVID-19 has set the right example to initiate the discourse on prevalent health crisis across the globe. She further asserted that we should look for opportunities out of this crisis by switching to technology in our daily routines. Pakistan can learn a lot from China in digitalization of its public sector. She also touched upon the environmental impact of

the halt in mobility due to this pandemic, and said that there is a need to rethink and revisit our approach to our daily activities. This pandemic has given us the opportunity to alter our ways by prioritizing the social sector in Pakistan so that any such future crisis can be contained. She further thanked the Government of China for generously helping Pakistan in this testing time and asserted that both the countries have once again proved that their relationship is time-tested.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, in his concluding remarks, said that PIVOT has made its mark during past 18 months through focus on quality. Special edition is a step in the right direction. On pandemic Ambassador Mahmood highlighted that international community need to work together, more than ever with cooperative spirit. As China has shown that it is extending assistance to over 100 countries across the world. Similarly, other big powers need to come forward.