



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



CHINA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), Beijing,
China and University of Sargodha (UoS) Fellowship Program
2025-26 Report



Jointly organized by

**Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), Communication
University of China (CUC), Beijing, and the Pakistan Institute of China
Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS) in collaboration with the
Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan**

From October 14, 2025 to April 28, 2026 at the University of Sargodha



Overview of the Program

The ICSF–UoS Fellowship Program was a six-month international academic initiative jointly organized by the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, and the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS), Pakistan. The fellowship was inaugurated on October 14, 2025, at the University of Sargodha and successfully concluded after completing its six-month academic cycle.

The program was designed to enhance the knowledge and understanding of students regarding the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), regional connectivity, international cooperation, and contemporary global development issues. It served as a unique platform for academic learning, intercultural dialogue, and intellectual exchange by bringing together students, scholars, and experts from different parts of the world.

A total of 80 students were selected to participate in the fellowship through a competitive selection process. Throughout the six-month program, participants attended a series of lectures, conferences, panel discussions, and interactive sessions that explored various dimensions of the Belt and Road Initiative, China–Pakistan relations, regional economic integration, sustainable development, global governance, cultural diplomacy, and international cooperation. The multidisciplinary nature of the fellowship enabled students to examine these subjects from political, economic, social, and cultural perspectives.

One of the most significant features of the fellowship was its international academic engagement. Participants had the opportunity to interact with experts and scholars from 23 countries, providing them with diverse perspectives on regional and global issues. These interactions enriched the learning experience by exposing students to comparative approaches, international best practices, and cross-cultural viewpoints. The fellowship also encouraged active participation through discussions, question-and-answer sessions, collaborative learning activities, and academic networking.

Beyond knowledge acquisition, the fellowship focused on developing participants' analytical, research, communication, and critical thinking skills. Students were encouraged to engage with contemporary policy debates, examine emerging regional challenges, and explore opportunities



for international collaboration. The program fostered an environment that promoted intellectual curiosity, academic excellence, and evidence-based understanding of international affairs.

At the successful conclusion of the fellowship program, 42 participants, comprising students and focal persons from various departments, successfully fulfilled the program requirements and graduated from the fellowship. In recognition of their active participation, commitment, and successful completion of the six-month program, they were awarded Certificates of Appreciation by the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing.

The certificate distribution ceremony marked the culmination of the fellowship and celebrated the participants' academic achievements and dedication throughout the program. The awards recognized their engagement in the fellowship's lectures, article writing, discussions, and international academic exchanges, reflecting the program's commitment to fostering knowledge, cross-cultural understanding, and scholarly

The successful completion of the fellowship strengthened academic cooperation between the organizing institutions and reinforced educational collaboration between Pakistan and China. It also contributed to building a network of young scholars with a deeper understanding of regional connectivity and international development. Through its comprehensive curriculum and global engagement, the fellowship equipped participants with valuable academic insights and practical perspectives that will support their future studies, research endeavors, and professional careers.

Overall, the inaugural ICSF–UoS Fellowship Program represented a significant milestone in international academic collaboration. By combining expert-led instruction, international dialogue, and interdisciplinary learning, the program successfully achieved its objective of enhancing participants' understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative and regional cooperation while fostering lasting academic and professional connections among students and scholars.



Inaugural Session of the Fellowship Program by the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing and the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS), Pakistan

14 October, 2025

On October 14, 2025, the inaugural session of the Fellowship Program jointly organized by the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, and the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS), was held at the University of Sargodha (UoS), Pakistan.



This fellowship program is specially designed for the Social Sciences students of bachelors/masters level, for enhancing their knowledge about Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and regional connectivity. This fellowship program will continue for six months and students will have a chance to interact with experts and scholars from 23 countries. 80 selected students are enrolled in this fellowship program.



Professor Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Director of the Pakistan Institute for China Studies (PICS) and Host Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sargodha (UoS), formally opened the session by outlining the objectives of the Fellowship Program.



Following his address, Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director of Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad, delivered an insightful speech about the concept of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, emphasizing the program's role in strengthening academic and cultural linkages between Pakistan and China.



Subsequently, Ms. Iqra Javaid, Lecturer at the University of Lahore/member Board of Experts PRCCSF, and research mentor for this Fellowship Program, conducted a comprehensive presentation on the fundamentals of academic writing. She guided participants on the criteria and standards for writing research articles, journal papers, and academic publications.

Prof. Li Huailiang, Dean of the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, gave an online speech in which he extended warm greetings to all participants, introduced the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), and emphasized the significance of the Fellowship Program, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and the role of young scholars in promoting Pakistan–China friendship. He described the young fellows as “ambassadors of friendship” between the two nations.





The event concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which students actively engaged with the speakers and received clarifications on various aspects of the Fellowship Program.



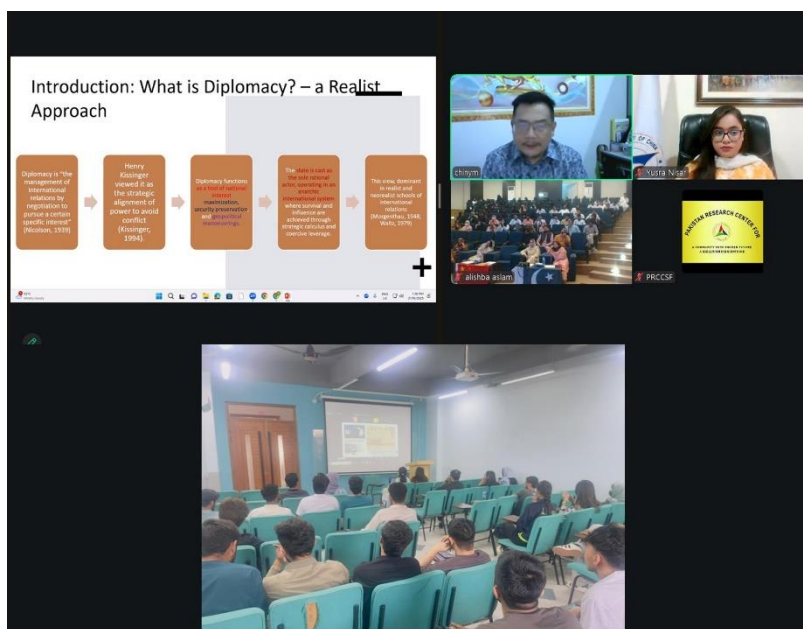
Training Session on Malaysia–China Relations and Environmental Sustainability for China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

21 October, 2025

On October 21, 2025, as part of a joint fellowship program, a training session was held at the University of Sargodha (UoS).

The session brought together two distinguished scholars who shared their expertise on contemporary global challenges and international cooperation.

The event featured two sessions; a physical lecture by Prof. Dr. Gan Zhang, Director of the State Key Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry and Professor at the Guangzhou Institute of





Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and an online lecture by Dr. Chin Yee Mun, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Creative Industries, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia, and Director of both the Tun Tan Cheng Lock Institute of Social Studies and the ASEAN Research Center for a Community with Shared Future.



The physical session was formally introduced and moderated by Prof. Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Director of the Pakistan Institute for China Studies (PICS) and Host Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sargodha (UoS), who welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the today's session.

Prof. Gan Zhang delivered an insightful lecture titled "Status of Air Pollution in Asian and African Countries Along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road." He discussed the environmental challenges faced by developing nations along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) route and emphasized the need for joint scientific and policy efforts to address transboundary air pollution.



Highlighting the importance of collaborative research, technological innovation, and evidence-based policymaking, Prof. Zhang called for greater cooperation among BRI countries to promote environmental sustainability and global resilience. His comprehensive presentation engaged the audience in a deep reflection on how environmental protection and sustainable development can reinforce international cooperation.

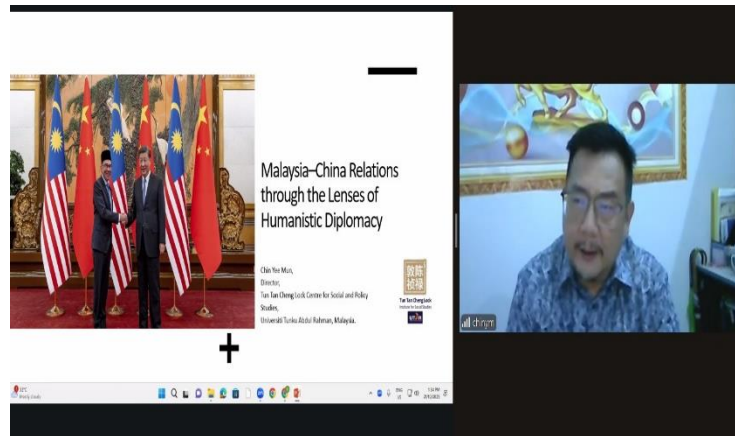




The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, during which participants discussed potential collaborative research areas, policy integration, and scientific innovation for addressing regional environmental challenges.

Following the physical lecture, the online training session commenced, moderated and introduced by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at the Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad.

Dr. Chin Yee Mun commenced his lecture, titled “Malaysia–China Relations through the lens of Humanistic Diplomacy”, by exploring the concept and nature of diplomacy. He elaborated that diplomacy has multiple interpretations depending on the theoretical approach one adopts. He emphasized the realist approach as his main framework for defining diplomacy, explaining how it traditionally focuses on state-centric interests, geopolitical maneuverings, and national interests’ preservation.



Then, he introduced the audience to the concept of humanistic diplomacy, a perspective that goes beyond state-centric paradigms and focuses on people-centered and cooperative approaches to international relations. Drawing upon various scholars and authors, he discussed how humanistic diplomacy emphasizes mutual respect, shared values, multilateralism, and the pursuit of common good among nations.



Using Malaysia–China relations as a case study, Dr. Chin traced the historical trajectory of bilateral relations since 1964, explaining how both countries overcame ideological and political divisions to establish a relationship rooted in mutual trust, respect, and cooperation. He underscored how this partnership, strengthened



through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), exemplifies the practical application of humanistic diplomacy in fostering regional peace, prosperity, and people-to-people connectivity.

