



POST CONFERENCE REPORT
National Conference on CPEC and
Regional Connectivity

14th December 2022



Organized By
Area Study Center (China)
National university of Modern Languages, Islamabad

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES, ISLAMABAD

Area Study Center (China)

“NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CPEC & REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY”

14th December, 2022

EVENT PROGRAM

| Sr. No. | Time | Activity | Resource Person |
|---------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | 10:00 am | Arrival of Guest Speakers | |
| 2. | 10:05 am | Recitation of Holy Quran | |
| 3. | 10:10 am | Welcoming Remark by Stage Secretary | |
| 4. | 10:10-10:20 am | Inaugural speech by Dean FSS, NUML | |
| 5. | 10:20-10:50 am | Key Note Speech- CPEC and Economic Benefits for Pakistan | Dr Zia NDU + Q/A Session |
| 6. | 10:50-11:05 am | Keynote Speech- CPEC and Regional Connectivity | Dr. Waseem Ishaque Dir ASC |
| 7. | 11:05-11:20 am | Key Note Speech- CPEC and Uplift of Balochistan | Mr. Mohsin Azhar Area Study (China) |
| 8. | 11:20- 11:30 am | Q & A Session | |
| 9. | 11:30-11:40 am | Speech by the student on CPEC | Laiba Arshad BSAS 3 rd |
| 10. | 11:40-11:50 am | Speech by the student on CPEC | Noor ul Ain BSAS 7 th |
| 11. | 11:50- 12:00 am | Closing Remarks by the Director Area Study Centre, NUML | |
| 12. | 12:01 pm | Light Refreshment/ Dispersal | |

Keynote Speeches

National Conference on CPEC and Regional Connectivity

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Khalid Sultan

Dean Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), NUML, Islamabad

Dr. Waseem Ishaque

Director Area Study Centre, NUML, Islamabad

Dr. Zia ur Rehman

Associate Professor, Department of IR, NDU, Islamabad

Mr. Mohsin Azhar Shah

Lecturer, Area Study China, NUML, Islamabad

Prof. Dr. Khalid Sultan

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

NUML, Islamabad

Inaugural Speech

Honorable Dean FSS, Dr. Khalid Sultan has expressed his gratitude for the auspicious and thoughtful event organized by the Department of Area Study China. He appreciated the efforts of the Department for contributing its role in student learning, personality development and organizing event for sharing of knowledgeable ideas and new perspectives via such conferences.

Dr. Sultan shed light on the splendid and distinctive civilizations created by the people of Pakistan and China. Over 2,000 years ago, the Silk Road, the predecessor of the CPEC, became a bridge of friendship linking our two ancient civilizations. Great Chinese emissaries and monks from various Eastern Chinese Dynasties visited Pakistan and their traces can still be seen here which an essential part of our rich cultural heritage are. Our two countries share a great deal of cultural traditions and values. In recent history, both China and Pakistan suffered from imperialist and colonial aggressions and we have been extending mutual sympathy and support to each other. He referred the translation of poetic verses of the great Pakistani poet Muhammad Iqbal (1930s):

From their deep slumber, the Chinese are emerging

And the Himalayan springs are bursting with new fervor

These lines salute the great Chinese people in their struggle for independence and their heroic fight against the foreign aggression. However, in these lines, Iqbal also anticipated a great and illustrious Renaissance, which awaited China at that time.

He further added that it is important for us to appreciate the profundity and extensiveness of our relations. Apparently, we have different systems and cultures. Yet, over the centuries, we have weaved together all strands of our relations into a beautiful mosaic. We have forged close



bonds of friendly cooperation in diverse fields at every level and in every direction. It is not an exaggeration when I say that the friendly ties between Pakistan and China is a shining example of good neighborly relations for the rest of the world to emulate. Our friendship has remained constant and unchanged regardless of the ever-transforming and ever-shifting global circumstances. The bedrock of our bilateral bonds is a strong faith and trust in each other, which we have nurtured with care, devotion and an outstanding sense of responsibility.

Indeed, great fortune never comes by accident. It is the result of our joint endeavor. Only through our concerted efforts, can we overcome the difficulties and turn our ideals into reality. Just as an old Chinese saying goes, “When the two brothers are of one mind, they can cut through any metal.”

China’s example of phenomenal development through educational and strategic reforms provides a beacon for all developing countries, particularly Pakistan. It demonstrates that a higher idealism, dedication, ingenuity, consistency and hard work can change the destiny of a nation miraculously. We take true pride in China's achievements, celebrate them like ours and we have also drawn the appropriate lessons from its success.

