



Institute for a Community  
with Shared Future  
人类命运共同体研究院



中国传媒大学  
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## Conference Report

### Bridging Horizons: Celebrating Pakistan–China Deep-Rooted Friendship



**Jointly organized by**  
**Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of the Punjab, Lahore in**  
**collaboration with Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF),**  
**Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, and the Embassy of**  
**the People's Republic of China to Pakistan**

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**



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## **Background and Rationale of the Conference:**

Pakistan and China share a friendship that has stood the test of time, evolving into one of the most enduring and exemplary partnerships in the world. Built upon the principles of mutual trust, respect, and shared aspirations, the relationship between the two countries has progressed from strategic and economic collaboration to multifaceted cooperation encompassing education, culture, technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), under the broader vision of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has become a hallmark of this partnership — symbolizing regional connectivity, economic integration, and collective progress. As both nations look toward a shared future, it is vital to engage the youth of Pakistan in celebrating and reflecting on this deep-rooted friendship.

In this spirit, the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) proposes organizing a comprehensive academic and creative event titled “*Bridging Horizons: Celebrating Pakistan-China Deep-Rooted Friendship.*” The initiative aims to foster a deeper understanding, critical engagement, and creative appreciation of the Pakistan-China relationship through the active participation of students and young scholars.

## **Objectives:**

- To celebrate and promote awareness of Pakistan-China friendship among youth.
- To encourage critical thinking and academic discussion on the significance of BRI, CPEC, and China’s global initiatives.
- To foster creativity and cross-cultural understanding through art and expression.
- To strengthen academic and institutional linkages between Pakistan and China.

## **Structure of the Event:**

The event will feature three major competitions, each focusing on a unique dimension of Pakistan-China relations:



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### **Article Writing Competition**

Students write analytical essays on contemporary themes related to China-Pakistan relations and regional cooperation. Suggested topics include:

- I. China's Global Initiatives
- II. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Impacts and Prospects
- III. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Regional Development
- IV. Sustainable Development under CPEC and BRI
- V. Pakistan-China Relations in the New Era

Participants submitted their articles. Submissions have been reviewed by an expert panel, and winners chosen based on originality, analytical depth, and relevance.

### **Speech Competition**

Winners of the article writing competition will present their ideas in a speech format, showcasing their understanding, oratory skills, and ability to engage audiences. This competition will encourage intellectual dialogue and a deeper appreciation of Pakistan-China cooperation in the modern era.

### **Poster Competition**

Students from various departments will visually interpret the theme of Pakistan-China friendship through creative artwork. Suggested themes include:

- China-Pakistan Cultural Enhancements
- CPEC Projects and Their Socio-Economic Impact
- Pakistan's Role in Regional Development

Winning entries have been displayed in a poster exhibition accompanying the main event.



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## **Conference Highlights**

A comprehensive and intellectually vibrant conference titled “**Bridging Horizons: Celebrating Pakistan–China Deep-Rooted Friendship**” was convened at Al Raazi Hall,

University of the Punjab, on Tuesday, 10 February 2026. The event was organized by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of the Punjab, in collaboration with the Institute for a Community with a Shared Future. The



conference brought together distinguished academics, policymakers, corporate leaders, diplomats, media professionals, and students to deliberate upon the historical evolution, strategic depth, and future trajectory of Pakistan–China relations.

The day-long proceedings reflected the multidimensional nature of bilateral cooperation, covering geopolitics, economic development, digital transformation, regional security, youth engagement, agriculture, financial governance, and media diplomacy. The conference served as both a celebration of the enduring friendship between the two countries and a forward-looking platform to explore emerging challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing global order.

## **The Speakers’ Profiles**

### **Opening Remarks**

#### **Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain**

Dean, Faculty of Arts & Humanities, University of the Punjab, Lahore

In his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain set the intellectual tone of the conference by situating Pakistan–China relations within a broader civilizational and historical framework. He emphasized that the friendship between the two nations





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transcends short-term political calculations and is rooted in mutual trust, respect for sovereignty, and shared aspirations for development. He noted that academic institutions have a crucial role in sustaining and critically examining this relationship through research, dialogue, and scholarly exchange.