Concluding his presentation, Dr. Chin underscored that the China–Malaysia relationship serves as a living example of diplomacy guided by empathy, cultural understanding, and mutual development rather than zero-sum competition. The online session also concluded with an interactive Q&A discussion, where participants shared their views on the implications of humanistic diplomacy, the evolution of Malaysia–China relations, and the broader role of empathy and cultural understanding in shaping international cooperation.

The joint training session served as a valuable platform for intellectual exchange, uniting diverse academic perspectives on diplomacy, environmental challenges, and transnational collaboration. Both lectures, Prof. Gan Zhang’s insightful discussion on environmental sustainability and Dr. Chin Yee Mun’s profound exploration of humanistic diplomacy and Malaysia-China, offered participants a deeper understanding of global cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative framework.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks to both distinguished speakers for their remarkable contributions, leaving participants inspired by the depth, clarity, and forward-looking vision of the discussions



Sargodha University hosts China Fellowship Session on nuclear energy, climate change

04 November, 2025



On 4th November 2025, The Department of International Relations, in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), organised the fourth session of the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha.

The session, titled “Nuclear Energy and China’s Contribution Towards Achieving Net Zero Emissions and Combating Climate Change,” gathered scholars, fellowship participants, faculty members, and students for a substantive academic discussion.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Dr. Syed Javaid Khurshid, Consultant on Science Communication and Diplomacy and Coordinator at the Policy Research Center (OIC-COMSTECH), highlighted China’s transition towards clean and sustainable energy solutions. He discussed the country’s growing reliance on nuclear energy as part of its strategy to achieve carbon neutrality and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Dr. Khurshid also underlined the



importance of science diplomacy and technological cooperation among Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries to advance global climate goals.

Earlier, Syed Imran Abbas, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of academic platforms that engage students in global debates on sustainability and policy development.



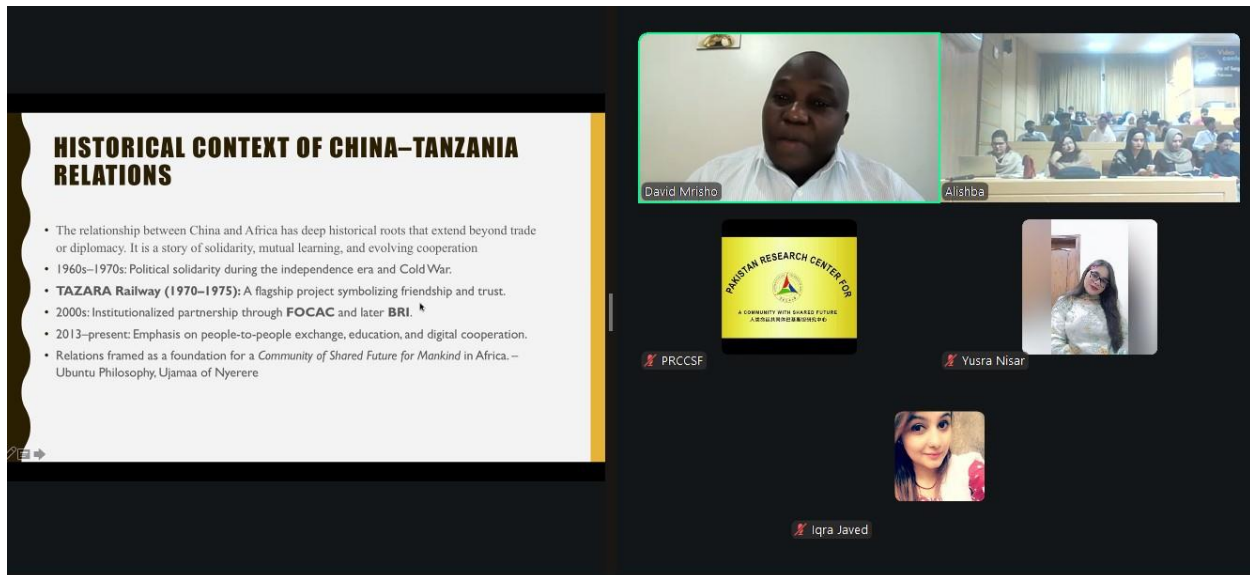
In his concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Director, PICS, appreciated the participants' contributions and reiterated the University of Sargodha's commitment to promoting academic exchange and policy-oriented research. He noted that the fellowship program provides valuable opportunities for young scholars to explore emerging issues in energy, environment, and international cooperation.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion on the future of nuclear energy, renewable technologies, and collaborative climate policies. The session was attended by Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, Chairperson, Department of International Relations, Faculty and students.



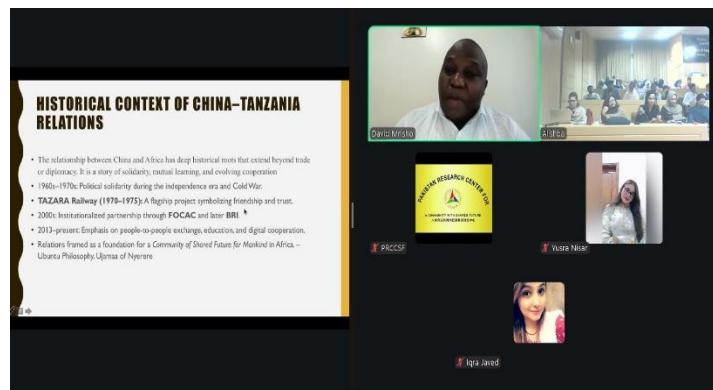
Training Session on “Media and Narrative Construction in China–Tanzania Relations” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

11 November, 2025



On 11th November 2025, as part of the joint China Fellowship Program, a training session was held at the University of Sargodha (UoS). Dr. David Haruna Mrisho, Deputy Director of the East Africa Research Center for a Community with a Shared Future and Head of the Department of Public Relations and Marketing at the University of St. Augustine, Tanzania, led an engaging session on the role of narratives in shaping international relations, with a particular focus on China–Tanzania cooperation.

Dr. Mrisho emphasized that narratives serve as frameworks for interpreting history, identity, and global partnerships. He encouraged participants to reflect on how stories defining China–Africa relations are shaped differently through Western, Chinese, and African perspectives, influencing mutual understanding and international development.



The session examined the pivotal role of media in constructing and framing these narratives, contrasting themes of neo-colonialism often portrayed in Western media with notions of shared



prosperity prevalent in Chinese media, while also recognizing the diversity of African perspectives. The discussion incorporated theoretical frameworks such as framing theory, constructivism, and postcolonial thought, highlighting the importance of constructive journalism, ethical reporting, and cross-cultural communication.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, where students actively participated, shared their insights, and engaged with Dr. Mrisho, deepening their understanding of the complexities and opportunities embedded in media-driven international relations.

The training session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at the Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with a Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at Pakistan Institute of China Studies University of Sargodha (PICS-UOS).



Learning Session on “Türkiye–China Perspectives on the Global South” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

18 November, 2025



On 18th November 2025, A learning session on “What Does the Global South Mean for Türkiye and China in the 21st Century” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Dr. Selnaz Baskan Yurdakul, Professor at the Eastern Languages and Cultures Department, Sichuan International Studies University (SISU), China.

Dr. Selnaz delivered an insightful lecture explaining how the concept of the Global South shapes the strategic outlooks of both Türkiye and China. She highlighted that for China, the Global South represents both an identity and a strategic platform. China positions itself as a leading voice for developing nations, promoting South–South cooperation through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), BRICS, and other multilateral forums. Through these efforts, China aims to support a multipolar global order where Global South countries hold greater influence.



Regarding Türkiye, Dr. Selnaz explained that the Global South serves as a flexible and dynamic space for expanding its diplomatic presence beyond traditional Western alliances. Türkiye leverages this identity to deepen engagement with Asia, Africa, and the Middle East while maintaining constructive ties with Europe and NATO, strengthening its image as an independent, proactive, and strategically diversified regional power. In summary, she noted that China views the Global South as a sphere of leadership, whereas Türkiye sees it as a sphere of opportunity and strategic diversification.



The session featured an engaging question-and-answer segment, during which students actively participated and exchanged perspectives with the speaker. This interactive discussion significantly enhanced participants' understanding of the evolving geopolitical significance of the Global South.

The session concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), who appreciated Dr. Selnaz Baskan Yurdakul for her insightful session and emphasized the importance of strengthening academic and cultural engagement between Pakistan, China, and Türkiye.



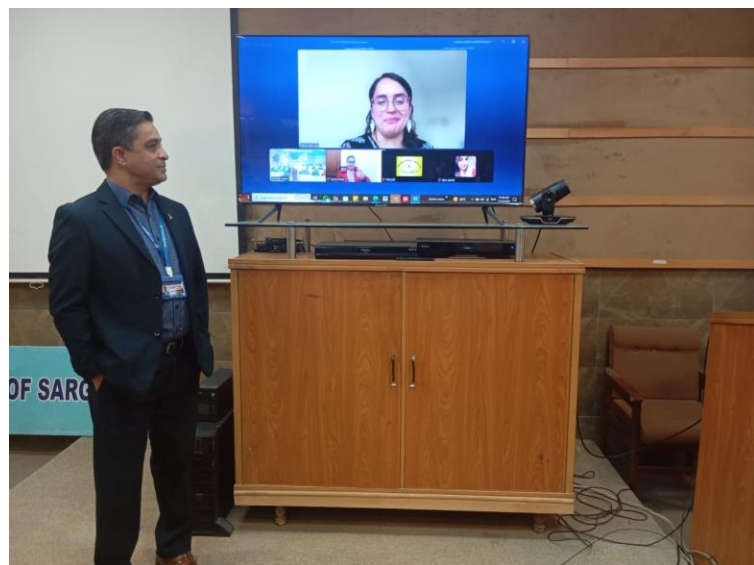
Learning Session on “China’s Development Cooperation with Argentina and Brazil” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

25 November, 2025



On 25th November 2025, a learning session on “China’s Development Cooperation with Argentina and Brazil” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Dr. Maria Haro Sly, an Argentinian scholar, a Ph.D. Candidate at Johns Hopkins University and Fellow at the Arrighi Center for Global Studies.

