



CONFERENCE REPORT

One-Day Conference on: "Understanding China's Governance System & Development Model"

Organized By:

The Regional Integration Centre, University of the Punjab, Lahore.



In Collaboration with:

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China Islamabad and
Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF)



Date:

On Thursday, 2nd February 2023

Venue:

Al-Razi Hall, University of the Punjab, Lahore

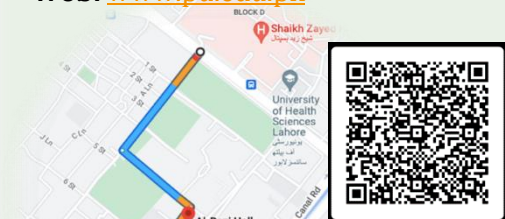
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About Us:

The University of the Punjab's Regional Integration Centre serves as a conduit for sustained opportunities in the realms of social, economic, and cultural exchange among regional nations. Our objective is to foster academic collaboration and augment research pertaining to regional matters and cooperation between Pakistan and regional countries, with the ultimate goal of establishing a shared future for regional prosperity.



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ABOUT CONFERENCE:

The one-day conference on "Understanding China's Governance System and Development Model" was held in Regional Integration Centre (RIC), University of the Punjab. This one-day conference jointly organized by RIC and Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) with collaboration of Embassy of People's Republic of China. The fundamental aid of the conference was to explore the unique features and characteristics of China's governance system and development model, and to examine the prospects for cooperation between China and Pakistan. The conference also aimed to deepen the understanding of China's socioeconomic policies under new initiatives, and to provide a platform for experts from both countries to exchange ideas and insights.

This event brought together experts from various disciplines, including political science, economics, and business, to discuss the key aspects of China's governance system and development model. The participants explored the impact of China's policies on its economic and social development, and the role of the government in fostering growth and stability. They also discussed the opportunities and challenges that China faces in its pursuit of sustainable development and the implications of these challenges for its cooperation with other countries, including Pakistan.

The conference provided a unique opportunity for experts from both China and Pakistan to engage in a dialogue about their countries' governance systems and development models. The participants shared their perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of each system, and discussed the potential for cooperation between the two countries in areas such as trade, investment, and infrastructure development. They also discussed the role of international organizations and the international community in promoting cooperation and collaboration between China and Pakistan.

The conference aimed to provide insights into China's governance system and development model, and to encourage participants to think critically about these important issues. Through the exchange of ideas and insights, this conference aimed to foster greater understanding and cooperation between China and Pakistan, and to contribute to the development of a more stable, prosperous, and sustainable future for both countries.

Who were the Participants:

A one-day conference on understanding China's governance system and development model had participants from government officials, business leaders, academics, researchers, journalists, and some academicians interested in international relations and global affairs. It

provided insights into China's political system, decision-making process, economic and social policies, regulatory environment, innovation, and technological development. This knowledge could help shape foreign policy towards China, develop strategies to work with China, navigate the complex regulatory environment, anticipate changes in policy, identify new business opportunities, inform academic and research work, and provide nuanced coverage of Chinese politics and society. With China's growing influence, understanding its governance system and development model is increasingly important across various sectors.

SESSIONS & GUEST SPEAKERS:

SESSION 1: CHINA'S GOVERNANCE SYSTEM AND DEVELOPMENT MODEL: PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN

The first session of the event centered on China's governance system and development model and its potential for collaboration with Pakistan. The topics discussed included the concept of a "Community with Shared Future," the strong relationship between Pakistan and China, the significance of the "Community with Shared Future" narrative, the Belt & Road Initiative, and sustainable development in China. The speakers highlighted the importance of mutual respect, trust, and cooperation in promoting global governance and economic development, as well as the need for countries to learn from China's experience and adapt policies that promote sustainable development.

The session provided valuable insights into China's governance system, development model, and its potential for cooperation with Pakistan. The speakers emphasized the significance of the "Community with Shared Future" narrative, the importance of regional connectivity, and the need for policies that promote sustainable development. The session underscored the need for mutual understanding, cooperation, and win-win outcomes in promoting global governance and economic development.

Opening Remarks and Welcoming Speech:

Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali

Director, Regional Integration Centre, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

The first session of the conference focused on China's governance system and development model and its prospects for cooperation with Pakistan. The session started with Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali, the Director of the Regional Integration Centre and Professor at Hailey College of Commerce, welcoming the guests and highlighting the importance of the conference.



She emphasized the need for collaborations and partnerships to accelerate progress and prosperity in the region. She also mentioned that the Regional Integration Centre Directorate aims to become a hub of knowledge, research, and policy recommendations for regional integration and development.

Dr. Fouzia also shed light on the Chinese governance system and how it has helped China to achieve remarkable economic growth and development in the past few decades. She highlighted the key features of China's governance system, including its political structure, policies, and institutions, and compared it with the governance system in Pakistan. She emphasized that Pakistan could learn from China's experience in economic development, governance, and poverty alleviation. She also discussed the prospects for cooperation between Pakistan and China in various fields, including trade, infrastructure development, and education.