He underscored the responsibility of universities in shaping informed narratives about bilateral cooperation. He highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research, joint publications, student mobility, and institutional partnerships. He expressed hope that the conference would not only celebrate past achievements but also generate policy-relevant insights for the next phase of Pakistan–China collaboration. Prof Dr Mahboob Hussain said that PU is playing an active role in further strengthening educational linkages between Pakistan and China. He said that the purpose of this platform was to create awareness among youth at the global level regarding the importance of culture, trade, education, people-to-people contacts, the BRI, and the CPEC project between Pakistan and China. He added that this conference would play an important role in enhancing institutional linkages. More than ten experts presented their research papers in three sessions of the conference.

## **Welcome Remarks**

### **Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram**

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

Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and participants, emphasizing the significance of collaborative academic diplomacy. He elaborated on the concept of a “Community with a Shared Future” as a guiding principle for global governance, stressing that Pakistan and China embody this vision through sustained cooperation and mutual support at international forums.

In his subsequent remarks, he highlighted the growing institutional linkages between research centers in both countries.

He stressed that think tanks and academic institutions must work closely to produce policy-oriented research that addresses global challenges such as climate change, technological transformation, and economic uncertainty. He concluded by reaffirming PRCCSF’s commitment to strengthening intellectual and strategic cooperation.





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Khalid Taimur Akram said that Pak-China diplomatic relations are exemplary, and to highlight them, his organization has been working in collaboration with PU since 2018. He thanked the Chinese Embassy, PU, UMT, University of Sargodha, and University of Lahore for organizing the conference. He said that the conference would provide an opportunity to highlight 75 years of diplomatic relations through research papers, poster exhibitions, and speech competitions.



**Chief Guest Address**

**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali**

Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, as Chief Guest, reaffirmed the University’s longstanding commitment to academic excellence and international collaboration. He described Pakistan–China relations as a model of consistent diplomacy built on trust and mutual support. He highlighted the importance of higher education institutions in institutionalizing bilateral cooperation. He called for expanded joint degree programs, research collaborations, and academic exchanges. He encouraged faculty and students to actively engage in China-focused research and language learning initiatives. He appreciated the organizers for hosting a timely and impactful conference.





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Professor Dr Muhammad Ali has said that Pakistan must learn from China to promote modern agriculture. He emphasized that only through the development of a knowledge-based economy, science, technology, and agriculture; Pakistan can Pakistan compete with the world. In his address, PU VC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali stated that good neighborly relations between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and development in the region. He said that after the US, Chinese universities are now ranked among the top universities of the world. He added that China has proven through practical measures in Pakistan that it is sincere about Pakistan’s development. He further said that science and technology in China have advanced to such an extent that surgeries are being performed with the help of robots. He remarked that Pakistanis receive immense respect in China, which is difficult to imagine. He stressed the need to introduce modern disciplines such as AI and data science across all fields. Referring to the 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, he appreciated the efforts of the organizers for holding an excellent conference. Speaking online from China.



**Professor Li Huailiang**

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

Professor Li Huailiang conveyed online greetings from China and reflected upon the historical depth of Pakistan–China friendship. He emphasized that people-to-people connectivity forms the backbone of bilateral relations and that cultural understanding must accompany strategic and economic cooperation. He highlighted the role of communication studies, media collaboration, and educational exchanges in fostering mutual trust.



He stressed that universities must serve as platforms for intellectual diplomacy. He noted that collaborative research projects, faculty exchanges, and joint conferences not only strengthen academic output but also foster societal understanding. He expressed confidence that cultural and educational bridges would continue to reinforce the strategic partnership in the years to come. Prof Li Huailiang said that the friendship between Pakistan and China remains deep and



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trustworthy even in the modern world. He said that participating in a conference on Pak-China diplomatic relations is a great honor. He added that such platforms not only highlight the bond of friendship between the two countries but also provide opportunities to share new ideas. He noted that poster and speech competitions enhance students' creativity and confidence.

**Mr. Zeeshan Qureshi**

Chief Operating Officer, Capital Smart Innovations

**Speech Topic:** Digital Silk Road 2.0: AI and Smart Technologies in Pakistan–China Cooperation

Mr. Zeeshan Qureshi focused on the transformative potential of the Digital Silk Road 2.0, particularly in the domains of artificial intelligence, fintech, and smart infrastructure. He argued that technological collaboration can significantly enhance efficiency in trade, governance, and project management under bilateral initiatives.