Although the world today is undergoing a series of profound and complex changes, cooperation for peace and development remains the dominating theme of the times. There is a growing trend towards multi-polarity and economic globalization. Education, research, science and technology are making unprecedented advances, regional cooperation is deepening and there is increasing interdependence among nations. All this has created rare opportunities for development. China has made an admirable contribution to global peace and development. Its moral voice in international affairs and its efforts to uphold principles of equity and justice are a source of strength for the developing countries.

We applaud and support Chinese efforts to create a harmonious world. On this occasion, I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the steadfast support given to Pakistan, particularly to the National University of Modern Languages in all domains, by our Chinese friends. There is a convergence of interests of our two countries and their educational institutions on the global and regional levels and commonality of approach to advance the international agenda for education, peace and prosperity. Our comprehensive cooperation and robust partnership is in the fundamental interest of our peoples and conducive to peace, progress and stability of both the great nations.

Pakistan values its friendship with China. It remains our abiding endeavor to strengthen cooperation with China. The National University of Modern Languages treasures its collaborations with its counterparts in China, particularly with the Confucius Institute Islamabad.

Together, Pakistan and China, through a comprehensive educational and economic partnership, will continue to forge ahead toward new and higher horizons in building a better future for our people and promoting a robust pursuit of knowledge, international peace, and stability. The new horizons of “Iron Clad Friendship” indeed exhibit enduring relations between China and Pakistan.

In the end of his speech, Dr. Sultan has deeply appreciated the organization of the conference and heartily congratulate all the people who must have worked tirelessly for it. Such exposure can indeed go a long way in strengthening our relations as our students are our ambassadors for a shared and intellectually challenging future. He wished all the participants Godspeed and looking forward to their speeches and knowledge contribution.

Long live Pakistan-China friendship.

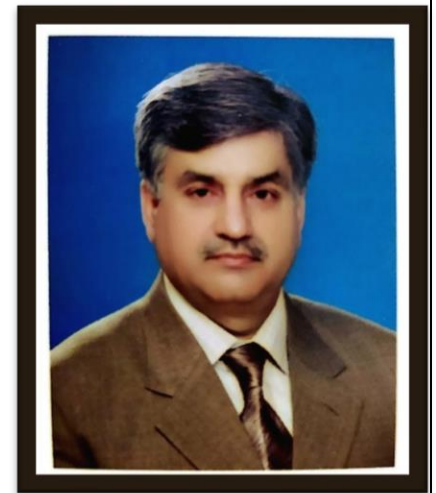
Dr. Waseem Ishaque

Director, Area Study Centre (China)

NUML, Islamabad

China – Pakistan Economic Corridor and Regional Connectivity

Honorable Director Area Study China, Dr. Waseem Ishaque has expressed pleasure and honor that Area Study Center has successfully organized another national conference on CPEC. He mentioned that we are incrementally moving towards intellectually stimulating environments for BS AS, which was in fact his esteemed obligation when he has joined this position. In his discourse, he shared his thought-provoking ideas on CPEC in the context of Pakistan-China friendship.



The Center of Gravity of world economy is leaning towards Asia with rise of China as an economic giant at the international stage. From Chinese perspective, the peaceful development of China is for the better service to humanity and inclusive development of the world through a win-win cooperation. China's practical steps in line with these objectives make it clear that the good neighbour approach to diplomacy encompassed in its harmonious world concept has become the blueprint for its international strategy. The vision of a harmonious world stalks from the ancient Chinese culture and symbolizes the Chinese desire and practice of "advocating peace", "acting in good faith, cultivating friendship with neighbours", and "living in harmony with all others far and near". National rejuvenation and Peaceful development are at the core of policy planning which is summarized in the comprehensive concept of Chinese Dream. President Xi Jinping States:-

"To realize Chinese Dream, we must adhere to peaceful development. We will unswervingly follow the road of peaceful development, unswervingly pursue the mutually beneficial and win-win strategy of opening up. We are not just committed to China's own development; we are

equally serious about fulfilling our responsibilities and making contributions to the rest of the world. Our development will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also the rest of the world”

It can therefore, be concluded that China’s peaceful development is not China specific, but caters for Chinese nation’s aspirations of positive contributions towards humanity and common development of rest of the world with inclusive participation and peaceful coexistence. To realize the vision of common development and prosperity of countries and the regions, President Xi Jinping’s vision of “One Belt One Road” is indeed manifestations of “Great Chinese Dream” of regional connectivity and enhanced economic integration which prevailed in the past in the shape of ancient silk road and have to be revitalized for eventual benefit of relevant countries, the region and the world at large. Due to special significance of Pakistan-China relations, Pakistan has been integrated in this esteemed project of “One Belt and One Road” through CPEC.