Session Chair Speech on: Pak-China Relations

Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar

Former Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore and University of Sargodha, Sargodha.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar delivered a thought-provoking speech on the topic of Pak-China Relations. He began by highlighting the strong and historic bond between Pakistan and China, which has been strengthened through strategic partnerships in various fields, including trade, defense, and energy. The Chief Guest emphasized the need for continued cooperation and collaboration between the two nations, given their shared goals of economic growth and stability in the region.



The former Vice Chancellor of the University of Punjab, further elaborated on the importance of people-to-people connections between Pakistan and China to strengthen the historical ties between the two countries, which go back over 2,000 years. He noted that while official ties between governments are crucial, it is equally vital to promote cultural exchanges and social interactions between the citizens of both countries. Dr. Mazhar stressed that such initiatives would help in building mutual trust, understanding, and friendship, which are essential for the long-term sustainability of the Pak-China relationship.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Concept of the Community with Shared Future

Mr. Li Huailiang (online participated)

Dean of the Institute for a Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China.

Mr. Li Huailiang discussed the need for China to prioritize presenting and promoting its governance system and development module to rest of the world. This issue is crucial for China's future domestic development and international cooperation. He expressed that President Xi Jinping's foreign policies prioritize maintaining world peace, promoting common development, and building a shared future.



He also emphasized that Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director of the Pakistan Research Center of Community with Share Future, has published a profound series of articles and reports on influential media platforms. Cultural exchange and pragmatic actions are valued, and academia should work towards correcting misperceptions and improving international understanding.

Mr. Li Huailiang continued that the China-Pakistan partnership has been tested and strengthened over time. During the Pakistan Prime Minister's successful visit to China last November, President Xi Jinping met with him and agreed to further institutional exchange. They also aimed to improve the quality and efficiency of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, expand cooperation in various fields, and strengthen multilateral cooperation and coordination.

His remarks about the event expressed that; while China-Pakistan cooperation has benefits, there are also drawbacks due to political, social, and development differences. Given the current challenge, events like this one allow scholars and experts from both countries to contribute. He referred that, later on, Professor Bo and Dr. Lihan will discuss more China-related policies. This event aims to yield useful results and suggest ways to strengthen China-Pakistan cooperation. The hope is that academic dialogue will continue beyond today.

Main Takeaways:

- China is prioritizing, presenting and promoting its governance system and development module to the world as it affects China's future domestic development and international cooperation.
- China-Pakistan cooperation has benefits and drawbacks. While it builds a closer community with a shared future, both countries still have many political, social, and development differences.
- The event with scholars and experts from both countries is appreciated as it can provide useful insights and suggestions to strengthen China-Pakistan cooperation.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Familiarizing the World with the Grand Narrative of Community with Shared Future

Prof. Dr. Iram Khalid

Chairperson, Department of Political Science, University of the Punjab, Lahore.



She started to explain concept of the Community with Shared Future in four main parts:

1. Explaining theme in a much simpler way
2. Questions to response
3. Context of literature
4. Plan & Challenges

Explaining conference theme in much simpler way: She said that this idea, the Community of Shared Future for Mankind, was introduced by Xi Jinping in 2012 and has since been talked about globally. It means working together for mutual benefit and creating a better future for all people. It has been mentioned in speeches at the United Nations, in the Communist Party's Constitution, and in other official publications. The United Nations has even started using it in their resolutions.

Objectives of this narrative: She continued that the institutional architecture of global governance is facing a critical moment, as decisions must be made regarding the path forward. This uncertainty leads to anxiety about the future. However, Xi's words provide a glimmer of hope. He reminds us that peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom are universal values and the United Nations' lofty goals. Yet, these objectives are still

out of reach, and we must persist in our efforts to attain them, as Xi reaffirmed during his Geneva speech in 2017.

Questions to be answer: First, what is the content of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind and how it helps the consolidation of a community? And second how does this new powerful China engage with the international society?

Step wise approach or steps (literature): Dr. Iram Khalid highlights the importance of non-formal institutions, values, ideas, and identities in the international society, especially in the Asian countries. She explores the concept of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind, which has three distinctive approaches, emphasizing its role in establishing China as a leader willing to improve the current world order. The emotional component of shared beliefs is also essential in this theory, influencing the decisions and actions of human beings.

The second group contrasts the Chinese and US narratives, stressing how they impact the shaping of identities, roles, and foreign policies. The third group focuses on the elaboration of the concept as an extensive and complete narrative that became internationally visible in Xi's speeches at the United Nations in 2015. Today's world is full of uncertainties, and people long for a bright future but are bewildered about what will come. Following the Chinese strategic narrative, a third and future stage can be identified, a period in which the "Community of Shared Future for Mankind" will crystalize to prevent a return to the first, dark, obscure period. All countries are interdependent and share a common future, and the Chinese proposal presents itself as the solution, as the path to follow to successfully ensure the proper development of the international society. Dr. Khalid highlights the agreement among scholars that changes will happen in the Asian countries and notes the importance of the CSFM world order in assessing the international landscape.

