

## HBL Beijing branch launching ceremony

2021.03.22

Very happy to join this impressive launching ceremony.

- Congratulations on the branch opening
  - Historic moment – 1<sup>st</sup> branch of Pakistan bank in Beijing
  - Coincided with 70 years celebrations
- HBL is the largest bank of Pakistan; a household name in the banking sector; happy to see it expanding its footprint in China after Urumqi.
- Thanks to all, especially Mr. Farhan Talib, Amanda, PBOC, SBP, who have worked hard to make this happen.
- Special and Unique relations between China-Pakistan All –Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership has become stronger and stronger over these last 70 years. Our close mutual cooperation has brought peace & prosperity to our two people and is also a factor of stability in the region.
- Trade and investment has become a central area of cooperation – through the expanded FTA, CPEC; the scope of cooperation is wide and every expanding. In this respect, the cooperation in banking and finance sector becomes the key. The linkage between our two central Banks is very old and very strong. Our first currency swap agreement was with China, which is now contributing in promoting trade and internationalization of RMB.
- Happy to know that HBL has been very active in China in a number of areas. Close contact with Mr. Farhan and Amanda.
  - Largest bank involved in CPEC related projects / financing BRI initiatives.
  - Green Finance Initiative, climate change – signing of Green Investment Principles
  - Digital Banking – MOU with Huawei
  - Participation in GOP's Panda Bond – under process.
- Three areas where i would like to seek HBL's support and possible cooperation with China:
  - Cross border e-commerce
  - Pakistan pavilions
  - Poverty alleviation
- Three other sectors – Agriculture, Science and Technology, TVET
  - It is a great comfort to have a Pakistani bank in Beijing. Embassy account being processed.
  - Assure full support to Bank.