The Corridor strategy can be traced back to November 2006, when President Musharraf during his visit to Beijing initiated the vision of trade corridor between China and Pakistan linking Kashgar with Gwadar via Korakoram Highway (KKH). The cornerstones of the project remained the Gwadar port and the trans-Pakistan pipeline. Pakistan’s political instability following Musharraf’s standoff with judiciary distracted the government and no worthwhile progress could be made. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his visit to Pakistan on 22-23 May 2013 outlined strategic vision of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor. The project was hailed by then President Asif Ali Zardai and the Prime Minister in waiting Mr Nawaz Sharif during their meetings with the visiting Chinese Premier. Pakistani media, Think Tanks and Public expressed full support with lot of enthusiasm and thanked China for assisting Pakistan with huge investment. The vision was immediately followed by all relevant ministries of Pakistan and China and great progress has been made in actualizing the concept. During the visit of Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain to China in February 2014, both countries reiterated solidifying their plans on proposed Economic Corridor. President Mamnoon Hussain stated in Beijing on last day of his visit on 19 February 2014 that *“project is going to be a monument of the century. It will benefit not only Pakistan and China, but also the whole region with billions of people”*.

I will now touch upon some of the significant aspects of CPEC. CPEC has been broadly categorized in three parts, Karakoram sector, Gwadar sector and mainland Pakistan's communication network. I will very briefly highlight each one of these.

Fist GB Sector- Gilgit-Baltistan the northern extreme of CPEC is of increasing significance to both Pakistan and China as the 1984 occupation of the Siachen Glacier by the Indian army injected a militarized element into the area. The proximity of Gilgit- Baltistan to Afghanistan, Tajikistan and India, in addition to Xinjiang and Tibet, adds to significance of this region. Road connectivity with China via Karakoram Highway (KKH) enabled Pakistan to access Gilgit- Baltistan, and Xinjiang and also helps safeguard political and strategic interests of Pakistan. The structures are maintained and upgraded by Frontier Works Organization (FWO), China's Production and Construction Corps (PCCC) and telecom companies like Huawei, Zong, ZTE and Pakistan's Special Communications Organization (SCO), provide uninterrupted coverage to Gilgit- Baltistan including major towns along the KKH. The up gradation plan will convert KKH into a 90-feet wide expressway for a threefold increase in the existing capacity. Corridor Development Plan is construction of 19 tunnels, which will be dug out on the road- stretch between Hunza and Khunjerab Pass. One major tunnel called "Friendship Tunnel" will pass under the infamous Khunjerab Pass, and will provide all weather access to revolutionize inter-regional travel and freight carriage. Further, a 1100 km long rail-link will also be laid, which will cut the distance between Islamabad and Kashgar to 17 hours. In addition, oil and gas pipelines (OGP) will also run across the corridor linking the existing fuel-lanes of Central Asia and China to refineries on Pakistani ports, and the Middle East. Fiber optic communication link will also be established in second phase of the project.

Second Gwadar Sector. A lot has been highlighted by media on Gwadar. I summarize that Gwadar port is a fulcrum of CPEC and when operational at full capacity will benefit not only Balochistan in particular and Pakistan in general, but also China and the entire region due to its exceptional qualities and potentials highlighted by in the press on daily basis.

Other associated projects include more than US\$ 35 billion in energy sector, construction of several roads, motorways and linking Gwadar with other parts of Pakistan.

