



Islamabad's Informal



CHINA STUDY CIRCLE



Eleventh Session

CPEC Updates by Shahzad Qasim



CPEC as digital Silk Road

- **4th World Internet Conference held in China envisioning Digital Silk Road along BRI routes, CPEC will emerge as high tech digital corridor**
- **CPEC gears up to go digital with the projects of fibre optic cable, a new submarine landing station for internet traffic flow, and digital TV for all**
- **With fiber optic cabal, CPEC will become the part of digital information society, collaborating for telecommunication, internet technology, smart cities infrastructure, e-commerce, pool resources, e-services, e-businesses and e-markets**



Will Beijing Really Rename and Reroute the China-Pakistan Economic Corridors (CPEC) to Please India?

- *The Chinese Ambassador to India suggested that his country could rename and even reroute the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, popularly known as CPEC, in order to appease New Delhi*
- Ambassador proposed that China could “create an alternative corridor through Jammu and Kashmir, Nathu La pass or Nepal to deal with India’s concerns”, which would in essence connect over two billion people
- it’s very unlikely that China would ever reroute CPEC because of the grand strategic purpose



China Warns Citizens in Pakistan of Possible Terror Attacks

- **The Chinese embassy in Islamabad posted the unusual alert on its website saying it has received intelligence reports of plans for terror attacks**
- **“It is understood that terrorists plan in the near term to launch a series of attacks against Chinese organizations and personnel in Pakistan,” the embassy statement said**
- **Later on, China hails Pakistan for providing foolproof security to citizens in recent regular media briefing by foreign ministry**



Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey Signed Agreement of Road & Rail Connectivity

The Lapis Lazuli Route





China to boost economic ties with Pakistan through private sector

- CPEC has proved to be an effective agent for boosting cooperation among the non-governmental sectors
- As of the end of 2016, Chinese companies had built 56 zones for economic and trade cooperation in more than 20 countries along the Belt and Road routes, with a total investment of over 18.5 billion U.S. dollars, creating almost 180,000 jobs for host countries
- Non-governmental cooperation between Belt and Road countries has an official network, the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network. Network's first forum delegates agreed to set up a steering committee and a secretariat and announced plans for non-governmental cooperation



China to get 91pc Gwadar income, minister tells Senate

- **Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Mir Hasil Bizenjo told the Senate that 91 per cent of the revenues to be generated from the Gwadar port as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would go to China, while the Gwadar Port Authority would get 9pc share in the income for the next 40 years**
- **This was disclosed after senators expressed concern over the secrecy surrounding the CPEC long-term agreement plan, with many observing that the agreement tilted heavily in China's favour**
- **China, Pakistan and the United States, talks in Oman aimed at getting the Taliban to the peace talks tables**



Skilled labour 'ready for CPEC'

- **The Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) is all set to fulfil the needs of skilled labour required for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**
- **TEVTA Chairman Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that it had already started several courses. A number of graduates of these courses are already working in CPEC related projects and other industries**



Chinese owners of PSX promise exchange-traded funds

- **China Financial Futures Exchange Director You Hang said on Tuesday investors will soon have the opportunity to invest in a Pakistan exchange-traded fund (ETF) in China**
- **An ETF is a derivative product that represents a basket of underlying assets, such as stocks. It is traded on a stock exchange just like an ordinary share**
- **Speaking at the second Mergers and Acquisitions Conference organised by TerraBiz, Mr You said Chinese shareholders in the PSX want to introduce derivative products in the national equity market**
- **“We want to bring ETFs here in Pakistan, we also want to introduce Pakistan ETF into the Chinese market,”**



Pakistan, China sign long-term planning on CPEC

- **The 7th ministerial-level meeting of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) finally approved the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2014-2030 and concerned authorities of both countries signed the LTP agreement**
- **The important meeting held at a local hotel in Islamabad was jointly chaired by Pakistan's Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China Vice-Chairman Wang Xiatao. At least 150 high-level officials from both the countries attended the meeting**
- **Both countries agreed to form joint committees on agriculture and IT to enhance cooperation**



Pakistan pulls plug on dam deal over China's 'too strict' conditions

- Pakistan has decided to cancel a US\$14 billion infrastructure agreement with China because it could not accept the hyper strict conditions
- In a recent news item, a Chinese official deny being “too strict” in financing conditions
- China and Pakistan have prioritised about 15 thermo energy projects valued at US\$2.2 billion.
- He added that there is a common misinterpretation internationally that the Belt and Road is something China would want to push forwards at all cost. But in fact, all projects are commercial so they have to be justifiable economically, and agreed mutually



Blind men and the elephant

- when the CPEC was starting out, the stakeholders' and observers' understanding of it was akin to the all too familiar story of the seven blind men trying to figure out how an elephant looks like
- media discourse and long list of conferences and presentations brought about a much clearer understanding of CPEC is, of which perhaps the biggest realisation is that the CPEC is at least not a white elephant
- Pakistan's chambers and business lobby groups are waiting for some donor funding to start producing such knowledge products. They should take a cue from Dr. Ijaz Gilani who has set up a CPEC study circle