Plan and challenges: Dr. Iram Khalid suggested to plan ahead and work towards achieving peace and development as outlined by Xi Jinping in 2017. According to her, China has constructed a narrative for the community of shared future for mankind (CSFM), which is based on accepted values and emotional content. This narrative has two levels; the meta-narrative which reflects on the past experiences of traumatic events, prosperous development, and the current reality in which countries need to decide to pursue the community of a shared future.

She added that, the Belt Road Initiative is another crucial platform that can help us build a community of shared future. This initiative sets the goal of creating a community of shared future for mankind and breaks the historical logic that a country will inevitably seek hegemony when it grows stronger. It also makes theoretical innovations in the traditional

national development strategy. Dr. Khalid points out that the interaction between China and the world is getting closer, and their opportunity and future sharing relationship have become increasingly prominent. The Belt and Road Initiative is a new model of international political and economic cooperation, as well as a road leading to a community of shared future for mankind.

She concluded that, this initiative uses economic cooperation as a guide, political cooperation as a promoter, and people-to-people exchange as the basis. It integrates domestic development strategy with the international strategy and harmonizes China's interests with other countries' interest demands. Dr. Khalid noted that the Belt and Road Initiative is a major theoretical innovation of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. It is not only a flagship public good for China's participation in global governance, but also an essential platform for us to build a community of shared future.

Main Takeaways:

- Xi Jinping introduced the Community of Shared Future for Mankind in 2012 as a way for countries to work together for a better future for all people.
- Xi's words provide hope for universal values and the United Nations' goals.
- The Community of Shared Future for Mankind has three distinctive approaches, with an emotional component of shared beliefs.
- The BRI is a new model of international cooperation leading to a community of shared future, harmonizing domestic and international strategies.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Significance of Belt & Road Initiative in Regional Connectivity

Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain

Chairman, Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab.

Dr. Mahboob Hussain expressed his gratitude to the organizers and their efforts to improve regional cooperation through better connectivity among countries. Dr. Hussain highlighted the importance of trade routes in promoting prosperity at regional and extra-regional levels. He spoke about the ancient Silk Road, which created an intricate network of corridors on land and sea. He also mentioned the Belt and Road Initiative, a large project aiming to improve regional cooperation.



Dr. Hussain said that the revival of the Silk Road has taken the form of the Karakoram Highway, which connects Gilgit with Islamabad. China's position as a big power of the region means that it is interested in building stronger relations with its neighbors. The scale of investment Beijing is currently discussing could have a positive impact on underdeveloped economies.

Dr. Hussain emphasized the need for openness and inclusiveness, and upholding the spirit of partnership. He also stressed the importance of building an all-dimensional, multi-layered, and sustainable connectivity network. Dr. Hussain expressed his hope that the conference's proceedings would help to create a bright future of integrated development with all parties involved.

Main Takeaways:

- Trade routes have played an important role in promoting prosperity at regional and extra-regional levels.
- BRI is a large project aiming to improve regional cooperation through better connectivity among countries.
- China's position as a big power of the region means that it is interested in building stronger relations with its neighbors.
- There is a need for openness and inclusiveness, building a sustainable connectivity network, and upholding the spirit of partnership.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Understanding Sustainable Development in China: Reforms and Poverty Alleviation Policies

Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram

Executive Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad.

In his speech, Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram discusses China's successful eradication of extreme poverty, which was achieved ten years ahead of schedule and is a significant contribution to



global poverty alleviation. He highlights that China's experience shows that courage, vision, responsibility, and determination are essential to overcoming poverty and achieving prosperity. He also notes that the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee in 1978 marked the

beginning of reform and opening up in China, and since 2012, the Party Central Committee has fought an unprecedented battle against poverty. Mr. Khalid quotes General Secretary Xi Jinping, who declared China's victory over extreme poverty at a gathering in February 2021.

In his speech, Mr. Khalid highlights how poverty alleviation is a key task of China's plan to build a moderately prosperous society and achieve national rejuvenation. He describes how the CPC, led by General Secretary Xi Jinping, has made poverty alleviation a priority and set ambitious goals to eradicate extreme poverty. Xi's proposals and policies emphasize the importance of targeted poverty alleviation and leaving no one behind. Under his leadership, China has achieved the milestone of eradicating extreme poverty 10 years ahead of schedule, making an important contribution to global poverty alleviation.

Mr. Khalid highlights how President Xi Jinping personally led the fight against poverty in China, making plans, attending conferences, and visiting impoverished areas. The government improved infrastructure, such as roads and transportation, to boost social and economic development. In 2021, China declared a comprehensive victory in the fight against poverty, achieving the historic milestone of eradicating extreme poverty. The Communist Party of China has long committed itself to seeking happiness and prosperity for the people, winning their support and trust through sacrifices and achievements.

Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram's speech highlights China's efforts to improve water, electricity, and communication infrastructure in impoverished areas, which have facilitated economic and social development. China has also prioritized education and cultural services in poor areas and implemented policies to address the basic rights of disadvantaged groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and the disabled. The fight against poverty has strengthened China's governance systems and capacity for grassroots social governance.

Main Takeaways:

- China eradicated extreme poverty ten years ahead of schedule, making an important contribution to global poverty alleviation
- Poverty alleviation is a key task of China's plan to build a moderately prosperous society and achieve national rejuvenation
- The CPC, led by General Secretary Xi Jinping, made poverty alleviation a priority and set ambitious goals to eradicate extreme poverty
- Infrastructure improvements in impoverished areas, such as water, electricity, and communication, have facilitated economic and social development
- China prioritizes education and cultural services in poor areas and implemented policies to address the basic rights of disadvantaged groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and the disabled
- The fight against poverty has strengthened China's governance systems and capacity for grassroots social governance

Distribution of Certificates & Tea Break

Session 1 on "China's Governance System and Development Model: Prospects for Cooperation with Pakistan" ended on a high note, with experts and participants engaging in a productive presentation on the subject matter. The speakers presented their viewpoints on China's governance system and how it has played a crucial role in the country's development. They also highlighted the prospects of cooperation between China and Pakistan in various sectors, including energy, infrastructure, and agriculture. The session was an excellent opportunity for the participants to learn about China's governance model and its successful implementation, providing valuable insights for Pakistan to emulate.

The session concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants, recognizing their active participation and contribution to the conference. A group photo was also taken to commemorate the event, capturing the memories and the shared enthusiasm of the participants. The coffee/tea break provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to

network and exchange ideas on the session's subject matter. Overall, the first session was a great success, setting the tone for the rest of the conference and highlighting the potential for a more significant cooperation between China and Pakistan in the future.

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING CHINA'S SOCIOECONOMIC POLICIES UNDER NEW INITIATIVES

This session covered recent policies and initiatives of the Chinese government, including the Belt and Road Initiative, Made in China 2025, and the Greater Bay Area Plan. The Belt and Road Initiative is a large infrastructure project connecting China with over 147 countries. Made in China 2025 focuses on investing in emerging technologies, while the Greater Bay Area Plan aims to integrate cities into an economic and innovation hub. The session also discussed the challenges and opportunities these initiatives present for China and the world, including their impact on international trade and investment.

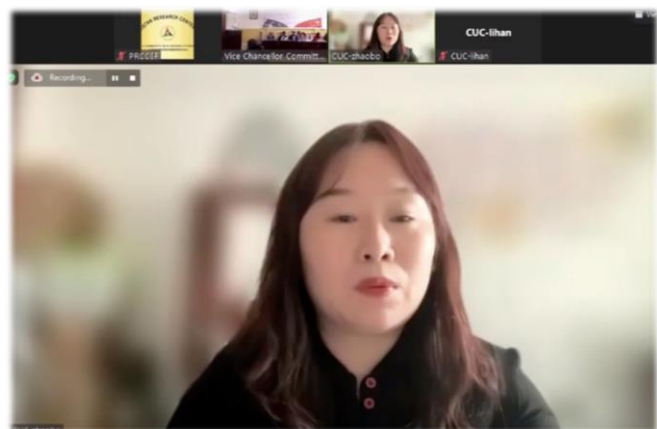
Guest Speaker Speech on: 100 Years of Excellence Governance under the Communist Party of China (CPC)

Prof. Zhao Bo, (Online participated)

Deputy Secretary of CPC Committee of College of Marxism in Communication University of China, Beijing, China.

She highlighted the efficient organization learning and ideological communication that has been deployed by the CPC, citing the study of the spirit of the 20th CPC national congress as an example. She emphasized that the excellent governance of the CPC stems from its cultural leadership, which considers both political power and soft power of culture development. This has brought the party closer to the people and boosted their confidence in the CPC.

Prof. Zhao also mentioned that the CPC has combined Marxism with traditional Chinese culture, incorporating integrity model genes into the construction of deals. The CPC uses mechanisms and rules that generate strong appeal and combat effectiveness, such as the common practice of mobilizing the whole people in times of trouble.



She emphasized that the CPC's leadership is not only the choice of the people but also the choice of history. The party's theoretical generation and cultural construction have centered on the safety and health of the people, which is giving new energy to the happiness of the people.

Prof. Zhao also noted the CPC's role in leading literature, art, and culture, which has been crucial in modernizing the governance system and capacity. He concluded that the CPC's excellence in governance is a result of the party's centennial-grade practice, and it is a testament to its commitment to serving the people.