I will now summarize the benefits to both Pakistan and China visualized through CPEC from the strategic plane;

- **Manifestation of bond of Friendship.** CPEC is the practical manifestation of ever flourishing relations between China and Pakistan, where President Xi Jinping’s strategic vision of “One Belt and One Road” separately caters for development and connectivity with aim to assist Pakistan to reap the benefits of China’s economic development and regional integration initiatives.
- **CPEC will enhance China’s security.** China’s economic, political and security interests are interlinked. Without short and safe overland connection to the ports, China will find its security interests compromised since it lacks blue-water naval capacity and aircraft carriers in the Gulf. With almost half of its oil imports passing through the Strait of Hormuz, China is conscious of the need to enhance its political and security influence in the region. Linking Gwadar ports overland to Chinese western provinces attains significance. Additionally, maintaining control over Khunjab Pass will also help China maintain its control over Shaksgam and the neighbouring valleys, which otherwise may create choke points along the ancient silk route and threaten Chinese control of Xinjiang. At the same time, overland access to Iran and Afghanistan from Pakistan will help reduce threat perceptions arising from the Indian and American presence in the Gulf. By approaching Afghanistan through Gilgit-Baltistan rather than Central Asia, China will benefit by avoiding competition with Russia if at all it happens in future.
- **Addressing Malaka Dilemma.** The development and operationalization of Gwadar Port will be of strategic significance for both China and Pakistan. Especially for China, the distance from Gwadar port to western province of Xinjiang is approximately 3000 KMs, which is significantly less than the sea route passing through Strait of Malacca, thus the trade through CPEC between Africa –Middle East and mainland China will be greatly facilitated. The oil can also be stored and pumped through proposed pipe line to China from Middle East. The Chinese strategic concerns of Melaka Straits will be significantly addressed
- **Greater Regional Connectivity and Integration for Pakistan.** CPEC is aimed to integrate the economies of both China and Pakistan. Several economic zones and hubs have also been planned along the proposed route to generate economic activities, alleviate poverty and offer huge economic incentives for the population to the adjoining areas of CPEC. Apart from bilateral benefits, CPEC will also transform future of entire region driven by the economic activities, energy supplies through construction and development of ports, pipelines, railway infrastructure and roads. Therefore, CPEC has

the potentials to turn Pakistan into hub of regional cooperation if the opportunity is pragmatically availed in Pakistan.

- **CPEC as Economic fate changer for Pakistan.** CPEC is widely believed as a fate changer for Pakistan due to unprecedented investment of US\$ 67 billion promised by China for Pakistan. CPEC is of huge significance for the revival of Pakistan's ailing economy, the resolution of energy crisis and strengthening of federation of Pakistan through development and building of infrastructure.
- **A New Model of Win-Win Cooperation between Pakistan and China.** Both Pakistan and China have to gain immensely from the CPEC which contains huge potentials in several fields. "CPEC will bring development and prosperity for both China and Pakistan. It can help China get connected with the Gulf region, Africa, Europe and the other parts of the world in an easier way and in a shorter time. Meanwhile, for Pakistan, there will be more business and trade activities in the region. Pakistan will also become the center of energy transmission from the Gulf region". It is widely appreciated that the successful completion of CPEC will open new vistas of commerce, trade, transportation and energy supplies.

It is beyond doubt that CPEC is a unique bond of friendship and common development between China and Pakistan. Pakistan is at the epicentre of energy related opportunity corridors and regional connectivity means, CPEC, TAPI, CASA 1000, IP. Furthermore, he concluded his speech with positive hopes and suggested that we just need to sit down and formulate a cohesive policy to benefit from all such opportunities.

Dr. Zia-ur-Rehman

Associate Professor, Department of International Relations

National Defense University, Islamabad

Economic Benefits of CPEC for Pakistan

Respected Dr. Zia-ur-Rehman paid a huge regard to Worthy Director Department of Area Study China and organizers for their priceless efforts for arranging a national conference on CPEC at NUML, Islamabad.

Dr. Rehman has started his speech with these opening remarks that not only every Pakistani but also the people of the whole world are very well aware about the economic benefits of CPEC. Furthermore, the word “Economic” is manifested in the name “China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)”.

He shared his thought provoking ideas along with his certain personal experiences. He mentioned in front of young audience that I have driven along the magnificent Karakorum Highway (KKH), the 8th wonder of the world. This road takes us through the earth’s most breathtaking mountain ranges, the most beautiful valleys, ancient villages and mesmerizing blue lakes. It is the beauty that cannot be undermined, however side by side. There prevails a great hope for future, a future dream that resonates Pakistani people in the form of cooperation between China and Pakistan. I am referring to the great thought that emerged as an idea first in the form of OBOR and then BRI in Shanghai. Its manifestation has been seen, as it connects two great countries, China and Pakistan through a flagship project of CPEC. It is the point where these true friends China & Pakistan meet and where we can see the real friendship at the highest point at KKH, the Khunjrab Pass, and this great friendship goes down till the deep sea of Gwadar. However, this was not an easy task to be initiated, as heavy snowfalls, harsh weather, landslides and even avalanches kept posing dangers after dangers to the brave Pakistani and Chinese friends. More than 200 Chinese and over 800 brave Pakistani souls sacrificed their lives for the country’s economic prosperity, and in 1978 a memorial graveyard is built as a symbol of that unity, friendship and sacrifice. After such great sacrifices, I don’t think that anybody should have any doubt on the importance of CPEC. Some people are of the opinion, that CPEC can lead us to a bright future. I say, no, actually, CPEC is the name of Pakistan’s bright future.