The session focused on the key aspects of China’s engagement, including the internationalization of the Renminbi (RMB) and currency SWAP arrangements, the political economy of agribusiness, hydro-dams projects financed by China, and space cooperation initiatives. Dr. Maria highlighted how China’s investments are shaping Brazil and Argentina’s economic landscape, addressing both opportunities and constraints in these bilateral relationships.



The discussion emphasized the dynamic growth of trade and investment over the past two decades. In the early 2000s, China was not a major trading partner for either Argentina or Brazil. However, by 2024–2025, China has emerged as a crucial economic partner, with Brazil ranking as the second-largest recipient of Chinese investment. The session explored China's geoeconomic strategies in Brazil and how both Argentina and Brazil are contributing to science and technology collaborations with China.

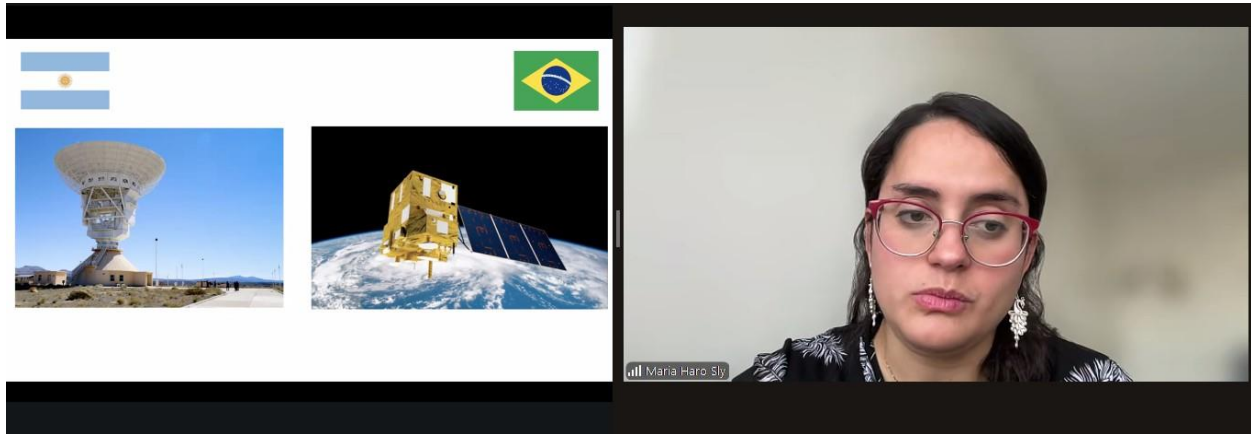
Furthermore, Dr. Maria provided a thorough explanation of key economic and financial aspects of China's engagement with Argentina and Brazil. She detailed the RMB and SWAP arrangements, central bank reserves, and the significance of GNI per capita in assessing economic development. She also analyzed bilateral trade trends, highlighting Argentina's exports to China, and outlined Chinese investment and financing initiatives, emphasizing how these measures are supporting Argentina's economic growth, infrastructure development, and broader development objectives. She also discussed how these collaborations are strengthening financial stability, fostering sustainable development, and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and technological cooperation between the nations.

The session featured an engaging question-and-answer segment, during which students actively participated and exchanged perspectives with the speaker. This learning session provided participants with a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted cooperation between China and Latin





America, underscoring the growing strategic and economic importance of these partnerships in the global arena.



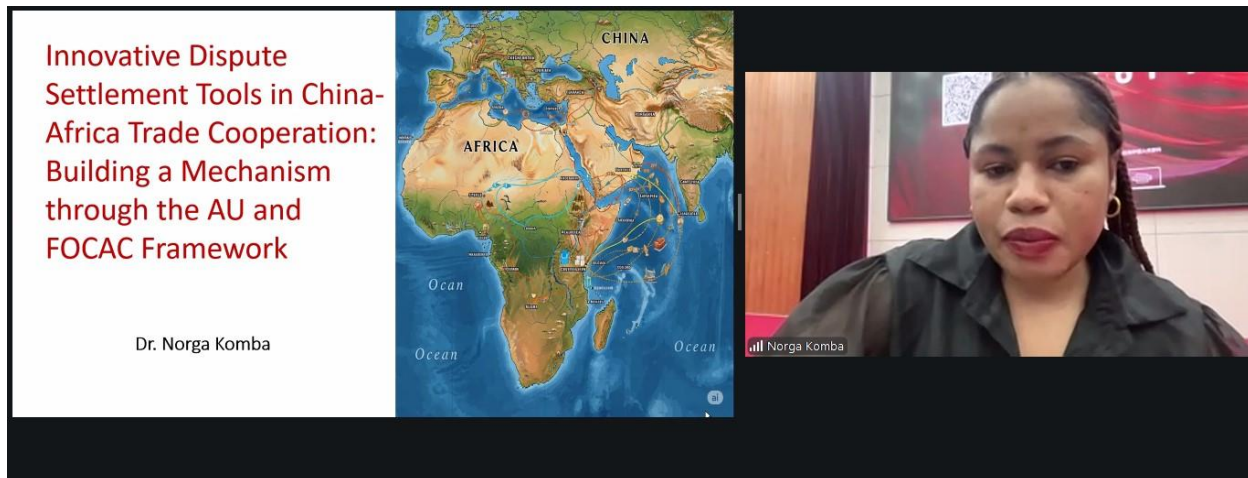
The session concluded with closing remarks from Professor Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Director of the Pakistan Institute for China Studies (PICS) and Host Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sargodha (UoS), who expressed his gratitude to Dr. Maria for her insightful presentation and thorough analysis of China's engagement with Argentina and Brazil.

The session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at the Pakistan Research Centre for a Community with a Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at Pakistan Institute of China Studies University of Sargodha (PICS-UOS).



Learning Session on “Innovating Trade Justice: Advancing China-Africa Cooperation through AU & FOCAC Frameworks” for the Fellowship Program on the Concept of Community with Shared Future at the University of Sargodha

02 December, 2025

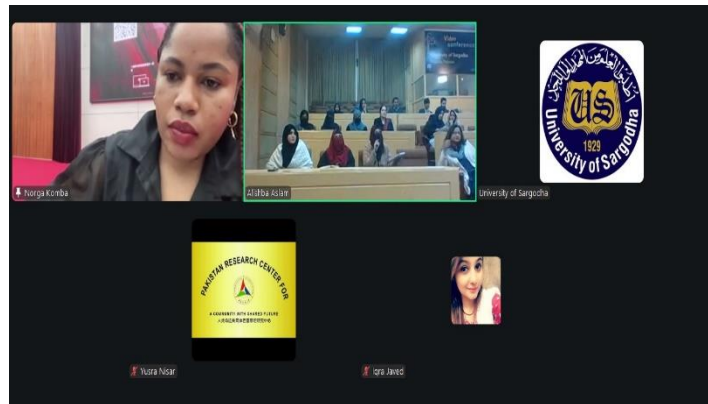


On 2nd December 2025, a learning session on “Innovative Dispute Settlement Tools in China-Africa Trade Cooperation: Building a Mechanism through the AU and FOCAC Framework” was conducted under the joint Fellowship Program on the Concept of Community with Shared Future at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Dr. Ms. Norga Komba, Doctor of Law in Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Law from Wuhan University, Legal Scholar at the Research Institute of Environmental Law (RIEL), Founder of Ecosphere Solutions Limited (Tanzania), and Lecturer at Jordan University College, Tanzania. Dr. Komba provided a comprehensive overview of the rapidly growing China-Africa trade relationship and China’s BRI shape economic cooperation and create a pressing need for credible and modern dispute-settlement mechanisms.





During the presentation, she highlighted key challenges affecting China-Africa dispute resolution, including weak institutional structures, the decentralized nature of CAJAC, limited legal precedent, and technology gaps. Dr. Komba emphasized the importance of harmonizing legal and policy frameworks between BRI and AfCFTA, modernizing Bilateral Investment Treaties, and adopting hybrid arbitration models integrating African legal norms with UNCITRAL rules. She also shed light on emerging dimensions such as the Digital Silk Road, digital innovation hubs, e-commerce expansion, and the crucial role of sustainability in trade cooperation—linking these developments with the SDGs, Agenda 2063, green financing, and climate-smart infrastructure.



The session concluded with practical policy recommendations, urging the establishment of a Sino-African Trade Governance Council, a unified legal registry for trade governance, stronger digital equity initiatives, and enhanced environmental and social safeguards. A highly engaging question-and-answer segment allowed students to interact directly with the speaker, deepening their understanding of complex legal and economic themes.

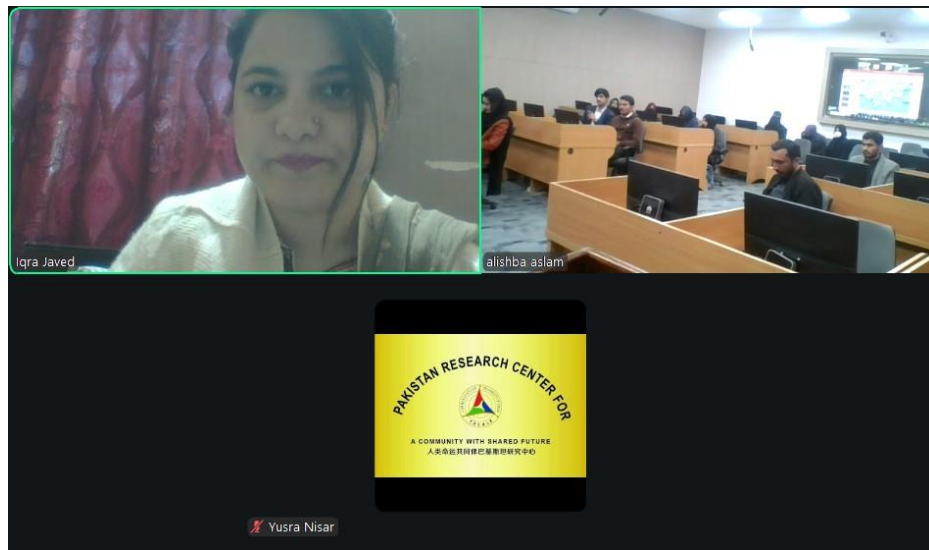


The session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at PRCCPS, Islamabad, and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS-UOS), who ensured a productive and intellectually enriching learning environment.