Main Takeaways:

- The excellent governance of the CPC stems from its cultural leadership, which considers both political power and soft power of culture development.
- The CPC has combined Marxism with traditional Chinese culture and uses mechanisms and rules that generate strong appeal and combat effectiveness.
- The CPC's leadership is not only the choice of the people but also the choice of history, with a focus on the safety and health of the people and a role in leading literature, art, and culture.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Trade Potential & Pakistan-China Cooperation under New Project

Mr. Ehsan Choudhry

Senior Vice President from Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The speaker discussed the trade potential and cooperation between Pakistan and China, emphasizing the need to build on the existing foundations and remove the structural



impediments that are hindering further growth. While Pakistan's largest trading partner is China, there is a need to improve trade between the two countries, particularly Pakistani exports to China. Pakistan should prioritize agriculture exports to China, as its share of China's agriculture imports

has decreased in recent years. Pakistan's industry faces several barriers to entry into the Chinese market, including quality standards, pricing, and high energy costs.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a major driver of growth between the two countries and includes several projects that could improve exports and import substitution for Pakistan. These projects include crop seed production, poultry breeding, chili and

mushroom farming, and industry technical training centers. However, political and economic stability is essential for the success of trade and investment between the two countries.

Main Takeaways:

- Pakistan's largest trading partner is China, but more needs to be done to improve trade between the two countries
- Pakistan should prioritize agriculture exports to China, as its share of China's agriculture imports has decreased in recent years
- Pakistan's industry faces several barriers to entry into the Chinese market, including quality standards, pricing, and high energy costs
- CPEC is a major driver of growth between the two countries and includes several projects that could improve exports and import substitution for Pakistan
- Political and economic stability is essential for the success of trade and investment between the two countries.

Guest Speaker Speech on: China's Increasing Role in UN Peacekeeping Missions and Conflict Resolution

Dr. Li Han, (Online participated)

Communication University of China, Beijing, China.

Her first theme was about the China's historical involvement in the UN and its support for a UN-centered international system, international law, and institutions. She continued that China has fulfilled its international obligations by contributing to global poverty reduction and South-South cooperation. And China's peaceful development strategy is a heritage of Marxist peace theory and ancient Chinese spirituality, which emphasizes the importance of maintaining world peace to develop oneself and vice versa.



She also focused on her second theme on China's peacekeeping contributions, which began with its participation in the UN Truce Supervision Organization in 1990. China follows the UN Charter and three UNPK principles and has become a key force in UNPK operations. China has sent over 40,000 peacekeepers to 26 UN peacekeeping operations and has helped build or repair 17,000 kilometers of roads, 300 bridges, and 14,000 mines and unexploded ordinances.

Her third speech theme highlighted China's ethical concept of a community of a shared future for mankind, which provides a global set of shared values with peace at its core. China continues to contribute to peacekeeping as its internal outlook on its relations with the world has changed over the years.

And in her fourth and final theme, she acknowledges the unprecedented changes the world is experiencing, and how traditional and non-traditional security issues are intertwined, highlighting the importance of multilateralism in maintaining peace and stability. China views UN peacekeeping operations as one of the most important practices of multilateralism, and its participation in the global governance system is a significant contribution to peacekeeping and regional stability.

Main Takeaways:

- China's historical involvement in the UN emphasizes a UN-centered international system and its commitment to international law and institutions.
- China's peacekeeping contributions follow the UN Charter and three UNPK principles, and it has become a key force in UNPK operations.
- China's ethical concept of a community of a shared future for mankind provides a global set of shared values with peace at its core.
- The importance of multilateralism in maintaining peace and stability is highlighted, with China viewing UN peacekeeping operations as one of the most important practices of multilateralism.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Global Development Initiative: New Goals for Peace & Prosperity

Dr. Muhammad Shareh Oazi

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

The speaker discusses four main themes of his topic: China's approach to global peace initiatives, state-to-state growth, China's role in SARC, and the importance of political connectivity. In the first theme, the author explains how China's approach to growth has evolved from the implementation of Xiaohang Kang, which emphasized gradual



and integrated growth, to a more strategic approach with the Belt and Road Initiative. The Dr. Qazi suggests that China's approach must be analyzed carefully to determine its potential impact on global peace.

He also highlighted the controversy surrounding China's involvement in military ventures and the issue of debt traps. And argued that China is not responsible for a state's strategic heartbreak, and that the responsibility for any negative consequences should be shared with the international community. His emphasizes was on the importance of a sovereign state's decision to collaborate with Chinese enterprises.

His next focus was on China's role in SARC and the challenges of promoting peace and prosperity in the region. Dr. Qazi explained how China has compensated for SARC's dysfunction by offering seats in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SEO) to Pakistan and India. And also suggested that SARC connectivity with Central Asia and ASEAN is not happening due to forces preventing bilateral engagement.

Finally, he stressed the importance of political connectivity and the need for states to align themselves with a particular doctrine or ideology to fully participate in China's vision of shared growth and peace. And argued that if the International Community is to work better with China, it must understand and potentially adopt principles such as Shao Kang, Shah Khan, Ashokan, or Russia. The speaker concluded that a diplomatic tethering to the West and a lack of understanding of China's approach may hinder progress in global peace initiatives.