He described that I travelled through the magnificent mountains and got the opportunity to meet a lot of people whose lives changed due to the economic benefits of CPEC. I have seen that due to CPEC, practically, as a lot of initiatives started, new organizations established, and economic activities begun in Gilgit Baltistan and adjacent areas. Now, let's drive further on Peshawar Karachi Motorway, which



is again a great and shining symbol of bilateral cooperation between two iron friends, China and Pakistan. It is 392 kilometers long project, uplifting the economic conditions of people of North and South of Pakistan. Let me tell you that, I've met a lot of people there too, who had fruit gardens, vegetable plantations and crops but had no access to markets, and therefore they were worried. However, now due to the blessings of CPEC, they got access and can easily transport their fruits and vegetables to markets. Thus, economic benefits have already started arriving to the people of Pakistan. Tens of thousands of the people are working tirelessly to bring hope for the brighter future for millions of the people through CPEC.

He further added that we could see the big barren land, the desert areas. There are lots of places in Pakistan where conservative communities and minorities are living their lives even below the poverty line. CPEC have already brought them economic benefits too. I have met the unskilled men and housewives of the region of Thar, who have started working as drivers, helpers, and laborers. Some people even shared their stories that before CPEC they were just barely surviving, but after CPEC, they learnt, improved, got some jobs and now their economic condition has improved a lot. Some of them have now constructed their own houses, improved their lifestyle, and have started sending their children to schools. This is another face of the economic benefit of CPEC. Let me further drive you down, let's go to the sleepy fishing city of Gwadar, which is transforming itself as a future economic giant of the region, where we could see heavy machinery dredging the Arabian Sea and huge cranes busy in construction, where new projects including new International Airport, hotels, schools, hospitals, factories and organizations are emerging. Here, Gwadar Port is considered as the crown jewel of the multibillion-dollar project of CPEC, where you could see a 2900 km Superhighway and High-speed railway are to connect International Airport with Chinese western provinces. This will not only enable Gwadar Peninsula to emerge as one of the greatest center places but also would bring lots of economic benefits to the locals. I also met many people here, and observed that after many decades, transformation has started happening even in the fishing community of Gwadar.

He presented his experiences about snowcapped mountains of Gilgit Baltistan, dry deserts of Thar and around the deep blue seas of Gwadar. The economic growth and benefits of CPEC are showing up with even our sluggish speed, and this will transform the countrymen into a developed nation, this would upgrade the economic conditions of individuals, families and the organizations. Economic benefits, if achieved, I believe that all other issues would automatically be resolved because prosperity paves its way and resolves other issues automatically. Remember! Any sort of development, progress and improvement is the need of the hour, however economic development comes first. Don't get me wrong, what I'm talking about is “financial strength” of the countrymen and the country. The best lesson one can learn from China is that, if we want to increase our value and solve problems, increase the financial strength (the economic strength). We need to bring more value to the marketplace, and to bring quality

products and services to the marketplace, we need infrastructure, economic zones, and vocational and social development projects.

In the history of the known world, there is no other country like Pakistan, as it is blessed with mountain range, deserts, fertile land, and ocean. Most importantly, it is blessed with the valued resource that is our youth. We need to appreciate this all and be thankful, however, we need to harness all these resources. To do so, there's a need to have strong infrastructure, specifically the transport infrastructure, and for economic benefits, the specialized economic zones, vocational and skilled based training institutions are the need of the hour. If we harness this for at least 10 years, the golden days will be waiting for Pakistanis and Pakistan, and instead of waiting to achieve our vision of 2047 to become part of top 10 economies of the world, let me assure you with my conviction that Pakistan can achieve that by 2030. We need to learn from our best friend China, see just 45 years back, the same country was crippling with issues especially with financial crises, however they consistently worked hard on a vision as a nation (leaving the issues and problems aside) and uplifted everyone through working on two major directions: building mega infrastructure and establishing special economic zones. We are lucky that we have been given with the same tested and proven formula in the form of a gift as they tested by themselves. He concluded his speech with positive remarks that CPEC should be taken as a gift and Pakistanis should own it and, Pakistanis should go head down like farmers and work extremely hard until accomplish it, and if they do, I am sure we would be harnessing the fruits by 2030. This would be real manifestation of this game changer project to CPEC.