Learning Session on “Foreign Policies and International Relations of Great Powers” for the Fellowship Program on the Concept of Community with Shared Future at the University of Sargodha

23 December, 2025



On 23rd December 2025, a learning session on “Foreign Policies and International Relations of Great Powers” was conducted under the joint Fellowship Program on the Concept of Community with Shared Future at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session aimed to enhance students understanding of the strategic behavior, diplomatic priorities, and global influence of major powers in the contemporary international system.

The session was led by Ms. Iqra Javaid, Lecturer and Research Associate at the University of Lahore, and Member of the Board of Experts at the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF). Ms. Iqra is a recognized expert on China’s engagement with Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Central Asia, with particular focus on China’s regional diplomacy and connectivity-driven development strategies. She also possesses extensive expertise on China’s major development initiatives, especially the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

During her presentation, Ms. Iqra provided an in-depth analysis of the foreign policies of major global powers, highlighting how economic interests, security concerns, and geopolitical considerations shape their international relations. She emphasized China’s evolving role as a responsible global actor and discussed its cooperative approach toward regional development,

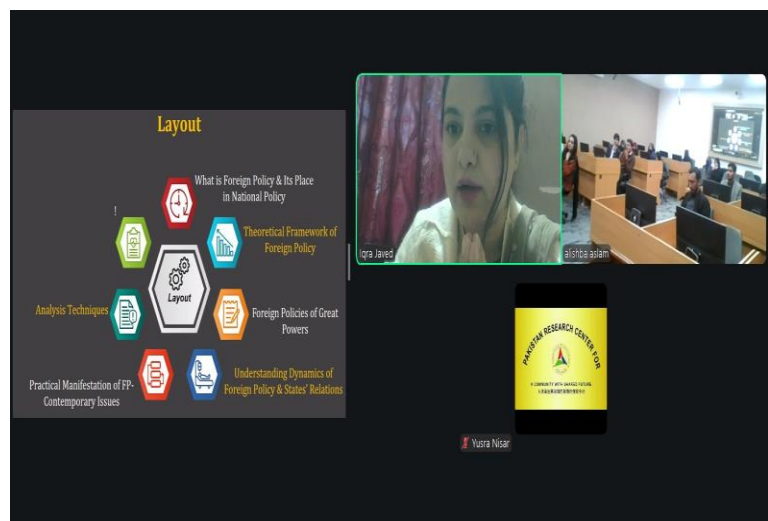


infrastructure connectivity, and economic integration through initiatives such as the BRI. Special attention was given to China–Central Asia relations, energy cooperation, and regional stability.

The session concluded with a comprehensive summary of key insights, underlining the importance of understanding great power politics for students of international relations in an increasingly multipolar world. Ms. Iqra encouraged students to critically analyze global developments and adopt an objective, research-oriented approach in their academic pursuits.

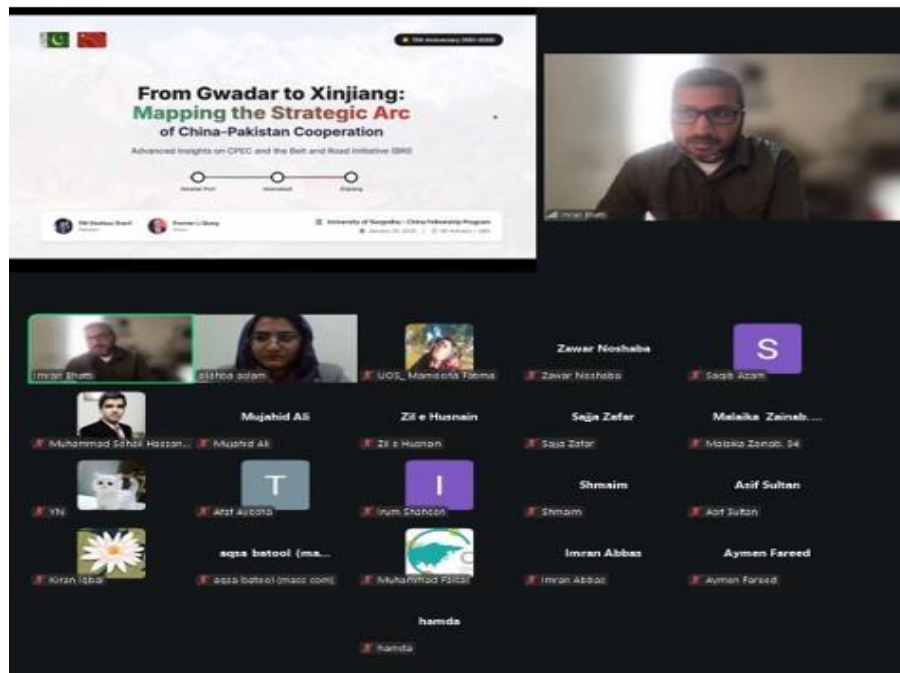
The session featured an engaging question-and-answer segment, during which students actively participated and exchanged perspectives with the speaker. This interactive discussion allowed participants to clarify concepts, explore real-world policy implications, and deepen their understanding of contemporary international dynamics.

The session was moderated by Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS-UoS), who facilitated the discussion, ensured smooth proceedings, and effectively coordinated interactions between the speaker and the participants.



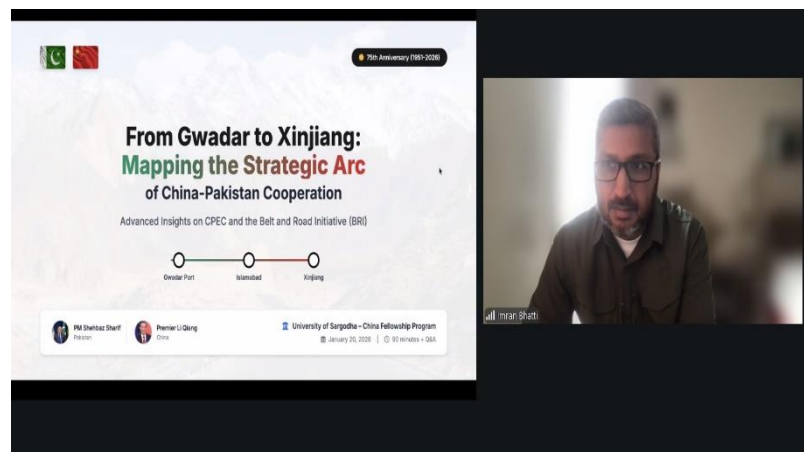
Learning Session on “From Gwadar to Xinjiang: The Strategic Lifeline of China–Pakistan Cooperation” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

20 January, 2026



On 20th January 2026, a learning session titled “From Gwadar to Xinjiang: Mapping the Strategic Arc of China–Pakistan Cooperation” was conducted under the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session aimed to enhance students’ understanding of China–Pakistan strategic cooperation, with particular focus on the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) within the evolving multipolar international system.

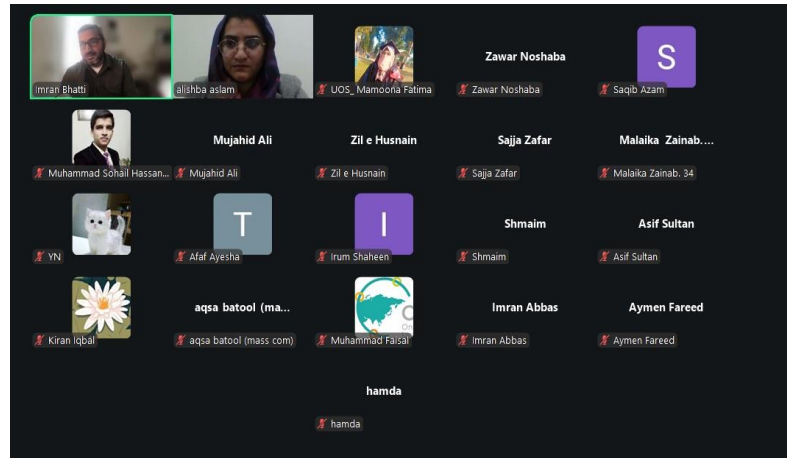
The session was led by Mr. Imran Bhatti, a Scholar in Strategic Affairs and Global Governance, Senior Researcher in Geopolitics, Security, and Cyber Strategy, and Member of the Board of Experts at the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF). Mr. Bhatti provided a comprehensive and structured analysis of the strategic arc





stretching from Gwadar Port to Xinjiang, highlighting its geographic, economic, geopolitical, and security dimensions.

During the session, Mr. Bhatti offered advanced insights into CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), covering the historical foundations of China–Pakistan relations, key milestones from 1951 to CPEC 2.0, and the strategic importance of connectivity corridors linking South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Western China. Special emphasis was placed on CPEC Phase I achievements, including energy generation, transport infrastructure, and digital connectivity, as well as the priorities of CPEC 2.0, such as industrial cooperation, agriculture modernization, mining development, and green growth.



The session concluded with a comprehensive summary of key insights, underscoring the importance of understanding great power politics, regional connectivity, and economic diplomacy for students of international relations.

An engaging question-and-answer session followed, during which students actively interacted with the speaker. The discussion enabled students to clarify complex concepts, explore real-world policy implications, and deepen their understanding of contemporary international and regional dynamics.