Main Takeaways:

- Strategic and sensitive conversations are important for understanding China's role in the international community, especially in regards to global peace initiatives and economic growth.
- State-to-state growth is emphasized, with China promoting regional and bilateral partnerships for gradual and integrated growth. China is also open to hard power, soft power, or hybrid partnerships.
- The success of China's vision for shared growth and peace relies on political connections and ideology between the International Community and China. SARC's dysfunction and lack of political connectivity is preventing the success of China's vision.
- Interpreting and understanding Chinese principles and doctrine is crucial for effective cooperation and communication with China. The Western interpretation may not align with China's goals and aspirations.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Understanding Pak-China Friendship through Historical Lens and Building Blocks for Future Cooperation

Dr. Rukhsana Iftikhar,

Professor, Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

My talk will examine the history of China-Pakistan relations and offers recommendations for future strategies. She argued that international relations and political science discussions must consider the past and learn from mistakes to apply past lessons to the future. The friendship between China and Pakistan began in 1951, and historical ties between the two countries go back even further, with cultural exchange and Buddhist sites.



Over the years, China and Pakistan have strengthened their relations through high-level visits, cultural exchange agreements, investment promotion and protection agreements, and transit trade agreements. The two countries also developed military equipment and signed a Free Trade Agreement. In recent years, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which is part of China's flagship Belt and Road Initiative, has become a major focus of their cooperation.

Despite concerns raised by some conferences about the One Belt One Road Initiative and CPEC, the speaker argues that doubts and inquiries can be addressed through social media, communication, and face-to-face contact. Additionally, the speaker suggests that Pakistan must open its labor market to China and use its resources and labor market for China's megaprojects to accelerate its socio-economic development.

Looking to the future, the speaker notes that Pakistan is currently playing diplomacy, while China is playing the age of it. Therefore, future planning is crucial for the continued success of China-Pakistan relations.

Main Takeaways:

- China-Pakistan relations have a long history, dating back to the Silk Road and Gandara art.

- The two countries have strengthened their friendship through high-level visits, cultural exchanges, and military equipment development.
- Pakistan has benefited from investment and trade agreements with China, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- CPEC has faced doubts and criticisms, but Pakistan and China continue to work together on megaprojects like the Orange Line Metro train and Allama Iqbal industrial city.
- Future planning is crucial for maintaining and improving China-Pakistan relations.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Prospects for Industrial Collaboration between China and Pakistan under CPEC

Prof. Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Bhatti

Hailey College of Commerce, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

My discussion today is focused on the potential challenges and collaborations between countries, specifically China and Pakistan. The governance and development model in China is based on operations, structure, and procedures that regulate and control the government and corporate entities. The five main topics of discussion are the history of China-Pakistan friendship, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its prospects, CPEC's vision from different perspectives, industrial collaborations and their potential benefits, and how the roles of the two countries complement each other.



CPEC aims to modernize air transportation, logistics, and energy for sustainable development, with projects involving road, rail, air, coal, and hydro energy. The multi-economy project seeks to expand western China, promote economic and social development, accelerate Belt and Road construction, and create advantages in capital, technology, production capacity, and engineering projects. Pakistan's vision of CPEC is to increase industrial capacity, balance regional socio-economic development, reduce poverty, and address capital, technology, and innovation gaps.

Pakistan's non-durable consumer goods economy needs CPEC to improve its industrial capacity to meet market demands. Other benefits of CPEC include promoting bilateral connectivity, building infrastructure, exploring investment projects, and exploring economic and trade initiatives.

China's share of global GDP has increased to 35 percent over the past decade, and as of 2022, it is 18.5 percent. China-Pakistan imports and exports are rising rapidly, with China leading foreign direct investment. CPEC collaborations aim to improve the well-being of Central Asian republics and regional connectivity. CPEC-created economic zones exist in different regions of Pakistan, and collaborations could occur in areas such as energy, automobiles, infrastructure, plastics, clinical and chemical, fertilizers, and agriculture. However, militancy, root controversies, and sub-nationalist perspectives can hinder these collaborations, and overcoming these obstacles is crucial to maximize CPEC opportunities.

Main Takeaways:

- CPEC aims to increase Pakistan's industrial capacity and reduce poverty by addressing capital, technology, and innovation gaps.
- Pakistan's non-durable consumer goods economy, which lacks capital goods and manufacturing, needs CPEC to meet market demands by improving its industrial capacity.
- CPEC collaborations include high technology industries such as iron, steel, metallurgy, heavy machinery, gadgets, drones, AI, and massive use of high technology.
- Other benefits include promoting bilateral connectivity, building infrastructure, exploring investment projects for both countries, and exploring economic and trade initiatives.

Guest Speaker Speech on: The impediments in Trade Connectivity through OBOR within the region: The way forward

Dr. Qudsia Akram

Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Kinnaird College, Lahore.