Mr. Mohsin Azhar Shah

Lecturer, Department of Area Study China

NUML, Islamabad

CPEC and Uplift of Baluchistan

Respected Mr. Mohsin Azhar Shah has expressed his immense regard to the profound leadership of the Department of Area Study China and NUML for organizing a national conference on CPEC and Regional Connectivity. He appreciated the efforts of Honorable Worthy Director of Department of Area Study China for building a remarkable platform for organizing student-led activities that help young minds to share our passion for social sciences, modern languages, and arts. This conference is an important part of that culture, and its purpose can be summed up in one word, "inspire"!



He opened his key notes with these words, Dear students in the audience, let me share with you briefly what it means to be a student of social sciences and area studies. It means, "to be deeply fascinated by human nature." And only when we display that infinite fascination, that nature reveals its secrets to us.

Iqbal says

سُكُوتِ لَالِه و گُل سے کلام پیدا کر

Let the flower talk to you and tell you what it needs to grow well.

Let the societies talk to you and tell you what they need to evolve in peace and harmony.

Let the tiniest of particles whisper in your ear what powers it possesses and how the peoples are going to harvest in it.

Dear Students, let us vow, in this national conference, here, and now, to make this infinite fascination with human nature, an integral part of our national identity. Then, and only then will we be able to create something truly fascinating, global, and historic.

He highlighted the strategic importance of CPEC projects and development of Baluchistan under these projects. Baluchistan is the largest province of Pakistan and has geostrategic significance. Baluchistan is rich in natural resources including Gwadar Port. Despite having

unlimited resources, the people of Baluchistan have remained deprived, and neglected by the provincial and central governments as a result conflict and unrest occurred in Baluchistan. Presently, Baluchistan has become a core strategic point for the international actors for its unique strategic location, mineral wealth and development of Gwadar port and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The geographical location of Baluchistan makes it an important region. The province, being the best possible and the shortest route to the Arabian Sea, has attracted the key international and regional players, including China, India, the US, Iran, the Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Afghanistan.

Each player wanted to utilise this region to pursue its geopolitical and geostrategic interests. The building of Gwadar port and the development of Baluchistan under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is going to be a game changer for Pakistan's socio-economic development. A fully operational Gwadar port will enhance Pakistan's commercial activities and its connectivity with oil-rich Gulf states, the CARs, Afghanistan, China and with the rest of the world. Therefore, CPEC, under the Chinese One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, has enhanced the significance of the Baluchistan province.

Baluchistan is taking on increased importance in regional affairs. With the discovery of vast fields of natural gas, along with other valuable minerals, the region is experiencing increased interest from foreign investors and developers. Along with this, the terrain of Baluchistan makes it a prime location for the development of roads, railroads and pipelines to connect the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia. To augment this development, the construction of a deep-water port at Gwadar has the potential of bringing globalization to the region in an exponential manner.

- **CPEC projects in Baluchistan**

There are four types of China-led CPEC projects going on in Baluchistan, which are described in the following pages.

- i) Energy
- ii) Infrastructure (road and railways)
- iii) Gwadar Port
- iv) Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

Energy

According to official data,¹ two (2) projects of a total of 1,620-megawatt capacity are for Baluchistan, which are to be built with an estimated cost of USD 2.54 billion creating 10,778 jobs. These projects include: 300MW Imported Coal Based Power Project at Gwadar; and CPHGC 1,320MW Coal-fired Power Plant at Hub.

Infrastructure (road and railways)

Among the five major road projects listed under CPEC, one is entirely in Baluchistan (110 km long N-30 road from Khuzdar to Basima) and another road up-gradation project entails parts of the province (DI Khan-Zhob, N-50 Phase-I). The projects will create about 7,500 direct job opportunities.

With regards to railway infrastructure, in medium to long-term plan, there are at least 3 railways networks planned for Baluchistan under CPEC portfolio. These are:

- i) Gwadar-Basima-Jacobabad (New Track)
- ii) Gwadar-Karachi (New Track); And
- iii) Rail-Based Quetta Mass Transit Project

Gwadar Port

Opened for operations in 2007, the control of the Gwadar Port was transferred to China's state-owned China Overseas Ports Holding in February 2013. The port is only for dry cargo. As of now, only two (2) berths have been completed; the long-term goal is to establish 120 berths. The trade at the port was expected to increase from 1.2 million tonnes in 2018 to about thirteen million tons by 2022.