The session was moderated by Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS–UoS), who ensured smooth proceedings and effectively facilitated interaction between the speaker and the students.

Learning Session on “Understanding the essence of the CPEC under the broader framework of the BRI” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

03 February, 2026



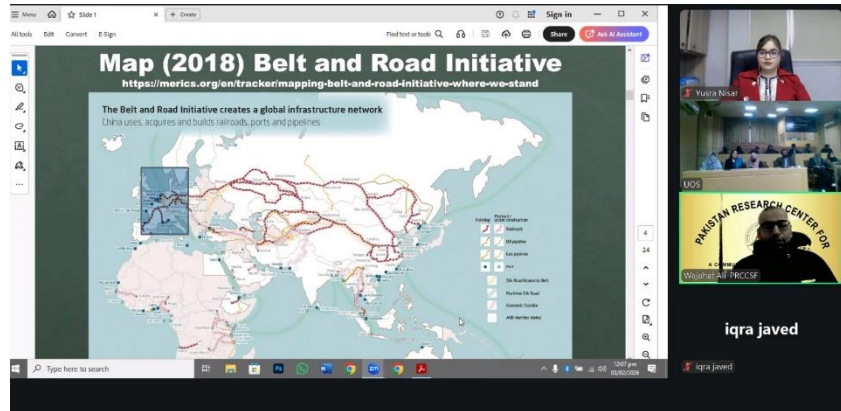
On 3rd February, 2026, a learning session on “Understanding the essence of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the broader framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Mr. Wajahat Ali, Director Community Engagement-Lahore & Islamabad, Center for Alternative Perspectives (CAP) and Member of Board of Experts at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad.

Mr. Wajahat delivered a comprehensive and insightful lecture that helped students thoroughly understand the essence of the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) within the broader framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He began by explaining the six components that



define a strong financial nation, as articulated by His Excellency President Xi Jinping, supporting his discussion with real-life examples for better comprehension.

He described CPEC as a major connectivity project and elaborated on its two phases. Phase I was defined as the “hardware phase,” during which China focused primarily on infrastructure development while Phase II



was described as the “software phase,” emphasizing industrialization, social uplift, and sustainable economic growth. Mr. Wajahat further highlighted that China is emerging as a responsible global superpower and emphasized the strategic importance of CPEC. He explained that Pakistan’s geography makes it the “zipper” of Eurasia, connecting South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and China, thereby linking multiple regions through enhanced connectivity. He then thoroughly discussed various dimensions of CPEC, including agricultural revolution, food security, digitalization, seaports, and other key sectors critical for long-term development. In addition, he also shed light on the challenges that CPEC is facing and how both China and Pakistan can address those challenges.



The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment during which participants actively engaged with the speaker to seek clarification and deepen their understanding.

The session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at Pakistan Institute for China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS).



Learning Session on “Digital Media as a Strategic Tool of Soft Power in Advancing Pakistan’s Representation under BRI” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

17 February, 2026



On 17th February, 2026, a learning session on “Digital Media as a Strategic Tool of Soft Power in Advancing Pakistan’s Representation under BRI” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Dr. Moneeba Iftikhar, Lecturer at Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), Lahore, and Member of Board of Experts at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad.

Dr. Moneeba Iftikhar delivered a compelling lecture underscoring the transformative role of digital media, particularly the social media, in shaping Pakistan’s global image and advancing its national interests within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Addressing the fellowship participants, Dr. Moneeba highlighted that in today’s interconnected world, influence is increasingly built through dialogue, storytelling, and digital engagement rather than coercion. She emphasized that soft power of a

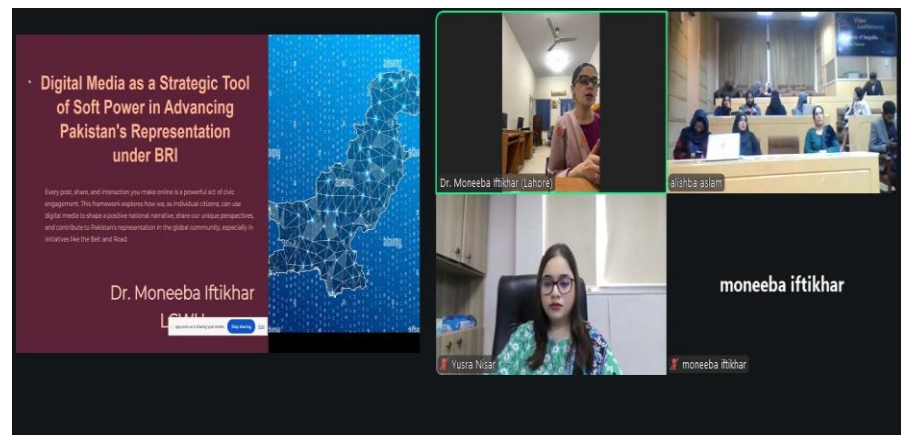




country depends largely on how effectively its citizens communicate their culture, values, and achievements online.

“Every post, share, and interaction is a form of civic engagement,” Dr. Moneeba stated. “Students are not just passive consumers of information; they are active participants in shaping Pakistan’s narrative on the global stage.”

She explained that the BRI is not limited to physical infrastructure and economic corridors. It also represents a broader vision of connectivity, regional cooperation, and shared



development. In this context, digital media serves as a bridge that connects people, fosters dialogue, and strengthens partnerships across borders.

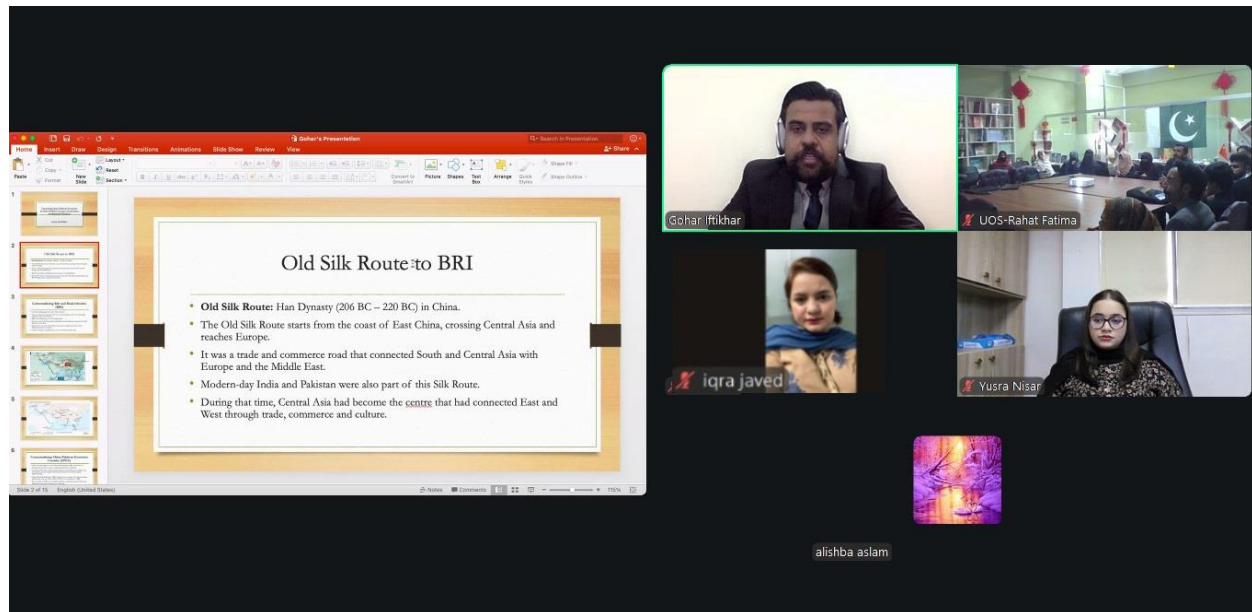
Dr. Moneeba encouraged students to use social media platforms responsibly and strategically to promote Pakistan’s cultural richness, entrepreneurial potential, academic achievements, and development initiatives. By doing so, they can contribute to boosting economic integration, enhancing mutual understanding, and fostering regional cooperation among BRI partner countries. She further stressed that authentic storytelling and constructive digital engagement can counter misinformation, build trust, and project a positive national image rooted in collaboration and shared prosperity.

The session concluded with a call to action for students to recognize their digital presence as a powerful diplomatic tool. Through informed participation, ethical communication, and strategic content creation, young citizens can play a vital role in advancing Pakistan’s soft power and strengthening its representation within global initiatives like the Belt and Road.

The session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS).

Learning Session on “Unpacking China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Concept, Constituents and Regional Prospects” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

24 February, 2026



On 24th February, 2026, a learning session on “Unpacking China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Concept, Constituents and Regional Prospects” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Dr. Gohar Ali Iftikhar, Lecturer at Ali Trust College, Islamabad, and Member of Board of Experts at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad.

Dr. Iftikhar began by tracing the historical roots of regional connectivity to the Old Silk Route, which originated during the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD). He stated that the ancient route connected East China to Central Asia, Europe, South Asia, and the Middle East, establishing Central Asia as a vibrant hub of trade, commerce, and cultural exchange. Modern-day Pakistan and India were also integral parts of this historic network.