In his second paragraph, he emphasized Pakistan's growing digital ecosystem and the opportunities for joint innovation hubs and technology incubators. He stressed that AI-driven solutions in logistics, agriculture, and urban planning can redefine bilateral cooperation. He concluded by calling for stronger public–private partnerships to accelerate digital transformation.



**Dr. Muhammad Usman Askari**

Chairperson, Department of Political Science and International Relations, UMT Lahore

**Speech Topic:** Geo-Politics of Pakistan–China Relations in a Multipolar World

Dr. Askari analyzed Pakistan–China relations within the context of an emerging multipolar global order. He argued that shifting power balances and regional realignments have increased the strategic importance of their partnership.

In his second paragraph, he discussed how both countries navigate complex geopolitical pressures while maintaining strategic autonomy. He emphasized that the partnership contributes to regional stability and enhances diplomatic leverage in global institutions.





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### **Dr. Kishwar Munir**

Head, School of Integrated Social Sciences, University of Lahore

**Speech Topic:** South Asian Security Complex and Pakistan–China Relations

Dr. Kishwar Munir examined the South Asian security environment through a theoretical lens. She explained how regional rivalries and security dilemmas shape strategic alignments.

In her second paragraph, she argued that Pakistan–China cooperation strengthens deterrence, economic interdependence, and conflict management mechanisms in South Asia. She highlighted the importance of sustained dialogue and regional confidence-building measures.



### **Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan**

Director, Pakistan Institute for China Studies (PICS)

**Speech Topic:** Institutionalizing Civilizational Exchange: Confucius Institutes and Pakistan–China Friendship

Dr. Awan emphasized the civilizational and cultural foundations of Pakistan–China friendship. He highlighted the role of Confucius Institutes in promoting language learning and cultural exchange.

In his second paragraph, he argued that cultural diplomacy ensures the long-term sustainability of bilateral relations. He called for expanded student exchange programs and joint cultural initiatives.





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**Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali**

Director, Career Counseling Center, University of the Punjab

**Speech Topic:** Building Bridges, Not Barriers: Pakistan-China Cooperation for Regional Integration

Dr. Fouzia Hadi Ali underscored the importance of regional connectivity and integration. She noted that infrastructure projects foster economic growth and diplomatic engagement.

In her second remarks, she stressed inclusivity and cooperation as essential for sustainable regional development. She highlighted the need for multilateral dialogue mechanisms.



**Brig (Retd.) Mansoor Saeed**

Senior Vice President, Pakistan–China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI)

**Speech Topic:** From Diplomacy to Development: Pakistan–China Economic Relations at 75

Brig (Retd.) Mansoor Saeed traced the historical evolution of economic ties over 75 years. He highlighted milestones in trade, investment, and industrial cooperation.

He stressed private-sector engagement and industrial modernization. He emphasized transparency and regulatory reforms for sustainable growth.

Brig (r) Mansoor Saeed said that Pak-China friendship is based on trust and sustainability. He said that in 1951, Pakistan was the first country to recognize the sovereignty of China. He added that both



countries have demonstrated true neighborliness and brotherhood by not interfering in each other’s internal affairs. He said that China has fully supported Pakistan in projects such as CPEC, the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as in defense and security. He further said that culture and agriculture have given new dimensions to bilateral relations.



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### Mr. Noor Ullah

Manager Marketing, Jang Group of Companies

**Speech Topic:** Journalism Beyond Borders: Media as a Strategic Stakeholder in Pakistan-China Relations

Mr. Noor Ullah discussed the media's strategic role in shaping narratives. He emphasized responsible journalism and balanced reporting.

In his second paragraph, he advocated for media exchange programs and collaborative content production to enhance public understanding.



### Dr. Muhammad Naeem Khan

University of the Punjab, Lahore

**Speech Topic:** Academic and Research Collaboration in Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Naeem Khan provided a critical assessment of emerging challenges, including economic sustainability and regional tensions.

In his concluding remarks, he stressed adaptive policy measures and academic research to ensure resilience and growth in bilateral ties.