As part of her presentation, regarding to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), she said it is a massive infrastructure investment project launched by the Chinese government in 2013 to promote trade and investment between China and over 60 countries along ancient civil trade routes in Asia, Europe, and Africa. The project is one of the largest and most ambitious infrastructure projects ever, costing over 1 trillion dollars. The BRI aims to promote regional and global trade and economic cooperation, but it has faced many obstacles to regional trade connectivity despite its potential benefits.



She brought some estimations and said the World Bank estimates that transport corridors will reduce travel times and boost trade and integration, with transit times expected to be cut by 12 percent and increasing trade by 5.2 percent. The BRI is expected to boost global real income by 0.7-2.9 percent, with BRI corridor economies benefiting most. If BRI projects succeed, they will benefit many people in many economies and reduce global warfare. However, the project faces many challenges, such as the lack of suitable built infrastructure, political and security issues, funding issues, and corruption perception indexes in most BRI countries.

She also emphasized that one of the significant challenges that the BRI faces is the lack of suitable built infrastructure in each state. Infrastructure limits trade, connectivity, and economic growth. Political, security, and strategic issues also arise, hindering regional trade connectivity and economic growth. Several projects have lost money due to funding issues, and the negative narrative about China hegemonizing and polarizing the region, fueled by US-China rivalry, also hinders trade. Most BRI countries have high corruption perception indexes, which stymies BRI project goals.

Moreover, political risks have hindered BRI programs as the BRI crosses politically volatile areas, which can disrupt investment flows. China's non-interference policy has also hindered

BRI implementation, making protecting workers and infrastructure in conflict zones difficult. Despite these challenges, the BRI could improve infrastructure and international trade, especially for countries that have struggled to integrate into the global economy.

Main Takeaways:

- BRI is a massive infrastructure project promoting trade and investment between China and over 60 countries.
- The project has faced challenges to regional trade connectivity despite its potential benefits.
- World Bank estimates show that BRI could reduce transit times, increase trade, and reduce poverty.
- The project faces several challenges, including lack of suitable infrastructure, political risks, and corruption.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Prospects of Media Relationship between Pakistan and China

Mr. Noor Ullah

Senior Manager Marketing, Jang Media Group.

The media played an essential role in shaping public opinion, as Mr. Noor Ullah noted. He continued, that during a petrol shortage a few years ago in Pakistan, the media presented two sides of the story when the government announced a 25 rupee per liter hike in price. One side saw this as a cruel move, while the other viewed it as a wonderful strategy to overcome the petrol shortage. This demonstrated the power of the media to influence how people perceive events. While there was always the possibility of fake news, in international relations, nothing was absolute, and people had to watch their own interests.



China had done a remarkable job of lifting 1.5 billion people out of poverty, as Mr. Noor Ullah stated his observation. He also stated that Pakistan could learn from China's approach of using

their population as a resource rather than a problem. China's community with a shared future was an excellent model, which gave people access to basic needs and solved problems through the government's welfare programs. China's economic presence in Pakistan was a great opportunity, and the media could play a crucial role in highlighting the challenges and problems while also communicating the benefits.

He expressed and continued his idea that, in the past, the United States was the only superpower, and they were seen as the "neighbor of every country," but they were also heavily reliant on military presence. Now, China had emerged as an economic superpower, and they had invested heavily in Pakistan. While Pakistan had to watch their own interests, they could also learn from China's economic model. The media could play an essential role in promoting collaborations between Pakistani and Chinese media, which would allow them to learn from each other.

Main Takeaways:

- The media has a significant impact on shaping public opinion, as demonstrated by their coverage of events like the petrol shortage in Pakistan.
- China's approach to using its population as a resource has been successful in lifting millions of people out of poverty, and Pakistan can learn from their model.
- Collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese media can help promote mutual learning and understanding, and the media can play a crucial role in highlighting both the challenges and benefits of China's economic presence in Pakistan.

Guest Speaker Speech on: Best Practices for Pakistan from Chinese Governance System and Development Model

Ms. Laraib Fatima Hassan,

Member Board of Experts, PRCCSF

She started her speech thanking as a young scholar, I had the opportunity to attend a conference where I learned about China's impressive governance and development model. Despite being a developing nation, China's centralized decision-making and policy implementation have led to remarkable economic growth and improved living standards. While it may not be possible to copy their policies and agendas, we can learn from their success and adapt their strategies to our country's social and economic needs.



She continued, that China's poverty-eradication policies have been precise and targeted, focused on finding the poorest areas and helping them. Through technology and innovation, such as in manufacturing and renewable energy, China has been able to boost its economy and improve the lives of its citizens. Pakistan can learn from this model and adapt its strategies to build a more prosperous and equitable society.

She also emphasized that China's approach to poverty eradication has also focused on improving education, healthcare, and social security. The government has sent officials to work with the poorest and most physically challenged, addressing their needs and issues. Pakistan can also take inspiration from China's Debao program, the largest poverty-eradication program ever, which provided assistance in housing, health, education, and disaster relief.

If Pakistan had implemented similar programs a decade ago, it could have helped flood victims recover and revitalized the agricultural economy. By empowering its people to earn for a better life and improving the country's economy, China's development and governance model serves as a valuable example for Pakistan and other developing nations.