The Gwadar port entails a comprehensive package of at least twelve projects that are listed below.

1. Gwadar East-Bay Expressway
2. New Gwadar International Airport
3. Construction of Breakwaters
4. Dredging of berthing areas & channels
5. Development of Free Zone

¹ Available at cpec.gov.pk/energy.

6. Necessary facilities of freshwater treatment, water supply and distribution
7. Pak China Friendship Hospital
8. Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar
9. Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan
10. Bao Steel Park, petrochemicals, stainless steel and other industries
11. Development of Gwadar University (Social Sector Development)
12. Gwadar Livelihood Project

Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

Out of 9 CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs) listed on the official CPEC website, one – Bostan Industrial Zone – is to be established in Baluchistan. The zone will be expanded over 1,000 acres, of which 200 acres have reportedly been developed. Different types of industries to be set up include:

- i) Fruit Processing
- ii) Agriculture Machinery
- iii) Pharmaceutical
- iv) Motorbikes Assembly
- v) Chromite
- vi) Cooking Oil
- vii) Ceramic Industries.
- viii) Ice And Cold Storage
- ix) Electric Appliances
- x) Halal Food Industry

CPEC Implications for Baluchistan

CPEC could have a significantly positive impact on Baluchistan's socioeconomic outlook in the medium to long term. Even Baloch leaders agree that in the long run, CPEC and Gwadar will provide employment and business opportunities, set in economic growth, and provide the local produce an access to the market, among other things.

The Chief Minister's Policy Reform Unit of the Baluchistan government recently identified three key areas, which could serve as engines of growth and development in the province. These included water management, as the province is chronically drought-prone; surface communications; and human resource development. While the CPEC will certainly contribute

to the development of surface communication, the federal and provincial governments will have to launch extensive efforts including as part of CPEC and Gwadar projects to address the other two challenges. Some believe that due to the less population and huge area and other related peculiarities, Baluchistan needs special treatment and concessions in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and National Finance Commission (NFC) awards.

Independent observers, too, see a promising future for Baluchistan in CPEC provided the due share and benefits are given to Baloch people. CPEC projects for Baluchistan are aimed at building infrastructure, energy, and transportation and will help its economy. According to statistics from the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Baluchistan is estimated to receive \$7.1 billion initial investments through the CPEC, ranking second in its share from the total of \$46 billion.

However, what will be needed for Baluchistan to fully benefit from CPEC is the development of human resource. The HRD aspect is missing overall in CPEC with worse situation in Baluchistan. While Gwadar has the highest number of CPEC-related projects for any one region of the country, the existing human resource situation is indeed alarming. On the whole, while the regional literacy rate in Baluchistan is on the decline, “not more than 5,000 students are enrolled annually in few technical institutions and polytechnic institute in the province; in 2013-14 the number was 4,515”.

Conclusion

CPEC is a project of opportunity as well as risk for Baluchistan. Therefore, a lot will depend on how CPEC is executed in the province in terms of giving a due share and economic benefits to the Baloch people. A perceived sense of discrimination can further fuel the anti-federation sentiments in the province and strengthen the narrative of Baloch separatist insurgents and hardliner nationalist political leaders.

The Baloch people, nevertheless, need development and employment and CPEC can provide that; it can indeed address their grievances linked to underdevelopment and inequality. This ‘development urge’ is what does not allow the Baloch people to go for an outright rejection of CPEC and Chinese engagement in the province.

If CPEC and Gwadar succeed in inducing economic development and stability in Baluchistan, they will make it difficult for separatist insurgents to exploit the public sentiment or recruit youths. Such a scenario is possible in medium to long term and that too if the federal

government ensures that the province gets its due share in CPEC and Gwadar, which will also relate to the development of human resource and skilled labor in the province.

The Evolution of Pak-China Friendship with Special Reference to CPEC

Ms. Noor-ul-Ain is an undergraduate student in Department of Area Study (China). She has a deep interest in Chinese Culture.

