

**Remarks at dinner hosted by**  
**China International Cultural Communication Center (CICCC)**

**Mr. Long Yuxiang, Executive President CICCC**

**General Tang Tianbiao,**

**Ambassador Sha Zukang, Vice Chairman CICCC & President  
China-Pakistan Friendship Association (Spouse Mrs. Liu Jinfeng)**

**Lt. Gen. Li Yunzhi, Consultant CICCC**

**Maj. Gen. Li Xuewen**

**Maj Gen. Li Fengshan**

**Aimai Yiminti, Executive Vice President, CICCC**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

- I truly feel honored to be hosted by China International Cultural Communication Center for this welcome banquet. My wife and I are deeply touched by your warm hospitality and this thoughtful gesture.
- I have arrived in Beijing just four months ago to take my new assignment as Ambassador of Pakistan to China.
- Indeed, a great honour for me to represent my country in this great country, a special friend of Pakistan. Since my arrival I have received tremendous affection and support from my Chinese friends and colleagues. Nowhere else, a Pakistani diplomat would get so much attention and access.
- China-Pakistan friendship has been described over the years in many different ways; “Iron brothers”, “an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership”, a relationship which is higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, stronger than iron and sweeter than honey.
- These descriptions are repeated many times over and over again in our statements and speeches. For some, these may be perhaps commonplace expressions, but for us in China and Pakistan, these hold special meaning. We are never tired of talking about our friendship. This way these bonds have now become unshakable and are etched in our memories, ingrained in our hearts, and written in the annals of history.
- For others, who are envious of our special relations, these time-tested ties may defy standard construct of interstate relations, yet this deeply

rooted and truly all-weather friendship has been constant irrespective of changes within each country or in the regional and global environment. We remain friends forever.

- The spectrum of China-Pakistan relationship is very wide and multi-dimensional. From political domain to defence and security, from economic and commercial areas to development, from cultural exchanges to educational fields, the two countries cooperate in almost every area.
- Our successive governments, people, institutions and enterprises have played their role in nurturing these ties. In this respect, the role of China International Cultural Communication Center (CICCC) is well recognized and appreciated.
- The exemplary support of CICCC was manifested during the difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic, for which I would like to thank the Center especially on behalf of my team and the Embassy. This generous support will never be forgotten by the people of Pakistan.
- Regular high-level exchanges form an important part of our two countries' bilateral ties.
- We will remember the first visit of President Xi to Pakistan in April 2015 to launch China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Prime Minister Imran Khan has visited China twice in 2018 and 2019. This year, President of Pakistan paid a solidarity visit to Beijing during the height of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Our Foreign Ministers held 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in Hainan in August this year.
- Gen Wei Fenghe, Chinese Minister for National Defence visited Pakistan on 30 November, a few days ago.
- We would like to thank CICCC for playing an important role and co-hosting important events during these high-level visits.
- As the pandemic subsides, the Embassy would extend full facilitation for the CICCC's planned exchanges with Pakistan. I believe the Centre can play an important role in further strengthening cultural and people-to-people links between our two peoples.
- Next year, the two countries would celebrate 70 years of the establishment of their diplomatic relations, an important milestone in

our friendship journey which the two countries plan to celebrate with over 100 various events in the two countries.

- I look forward to the support of CICCC for organizing an event in this regard. Once again, I would like to thank the leadership of CICCC especially Gen. Tang, Ambassador Sha Zukang, the founding fathers of the center and you Mr. President and other friends like Lt. Gen. Li, Maj. Gen. Li, and Mr. Aimai Yiminti for their valuable contributions in strengthening Pakitan-China relationship.
- On my part, I would like to assure you that along with my team at the Embassy, we would continue our sincere efforts to take our relationship to even greater heights.

Thank you.

Long live Pakistan China Friendship!