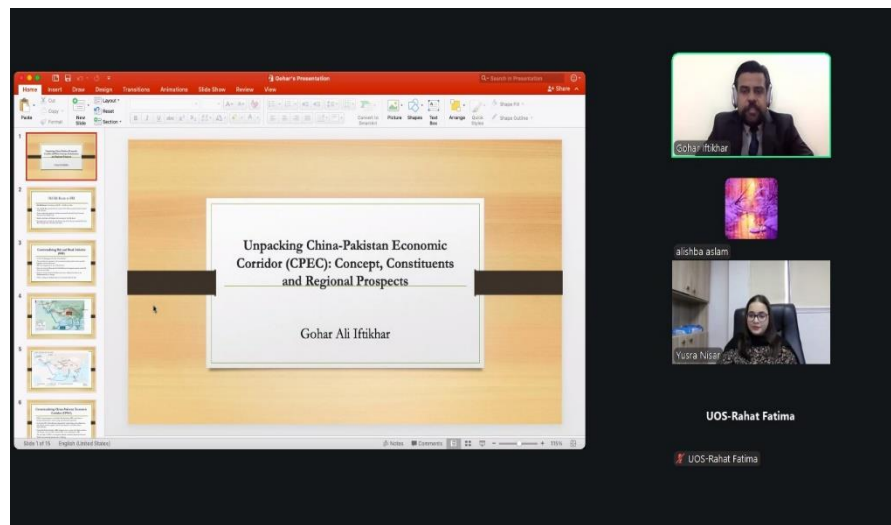


He also emphasized that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as the pilot project of BRI. At the core of CPEC is the strategic connectivity between Gwadar Port and China's Xinjiang region. Gwadar Port holds central importance for China, providing a shorter and more cost-effective trade route compared to traditional maritime routes, particularly the Strait of Malacca, on which China has long depended.



Shedding light upon the perspectives of both China and Pakistan regarding CPEC, he mentioned that from China's perspective, CPEC promotes economic integration, regional connectivity, and trans-border cooperation between Xinjiang and Pakistan while from Pakistan's viewpoint, CPEC is seen as a transformative opportunity aligned with Vision 2025, particularly its pillar of "Modernizing Transportation Infrastructure and Greater Regional Connectivity."

Dr. Iftikhar clarified that CPEC is not an aid package but a strategic investment by China, reflecting potential economic returns alongside geopolitical and geostrategic objectives. He further highlighted the importance of provincial

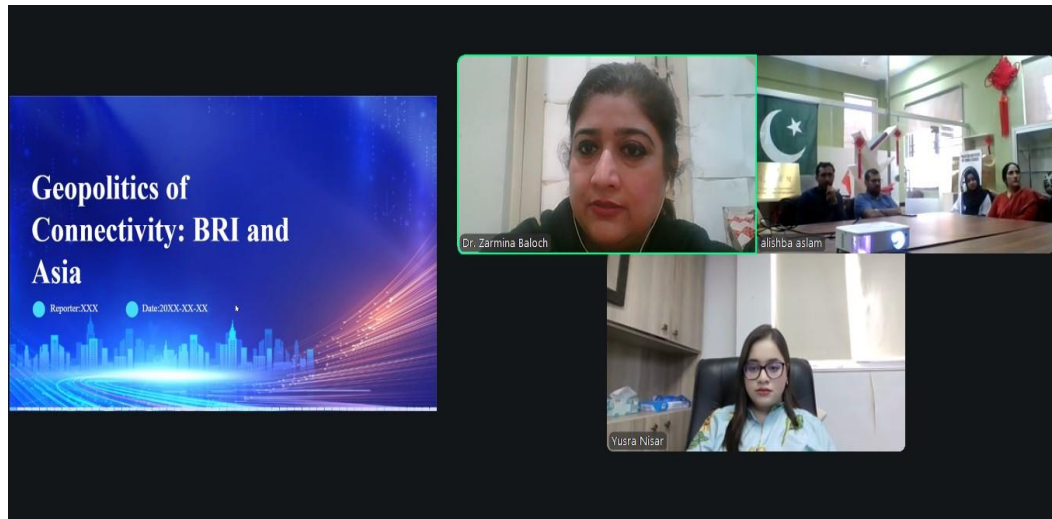


inclusion and national consensus in Pakistan to effectively harness CPEC's full potential. Strengthening a cohesive National Economic Policy remains essential to maximizing long-term benefits.



Learning Session on “Geopolitics of Connectivity: Influence, Interdependence, and China’s BRI Diplomacy in Asia and Central Asia” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

3 March 2026



On 3rd March 2026, a learning session on “Geopolitics of Connectivity: Influence, Interdependence, and China’s BRI Diplomacy in Asia and Central Asia” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Dr. Zarmina Baloch, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Director of Regional Connection Center at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU), Peshawar. She also serves as a Member of Board of Experts at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad.

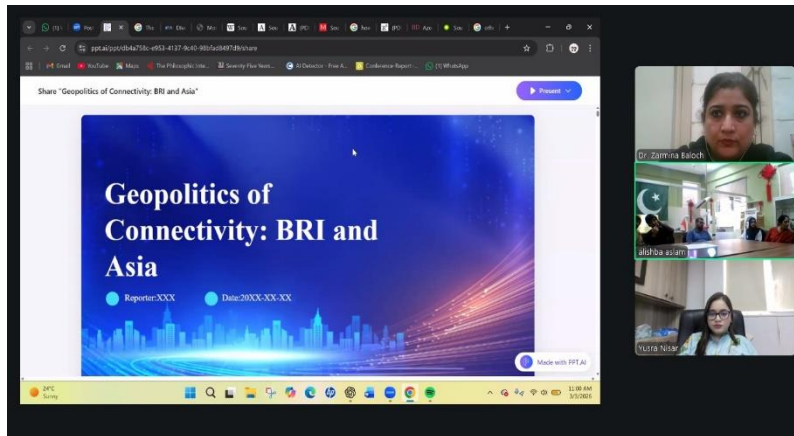


In her comprehensive lecture, Dr. Zarmina began by introducing the concept of the “Age of Connectivity,” emphasizing how the 21st century has transformed traditional geopolitical thinking. She elaborated on the differences between classical geopolitics—largely centered on territorial



control and military dominance—and modern geopolitics, which increasingly revolves around economic integration, infrastructure networks, and strategic connectivity. She underscored that in the contemporary world order, connectivity itself has emerged as a powerful geopolitical tool.

She provided an in-depth overview of classical geopolitical theories, highlighting Halford Mackinder's Heartland Theory, its core components, and Mackinder's famous geopolitical formula. She also discussed Nicholas Spykman's Rimland Theory, explaining how these foundational theories continue to influence strategic thinking today.



Moving to the regional context, Dr. Zarmina explored the strategic importance of Central Asia and the critical role of connectivity in shaping regional and global power dynamics. She presented China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a defining example of modern connectivity, explaining how it seeks to enhance infrastructure development, trade corridors, and regional integration across Asia and beyond.

The lecture further examined the theory of complex interdependence and its relevance to contemporary international relations. Dr. Zarmina discussed how the BRI fosters regional cooperation and interdependence while also addressing concerns surrounding the initiative, particularly in Central Asia and South Asia. She analyzed the geopolitical, economic, and strategic implications of the BRI, encouraging students to critically assess both its opportunities and challenges. The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer segment, during which students actively participated and reflected on the evolving nature of geopolitics in an interconnected world.



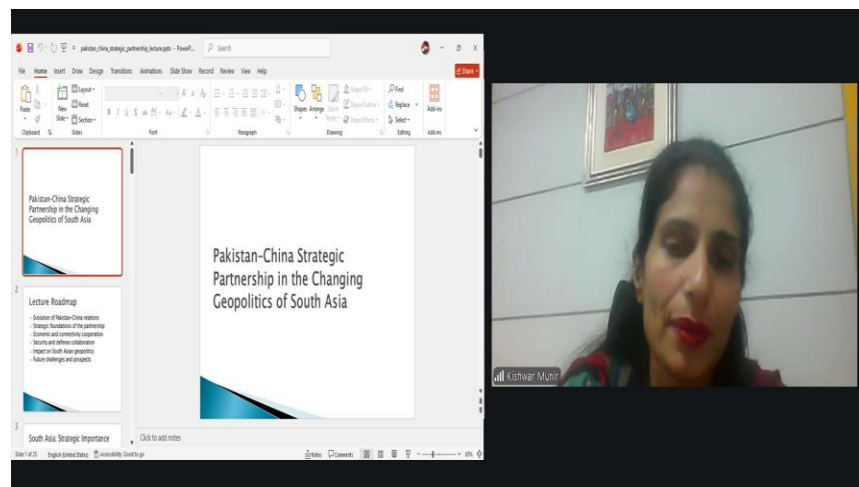


The session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS).

Learning Session on “Growing Strategic Importance of Pakistan–China Relations” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

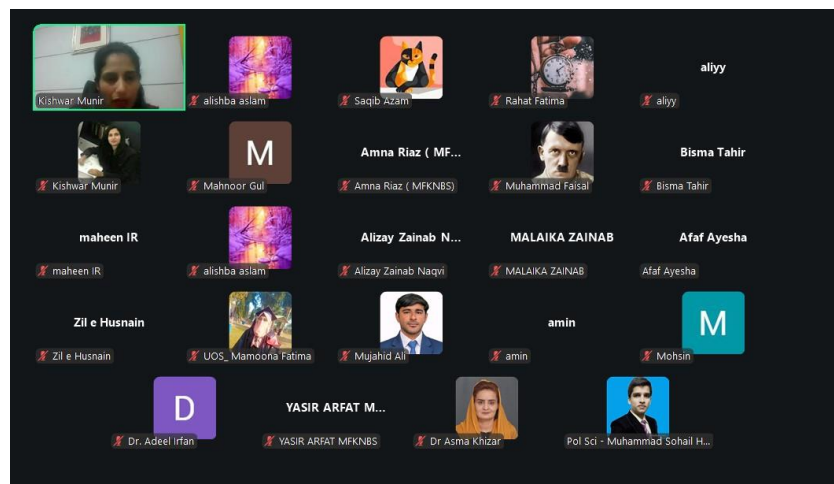
10 March 2026

On 10 March 2026, a learning session on “Pakistan–China Strategic Partnership in the Changing Geopolitics of South Asia” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by



Dr. Kishwar Munir, Head of Department and Associate Professor, The School of Integrated Social Sciences, University of Lahore, Lahore.