尊敬的各位老师，亲爱的同学们，大家上午好！

我是国家语言大学的Noor-ul-Ain. 我的中文名字叫安和。
。安是安身立命的安。和是以和为贵和而不同的和。

我的老师告诉我，我的名字就是儒家思想的体现，

也是孔夫子一直坚持的理念。我对孔夫子和他的思想长生了农活的兴趣。天人合一天下为公的社会理想。止戈为五协和万邦的和平思想。以和为贵和而不同的东方智慧。

今天的演讲题目是巴中友谊的演变，特别是中巴经济走廊。地球是我们共同的家，这个家里有大约两百个兄弟，很多兄弟之间有团结，又有分歧，相互依存，又激烈竞争，但中国和巴基斯坦这两个兄弟却是个例外，从建交到现在一直互帮互助、情同手足，亲如一家。首先，当中国获得独立的时候，巴基斯坦就是第一个承认它的国家，后来，两国共同开展了一些互助项目，例如修建喀喇昆仑公路，以及现在著名的中巴经济走廊。

中巴经济走廊（CPEC）被认为是巴基斯坦目前可以开展的最大项目之一，因为它不仅通过跨省修建公路或发电厂，而且还通过制造优质产品等其他行业提供重大经济机会例如用于出口到国外的服装或鞋类。中巴经济走廊是连接中国西部和阿拉伯海的贸易和运输网络。中巴经济走廊将为改变运输方式带来机遇，包括将一些运输方式从海路转向陆路。公路运输比船运便宜，因为它速度更快，而且不需要那么多的燃料消耗。



一句“巴铁”温暖了多少巴基斯坦人的心，一个“兄弟”又让多少中国人感到了宾至如归。我相信，无论是过去还是将来，无论是政府之间还是人民之间，我们的友谊始终会“比山高、比海深、比蜜甜”，我们将永远站在彼此的身边，鼓励对方，支持对方。因为我们是兄弟，是一家人！

最后我想用一首诗接受我的演讲。

骨肉原职业，结交一项因，四海皆兄弟，谁卫星路人。

Significance of OBOR and its Implications

Ms. Laiba Rashid is an undergraduate student in Department of Area Study (China). She is keen to learn and develop her expertise in Chinese cultural studies.



尊敬的各位老师，亲爱的同学们，大家早上好！

我是中国兄弟国家巴基斯坦的——。地理位置上，巴基斯坦毗邻中国；国际关系上，中巴不但是合作伙伴，更是兄弟之邦。因此在很小的时候我就受到了中国文化的熏陶，尤其是对中国的语言——汉语及其博大精深的传统文化充满了向往。小时候，我每次看到中国人的时候，很想和他们说话，可是因为语言不通没办法和他们打招呼。也就是从那时起，我对中国文化充满了好奇，当时希望自己以后能有机会到中国学习中国的语言。

近年来，随着中国“一带一路”战略的实行，中巴之间的交流越来越密切，友谊也愈发坚固。这我不禁想到，古代陆上丝绸之路和海上丝绸之路既是连接亚非欧的商业贸易通道，也是沟通东西方政治、文化的重要桥梁。在21世纪，中国的“一带一路”必然会带动更多汉语人才参与其中。因此，我也赶上了“一带一路”的潮流，并与汉语结下了不解之缘。

中巴经济走廊是全球多层面的发展项目，正在被视为一个改变游戏规则的项目。它将成为不仅在巴基斯坦，而且在整个地区带来和平、和谐与繁荣的源泉。中巴经济走廊起于中国西部地区的喀什，止于巴基斯坦俾路支省的瓜达尔区。这条走廊将通过

瓜达尔海港连接世界上几个国家，并将把巴基斯坦和中国的双边关系推向新的高度。尽管两国从一开始就面临着挑战，但它们一直渴望发挥各自的作用，通过经济走廊取得潜在的成功。

无论我们谈论经济发展、贸易和商业机会、商品、产品和服务的安全供应、语言和文化交流，CPEC对两国都是一个重要项目，最重要的是，它将促进巴基斯坦和中国已经铁兄弟般的友谊。

当然，随着中国“一带一路”战略的深入发展，这期间我对中巴合作的认识越来越深刻，对自己的未来规划也越发明晰。“一带一路”不仅为中巴的经济交流创造了合作共赢的格局，也为文化交流铺设了道路。但不管是经济往来还是文化交流，语言都是重要的一环。

在2年的学习中不仅提高了自己的汉语水平，同时了解了古博大精深的中国文化。希望未来有好机大中国继续学硕士学习。我相信“一分耕耘一分收获”，我会用心耕耘留学梦，把增进中巴友谊作为自己的责任。中巴友谊万岁！