### Mr. Wajahat Ali

Director Community Engagement-Lahore & Islamabad, Center for Alternative Perspectives (CAP)

**Speech Topic:** Youth as Custodians of Pakistan-China Friendship

Mr. Wajahat Ali emphasized youth leadership and digital connectivity as drivers of future cooperation. He proposed exchange programs, innovation forums, and leadership initiatives to empower the next generation.





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**Mr. Rai Muhammad Usman**

Country Director-Pakistan, World Agriculture

**Speech Topic:** Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Resilience

Mr. Rai Muhammad Usman highlighted agricultural innovation and climate-smart practices. He stressed joint research, technology transfer, and food security cooperation.



**Ms. Khadija Mubarik**

CEO, M.A. Chaudhari & Co (Chartered Accountants)

**Speech Topic:** Financial Transparency and Risk Management

Ms. Khadija Mubarik discussed governance, auditing standards, and financial transparency in cross-border projects.

In her concluding paragraph, she emphasized risk mitigation strategies and regulatory compliance to enhance investor confidence.





## Report on Essay/Article Writing Competition

As part of the conference on “*Bridging Horizons: Celebrating Pakistan–China Deep-Rooted Friendship*,” an Essay/Article Writing Competition was successfully conducted to encourage scholarly engagement among students.

The competition received an enthusiastic response, with more than 20 well-researched articles submitted by students from various departments. The submissions reflected a deep understanding of Pakistan–



China relations, covering themes such as the historical evolution of bilateral ties, economic cooperation under CPEC, cultural diplomacy, youth engagement, technological collaboration, and regional geopolitics.

After a careful evaluation process based on originality, analytical depth, clarity of argument, and relevance to the conference theme, six outstanding articles were shortlisted. These selected papers were considered exemplary in terms of research quality and critical insight.

The shortlisted students were allowed to present their articles during the conference proceedings. Their presentations added a vibrant academic dimension to the event and provided a valuable platform for young scholars to share their perspectives with an audience comprising academics, policymakers, and professionals.

The Essay/Article Writing Competition significantly enriched the conference by integrating student scholarship into the formal program, highlighting the intellectual potential of youth as contributors to the future of Pakistan–China friendship



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## **Poster Competition on “Pakistan–China Friendship”**

*Held as Part of the Conference “Bridging Horizons: Celebrating Pakistan–China Deep-Rooted Friendship”* As an integral component of the conference “Bridging Horizons:

Celebrating Pakistan–China Deep-Rooted Friendship,” a vibrant and highly engaging Poster Competition was held to encourage student participation and creative expression. The competition provided a dynamic platform for students from various departments of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and other faculties to visually interpret the theme of Pakistan–China friendship.



The Poster Competition aimed to foster youth engagement, artistic innovation, and intellectual reflection on the historical, cultural, economic, and strategic dimensions of bilateral relations. It complemented the academic sessions of the conference by bringing student voices into the broader discourse, thereby strengthening the spirit of academic inclusivity and interdisciplinary collaboration.

### **Participation and Themes**

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from undergraduate and postgraduate students, who submitted a diverse range of posters reflecting deep research, aesthetic creativity, and conceptual clarity. The posters explored multiple dimensions of Pakistan–China relations, including:

- Historical milestones in diplomatic relations
- The China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a symbol of connectivity
- Cultural exchange and civilizational dialogue
- Youth engagement and educational collaboration
- Technological cooperation under the Digital Silk Road
- Shared visions for sustainable development and climate resilience



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Students demonstrated remarkable creativity by incorporating symbols such as national flags, traditional motifs, architectural landmarks, maps of connectivity corridors, and illustrations of cultural harmony. Many posters creatively blended calligraphy, digital art, and infographics to present complex ideas in visually compelling formats.

### **Exhibition and Evaluation**

The posters were displayed prominently at Al Raazi Hall throughout the conference, attracting significant attention from delegates, faculty members, and visiting scholars. Participants and guests appreciated the originality and intellectual depth reflected in the students' work. The exhibition area became a lively space for



informal discussions, with students explaining the conceptual inspiration behind their designs. A panel of judges, comprising senior faculty members and invited experts, evaluated the posters based on originality, thematic relevance, research depth, artistic presentation, and clarity of message. The judges commended the students for their thoughtful engagement with the theme and their ability to translate geopolitical and cultural concepts into impactful visual narratives.