Dr. Kishwar Munir began by highlighting the strategic importance of South Asia, describing it as a region shaped by major power competition and vital trade routes connecting Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. She traced the historical evolution of Pakistan–China relations, noting that diplomatic ties were established in 1951, making

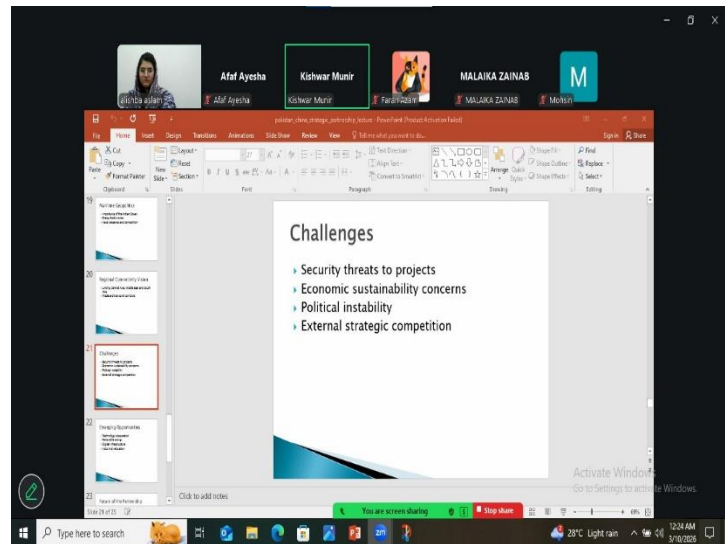


Pakistan among the first Muslim countries to recognize the People’s Republic of China. She also discussed key milestones including the 1963 Border Agreement and Pakistan’s role in facilitating China–US rapprochement in the 1970s. She emphasized that the partnership between Pakistan and



China is based on strategic convergence, where Pakistan seeks economic development and security balance in South Asia, while China aims to ensure western border stability and access to the Arabian Sea. Over time, this relationship has evolved into an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

While discussing economic cooperation, she highlighted the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). CPEC promotes regional connectivity through infrastructure development, energy projects, highways, railways, and special economic zones. She also underlined the strategic importance of Gwadar Port in enhancing regional trade and connectivity.



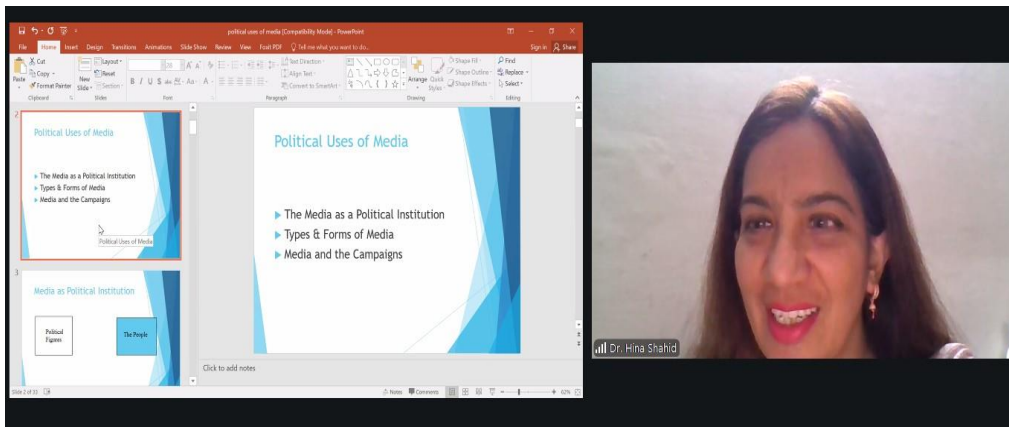
The lecture also addressed defense cooperation, regional power politics, and emerging geopolitical dynamics in South Asia. Dr. Munir noted that developments such as India–US strategic alignment and maritime competition in the Indian Ocean continue to shape the regional balance of power. She further discussed challenges including security concerns and economic sustainability, while highlighting opportunities in technology cooperation, renewable energy, and digital connectivity.

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, where students actively engaged with the speaker on topics including CPEC, regional connectivity, and the future of Pakistan–China relations.

The session was moderated by Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS).

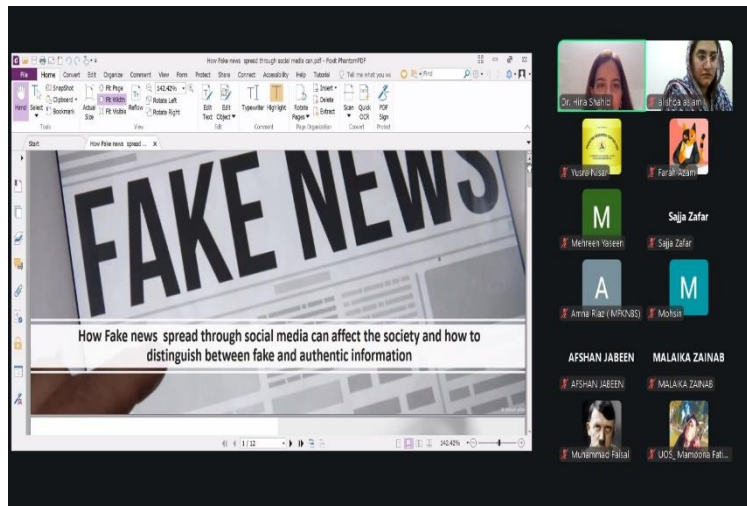
Learning Session on “Media and Politics in the Digital Age: Constructing Narratives and Combating Fake News” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

17 March, 2026



On 17th March 2026, a learning session on “Media and Politics: The Construction of Political Narratives” was conducted under the joint China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was led by Dr. Hina Shahid, Head of Arts and Media Department, Foundation University Islamabad.

Dr. Hina Shahid emphasized the pivotal role of media as a political institution in modern democracies, highlighting how it acts as a bridge between political leaders and the public while simultaneously shaping and mediating political messages. She discussed various forms of media, including traditional and digital platforms, and their influence on political communication and public perception.

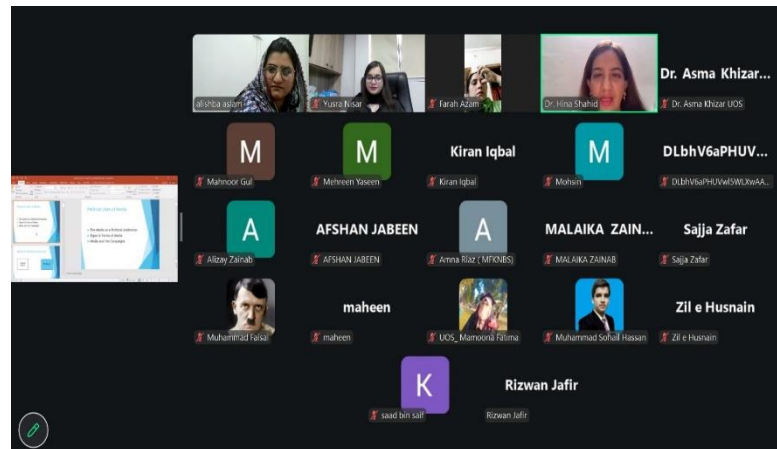


While discussing the construction of political narratives, she explained how media framing, storytelling techniques, and the focus on conflict and personalities often shape electoral campaigns and political discourse. She further elaborated on the limited control political actors have over



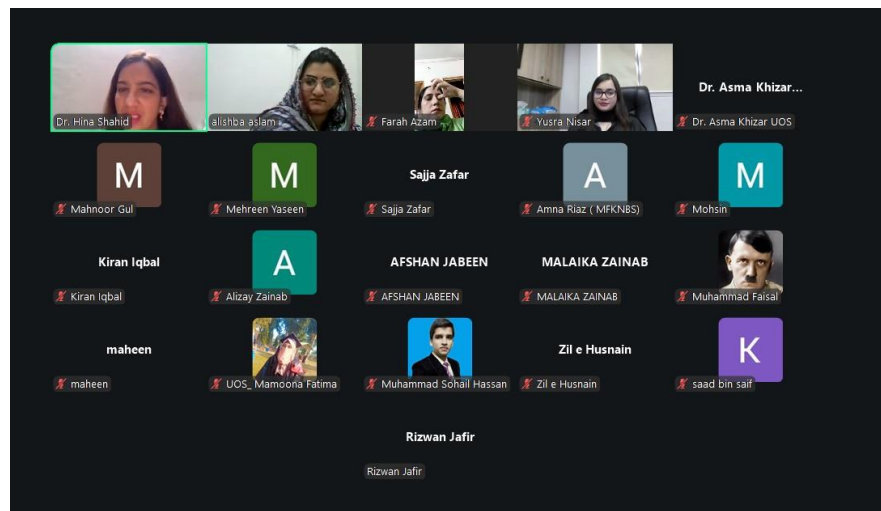
mediated content, stressing the growing importance of strategic communication and media engagement.

The lecture also addressed the rising challenge of fake news in the digital era. Dr. Hina highlighted how misinformation and disinformation spread rapidly through social media due to algorithmic amplification, user engagement, and viral sharing. She discussed the societal impacts of



fake news, including its influence on public opinion, erosion of trust in institutions, and potential to create social divisions. The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, where students actively engaged with the speaker on topics including media ethics, political bias, digital literacy, and methods to identify authentic information in an age of information overload.