Main Takeaways:

- Young scholars can learn from similar programs about China's governance and development model.
- China's economic growth, centralized decision-making, and policy implementation have yielded impressive results.
- Learning from other countries and adopting their best practices is important.
- Pakistan can adapt China's strategies for performance management, poverty reduction, and technology and innovation to build a more prosperous and equitable society.
- China's poverty-eradication policies, focus on education and healthcare, and revitalization of the agricultural economy can inspire Pakistan's development.

Research Article: China's COVID-19 Pandemic Diplomacy

Dr. Khushboo Ejaz

Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Kinnard College for Women, Lahore.

Dr. Khushboo Ejaz's presentation on China's COVID-19 Pandemic Diplomacy shed light on China's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of this response on the international community. China's response to the pandemic was characterized by swift action, aggressive containment measures, and an emphasis on cooperation with other countries. This approach allowed China to successfully control the spread of the virus and provide assistance to other countries experiencing outbreaks.

China's pandemic diplomacy was also an important aspect of its response to the pandemic. Through its diplomacy, China provided medical supplies and expertise to other countries struggling with the virus. This assistance was an important aspect of China's effort to build relationships with other countries and improve its image on the global stage. While some critics have questioned the motives behind China's pandemic diplomacy, it is clear that this approach has been effective in improving China's international standing.

Ms. Khushboo also discussed the challenges that China faces as it continues to respond to the pandemic. These challenges include the ongoing need to balance domestic concerns with international obligations, the risk of new outbreaks within China, and the potential for tensions to arise between China and other countries as a result of its pandemic diplomacy. Despite these challenges, China's response to the pandemic has been a success story that demonstrates the country's ability to effectively respond to a global crisis and work cooperatively with the international community.

CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS:

Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali

Director, Regional Integration Centre, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

The conference on Understanding China's Governance System and Development Model has come to a successful conclusion. We have had insightful discussions on various topics related to China's governance system, development model, and pandemic diplomacy. The conference provided a platform for scholars and experts from Pakistan and China to exchange their views and ideas. We hope that the conference has contributed to a better understanding of China's policies and its role in the global community. The discussions on the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and China's COVID-19 pandemic diplomacy have been particularly enlightening.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the participants, speakers, and organizers who have made this conference possible. We hope that this is just the beginning of a long and fruitful exchange between Pakistan and China. Thank you all, and we look forward to seeing you at future events.



Distribution of Certificates & Lunch Break

During Session 2, the speakers shed light on China's socioeconomic policies under new initiatives. They highlighted the importance of understanding these policies in order to further strengthen the cooperation and relationship between China and Pakistan. After the session ended, certificates were distributed to the participants, acknowledging their attendance and contribution to the event. The attendees then took a lunch break to refresh themselves after closing ceremony.

Group Photo of Guest Speakers of Two Sessions



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS & SUGGESTIONS:

The conference was successful in providing a platform for exchange of ideas between Pakistani and Chinese scholars and experts. It is hoped that this will contribute to a better understanding of China's policies and role in the global community, with concrete policy recommendation and actions suggested by the experts in this event, here are those important recommendations:

- Study and analyze China's performance management strategies and adopt best practices to improve Pakistan's economic growth.
- Develop strategies for performance management, poverty reduction, and technology and innovation in line with China's approach.
- Implement poverty-eradication policies, focus on education and healthcare, and revitalize the agricultural economy in Pakistan.

- Foster collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese media to promote mutual learning and understanding.
- Establish mechanisms for highlighting both the challenges and benefits of China's economic presence in Pakistan.
- Enhance industrial capacity in Pakistan by addressing capital, technology, and innovation gaps through CPEC.
- Promote agriculture exports from Pakistan to China to increase trade.
- Overcome barriers to entry into the Chinese market for Pakistani industry by improving quality standards, pricing, and energy costs.
- Strengthen Pakistan-China relations through improved connectivity among countries under BRI.
- Facilitate economic and social development by improving infrastructure in impoverished areas.
- Prioritize education and cultural services in poor areas and implement policies to address the basic rights of disadvantaged groups.
- Strengthen grassroots social governance to combat poverty in Pakistan.
- Emphasize the importance of trade routes in promoting prosperity at regional and extra-regional levels.
- Increase openness and inclusiveness in Pakistan-China relations.
- Promote cultural exchange programs between Pakistan and China.
- Establish joint research and development initiatives between Pakistan and China.
- Develop a framework for the exchange of technical expertise and knowledge between Pakistan and China.
- Facilitate investments in Pakistan by Chinese companies, to create a business-friendly environment for Chinese companies in Pakistan.
- Promote joint ventures between Pakistani and Chinese companies.
- Encourage Pakistani companies to participate in exhibitions and trade fairs in China.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for enhancing trade between Pakistan and China.
- Foster cooperation between Pakistani and Chinese universities to promote research and development.



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