### **Recognition and Impact**

Outstanding posters were recognized with certificates and awards during the concluding session of the conference. The winners were applauded for their creativity and analytical insight, while all participants were appreciated for contributing to the success of the event. The competition not only celebrated artistic excellence but also reinforced the role of youth as ambassadors of Pakistan–China friendship.



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The Poster Competition significantly enriched the overall conference experience by adding a creative and participatory dimension to the academic deliberations. It demonstrated that the spirit of Pakistan–China friendship resonates strongly among the younger generation, who view this partnership not only as a diplomatic relationship but as a shared journey toward progress, innovation, and mutual understanding.



### **Conclusion**

The conference concluded with a shared understanding that Pakistan–China relations represent a resilient and forward-looking partnership. The deliberations reflected intellectual depth, policy relevance, and interdisciplinary engagement. The event reaffirmed the commitment of academic institutions and policy stakeholders to strengthening Pakistan–China friendship across multiple domains in the decades ahead.

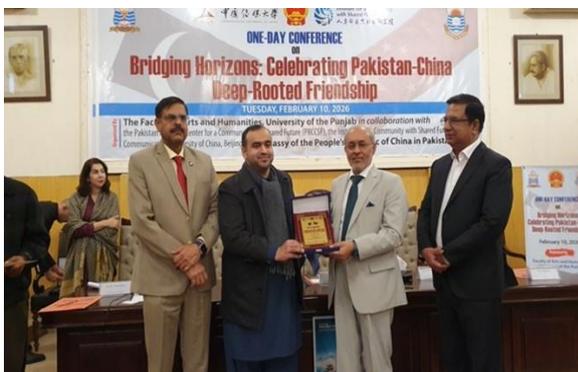
The Poster Competition on “Pakistan–China Friendship” successfully embodied the conference’s broader objective of bridging horizons through dialogue, creativity, and collaboration. By engaging students in meaningful artistic expression, the event reinforced the importance of youth involvement in strengthening bilateral ties. It stands as a testament to the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China and the promising role of the next generation in carrying this legacy forward.



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## Picture Gallery





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## Media Coverage

### **1. The Gulf Observer (Pakistan's First Media House supporting 9 Languages based in Islamabad, Pakistan)**

<https://thegulfobserver.com/international-conference-on-bridging-horizons-celebrating-pakistan-china-deep-rooted-friendship-held-at-university-of-the-punjab/>

### **2. Associated Press of Pakistan (Official Newsagency of Pakistan )**

<https://www.app.com.pk/domestic/intl-conference-held-at-pu/>

### **3. The News (Media House based in Pakistan )**

<https://www.thenews.pk/print/1398419-pakistan-must-learn-from-china-to-promote-modern-agriculture>

### **4. Pakistan Observer (English-Language Daily Newspaper based in Pakistan )**

[https://epaper.pakobserver.net/pages.php?station\\_id=2&page\\_id=38518&date=2026-02-11](https://epaper.pakobserver.net/pages.php?station_id=2&page_id=38518&date=2026-02-11)

### **5. The Nation (English-Language Daily Newspaper based in Pakistan )**

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2026-02-11/page-6>

### **6. MinuteMirror (Newsagency based in Islamabad, Pakistan)**

<https://minutemirror.com.pk/pakistan-china-friendship-celebrated-at-pu-conference-503793/>

### **7. Daily Express (Urdu-language newspaper based in Pakistan)**

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1112202616&Issue=NP\\_LHE&Date=20260211](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1112202616&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20260211)

### **8. Daily Naibaat (Urdu-language newspaper based in Pakistan)**

<https://www.naibaat.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2026-02-11/page-2>

### **9. The Europe Today (Media House based in Islamabad, Pakistan)**

<https://theeuropetoday.com/2026/02/10/international-conference-on-bridging-horizons-celebrating-pakistan-china-deep-rooted-friendship-held-at-the-university-of-the-punjab/>

### **10. The Daily Big Digit (English Language Newspaper for Eurasian Region)**

<https://www.dailybigdigit.com/?p=58990>