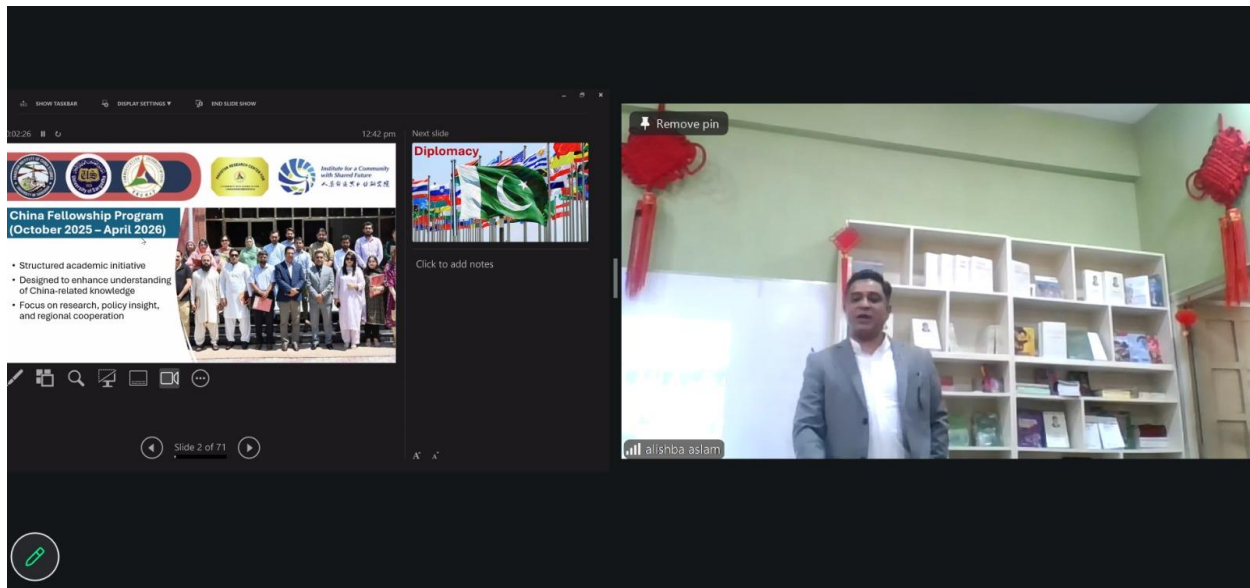
The session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS).





Learning Session on “Global Diplomacy Shifts and China’s 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030)” for the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha

21 April 2026



On 21st April 2026, a learning session on “Global Diplomacy Shifts and China’s 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030)” was conducted under the China Fellowship Program at the University of Sargodha (UoS). The session was conducted by Prof. Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Director of the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS-UoS) and Host Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sargodha (UoS).

In his insightful lecture, Dr. Tahir began by explaining the fundamental concept of diplomacy, outlining its evolution from traditional state-to-state interactions to a more dynamic and multifaceted process shaped by globalization. He emphasized how diplomacy today extends beyond political engagement to include economic, technological, and cultural dimensions.



He further elaborated on the shifting patterns of global diplomacy, drawing on recent developments in international relations and contemporary global politics. By referencing current geopolitical trends, Dr. Tahir highlighted how emerging powers, changing alliances, and economic interdependence are reshaping diplomatic practices across the world. He encouraged participants to understand these changes within the broader context of a rapidly transforming international system.



Transitioning to China's policy framework, Dr. Tahir provided a detailed overview of China's New 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030). He discussed its strategic significance, focusing on China's long-term vision for sustainable economic growth, technological advancement, and global engagement. The session underscored how the plan is expected not only to strengthen China's domestic development but also to contribute to global economic stability and cooperation.

Dr. Tahir also highlighted the role of China's forward-looking leadership in designing policies aimed at addressing future challenges while fostering international partnerships. He noted that the plan reflects China's commitment to innovation, green development, and deeper integration into the global economy.

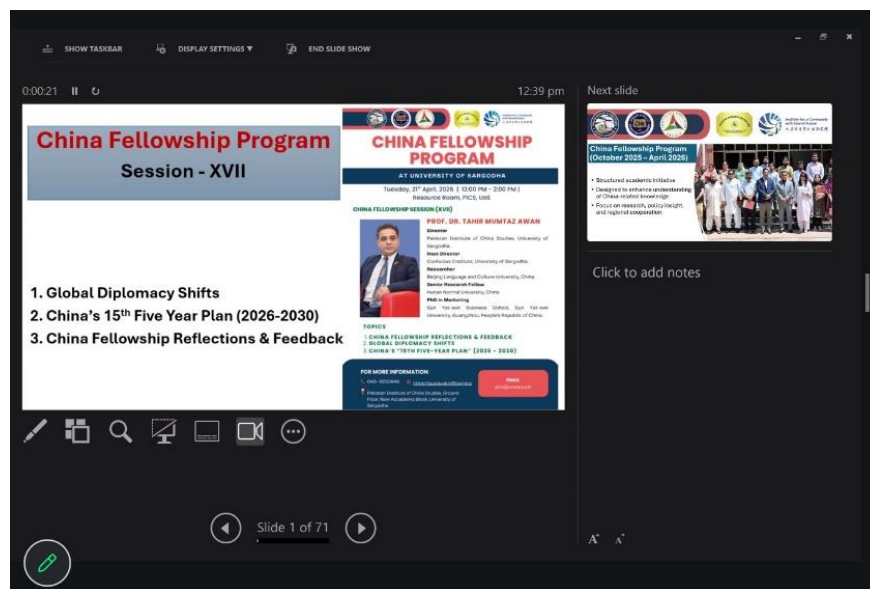


The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, where students actively engaged with the speaker, sharing their perspectives and gaining deeper insights into the evolving landscape of global diplomacy and China's strategic direction in the coming years. The lecture further examined the theory of complex interdependence and its relevance to contemporary international relations. Dr.



Zarmina discussed how the BRI fosters regional cooperation and interdependence while also addressing concerns surrounding the initiative, particularly in Central Asia and South Asia. She analyzed the geopolitical, economic, and strategic implications of the BRI, encouraging students to critically assess both its opportunities and challenges. The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer segment, during which students actively participated and reflected on the evolving nature of geopolitics in an interconnected world.

The session was moderated by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) and Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), University of Sargodha (UoS).





ICSF–UoS Fellowship Program 2025–26 Concludes with China Fellowship Award Ceremony at University of Sargodha



On May 5, 2026, the China Fellowship Award Ceremony was successfully held at the University of Sargodha (UoS) to mark the completion of the ICSF–UoS Fellowship Program 2025–26. The event recognized the valuable contributions of participants, faculty members, speakers, and program management team.

The six-month fellowship program was organized by the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF) at Communication University of China, Beijing, in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan. Running from October 14, 2025, to April 28, 2026, the program aimed to strengthen academic exchange, research collaboration, and cultural understanding between Pakistan and China.



The award ceremony was jointly organized by the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS-UoS) and the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad, in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan.



The ceremony began with a thought-provoking lecture by Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director of PRCCSF, titled “A Community with a Shared Future: Pathways and Prospects for Youth in Pakistan.” He emphasized that in an interconnected world, no nation can progress in isolation and that global challenges require collective and cooperative solutions.

He highlighted the concept of a shared future based on mutual respect, win-win cooperation, sustainable development, and peaceful coexistence. Speaking on Pakistan's strategic importance, he noted its geographic position as a regional connectivity hub linking South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and China. A major focus of his lecture was the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), presented as a practical model of the shared future concept. He explained its role in enhancing infrastructure, energy development, industrial cooperation, and trade connectivity while generating employment and economic growth.

Mr. Akram also emphasized the importance of enhancing business-to-business (B2B) cooperation in sectors such as energy, manufacturing, agriculture, IT, and construction. He underlined that youth empowerment remains central to Pakistan's future, noting that over 60% of the country's population is young and represents a powerful driver of innovation and development.





The lecture concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session in which participants engaged actively on topics including CPEC opportunities, digital transformation, academic exchange, and skill development.

The second half of the event featured the formal distribution of certificates and awards to fellows of the ICSF–UoS Fellowship Program 2025–26 in recognition of their successful completion of the program.

The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Amir Ali, Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Sargodha. Other distinguished guests included:



Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Gondal,
Director Information
Technology, University of Sargodha

Mr. Wajahat Ali, Board Member at PRCCSF and Director Community Engagement, Centre for Alternative Perspectives

Dr. Muhammad Irfan, Chairman, Department of Biotechnology, University of Sargodha

The second half of the ceremony commenced with a keynote address by Prof. Li Huailiang, Dean of the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF) at the Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing. He described the fellowship as “not only the conclusion of a six-month academic journey, but also a





celebration of intellectual exchange and meaningful international collaboration that has deeply impacted all participants.”

Prof. Li expressed sincere appreciation to the leadership of the University of Sargodha, the organizers, and partner institutions for their vision and support in making the program a success. He particularly acknowledged the collaborative role of PICS and PRCCSF in building a strong academic bridge between China and Pakistan.

This was followed by a detailed presentation by Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Director of the Pakistan Institute of China Studies and Host Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sargodha, who provided an overview of the fellowship program, its objectives, academic structure, and impact on participants. He emphasized how the program strengthened research skills, critical thinking, and cross-cultural academic engagement.



Adding a cultural dimension to the ceremony, students performed Chinese songs, symbolizing friendship and cultural harmony between Pakistan and China.

Representing the fellowship participants, Mr. Muhammad Sohail Hassan from the Department of Political Science at UoS shared his reflections on the program. He stated that the fellowship significantly enhanced academic knowledge, research skills, and professional development, while article writing assignments helped participants build stronger academic profiles.



On behalf of the focal persons, Dr. Asma Khizar, Lecturer at the Institute of Education, University of



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Sargodha, appreciated the successful execution of the program and its contribution to academic excellence and international collaboration.

42 participants including students and focal persons from various

departments who graduated successfully in this fellowship program were awarded with the certificates of appreciation from the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF) at Communication University of China, Beijing.

A key highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a Citation of Honor and Shield of Appreciation to Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram in recognition of his leadership and initiative in launching the fellowship program. In another significant recognition, Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan was awarded a Citation of Honor by Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram on behalf of Prof. Li Huailiang for successfully implementing the fellowship program at the University of Sargodha for the first time.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Amir Ali, Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Sargodha, delivered the vote of thanks, commending PICS and ICSF for their efforts in promoting academic cooperation, youth development, and Pakistan–China educational collaboration.





The ceremony was expertly moderated by Ms. Alishba Aslam, Research Officer at PICS, while the certificate distribution segment was managed by Ms. Yusra Binte Nisar, Research Assistant at PRCCSF.

