



Islamabad's Informal



CHINA STUDY CIRCLE



Ninth Session

CPEC Updates by Shahzad Qasim



CPEC to attract more foreign investors: Brazil envoy

- Brazil Ambassador Claudio Raja Gabalia Lins has said that his country is keen to strengthen relations with Pakistan's government and private sector in the larger interest of the two countries
- Talking to members of the Multan Chamber of Commerce, the envoy said Brazilian economy was on the rise and Pakistan's businessmen should avail themselves of the available opportunities
- He asked businessmen to form joint ventures in fields of sports goods, instruments, food items, fertilisers, fruits, vegetables and renewable energy

India & Kabul Play Card of Chabahar in Great Game

- The most important aspect of Iran's Chabahar port for Kabul is the confidence that the new axis provides Afghanistan in dealing with Pakistan, especially over transit trade
- The first shipment of wheat to Afghanistan has left Kandla port for Chabahar port in Iran, and then through the land route via Iran into Afghanistan
- This will catapult the Indo-Afghan bilateral relationship to another level and strengthen the trilateral relationship between India, Afghanistan and Iran



CPEC to benefit China more than Pakistan: Report

- According to the news report, Chinese banks are keenly waiting to get their share of the pie, holding more than \$20 billion for potential financing
- Pakistan's banks will have minimal opportunities for direct financing in CPEC projects as the private sector at the govt level is not so much involved in the project
- The report said that Islamabad will be left paying interest on loans to Chinese banks way into the future



CPEC toll income — myth and reality

- **The Board of Investment claimed that the CPEC toll income would be three times the budget of Pakistan after completion by 2030**
- **For the 2,600-km Khunjrab-Gwadar route, a \$10 rate would mean \$260 per truck going from one end to the other**
- **Then it makes \$2-2.5 billion revenues per year even in the long run not more than that**

Chinese experts visit Pak for exploring investment opportunities in SEZs

- The delegation of Chinese experts, headed by China International Engineering Consultant Corporation (CIECC) Du Zhenli would hold the workshop and meeting in different cities including Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar till 18th October, for reviewing and negotiating on future investment opportunities in Pakistan, Spokesman of Board of Investment (BOI) Shahjhan Shah told APP
- The experts would discuss and give detailed briefing on the successful models of Economic Zones in China besides sharing their expertise with representatives of provincial government officials

Afghan president refuses to join CPEC while access to India is blocked

- **Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has taken a firm stand against joining the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during his recent visit to India**
- **It said the Afghan president also rejected what he termed a “Pakistan-managed” effort to broker peace in Afghanistan**
- **Ghani’s refusal came just a week after the recent four-nation Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QGC), comprising Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States, talks in Oman aimed at getting the Taliban to the peace talks tables**

Source Link: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1541022/1-afghan-president-refuses-join-cpec-access-india-blocked/>

Long-term CPEC plan to be approved in China

- **Minister for Interior and Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that a long-term plan for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be approved by the Joint Cooperation Council (JCC) at its meeting scheduled for Nov 21 in Beijing**
- **Reviewing the progress of special economic zones (SEZs), the minister asked the provinces to complete feasibility studies of their respective SEZs by the first week of November in order to get tangible outcomes with respect to industrial cooperation**

Pakistan 13 years behind China, can catch up: Envoy

- **Chinese experts arrive in Islamabad to plan implementation of second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Beijing's Charge d'Affaires Lijian Zhao said on Monday industrialisation was the only road to development in Pakistan**
- **He pointed out that China had over \$1,500 per capita income only 13 years ago – a level that Pakistan achieved last year. This means Pakistan is only 13 years behind China and can catch up**



Gilgit to Gwadar: Vehicles' Rally Spread Message of Peace



Pakistan, China to treat all investors equally

- **Pakistan and China agreed to treat equally all investors that will pour capital into the planned nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) – an understanding that will address concerns of local businesses about preferential treatment of the Chinese**
- **China urged Pakistan to fast track work on the nine prioritised SEZs as slow progress may delay realisation of full benefits from second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**

Source Link: tribune.com.pk/story/1534016/pakistan-china-treat-investors-equally/



Dhabeji zone attracts investors ahead of inclusion in CPEC

- The Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, which is high on the agenda of Pakistan and China to make it part of the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has received an overwhelming response from potential foreign and local investors
- The zone to be developed over an area of 1,000 acres is most likely to win CPEC status in next meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of the two countries scheduled to be held in December 2017
- The expressions of interest came from investors in different areas including steel, cement, chemicals, garments, logistics and pharmaceuticals

China designs to spread money and influence across the world

- India has repeatedly indirectly criticized one of China's flagship policy programs in a move that could worsen bilateral ties between the Asian heavyweights.
- The South Asian giant had refused to send a delegation to a Chinese conference on the topic where Xi pledged \$100 billion to finance projects
- **Later, the US backed India's stand on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor**

Objections to CPEC: India, US Snare

- **Secretary Mattis has also said that the US opposed China's 'One Belt, One Road' in principle because in a globalised world, there are many belts and many roads, and no one nation should put itself into a position of dictating 'One Belt, One Road'**
- **Mattis inadvertently or otherwise, brought up the phrase 'disputed territory'**
- **The opposition brought both of the US and India find themselves trapped in their own snare**
- **India has always dismissed notion of 'disputed territory' and called the region as its integral part**

China rejects US objections on CPEC route

- **The Chinese Foreign Ministry said, “We have repeatedly reiterated that the CPEC is an economic cooperation initiative that is not directed against third parties and it has nothing to do with the territorial sovereignty disputes and does not affect China's stance**
- **The ministry added that over 70 countries and international organisations, including the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, have signed cooperation agreements with Beijing on OBOR initiative and incorporated it in resolutions**

