

Launching of Garlands of Love

His Excellency Ambassador Lu Shulin

Ambassador Sha Zukang

Mr. Chen Song, President of Chinese Poetry, Calligraphy and Painting Research Society

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

My Dear Friends, Good Morning, Ni Hao and Assalam o Alaikum

I welcome you all to the launching ceremony of 'Garlands of Love' authored by one of China's most distinguished diplomats and Pakistan's closest friends, Ambassador Lu Shulin.

Ambassador Lu Shulin lifelong contributions to Pakistan-China friendship are countless and it will be difficult in this short time to list. Yet today, we are fortunate to be part of one of his many laudable contributions, Garlands of Love.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Human emotions are the most treasured yet complicated phenomenon in life. At times, it is difficult to express our feelings through words. But, when the words flow from the deep sea of love, sincerity and selflessness, they become the true barometer of our expressions assuring a permanency in life.

The very words i.e. 'Garlands of Love' chosen by Ambassador Lu for his book aptly illustrate the strong emotions, love and faith that underlie Pakistan-China friendship.

And these words also define the sublime personality of Ambassador Sahib. In Pakistan, he is the recipient of devotion and respect seldom accorded to a foreigner.

So deep is the fountain of Mr. Lu's heart from which is issuing such a pure stream of love and affection for Pakistan, its peoples and their wellbeing

Dear Friends,

There is a Chinese proverb which says,

"When you drink water from a well, do remember those who dug it"

This year, as China and Pakistan are celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic relations, we need to remember those architects and heroes of our two countries who played a leading role in the progressive evolution of our friendship and provided it with strong foundation for its subsequent development.

Indeed, it is due to the endeavours of diplomats like Mr. Lu Shulin that we are drinking the sweet water from the eternal well of Pakistan-China friendship.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friendship between Pakistan and China was forged in the crucible of time. It is unique and special. It is all-weather and time-tested. It is based on 5 mutuals, mutual respect, trust, understanding, support and cooperation.

Our friendship is pure and natural. Like a beautiful garden which needs continuous and careful tending, our friendship was also nurtured and nourished by leadership, diplomats and intellectuals of our two countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our past is an inexhaustible and useful resource to shape our future. A future which is bright and promising. It is by keeping the fragrant memories of these heroes fresh that we can take our mutually beneficial bilateral engagements to a new pinnacle of success and glory.

As our world finds itself at the cusp of new era ripe with new challenges and fraught with uncertainties; the young diplomats of Pakistan and China need to study deeply the lives and works of diplomats like Ambassador Lu who, confronting similar kind of global upheavals of the past, remained resolute in action and clear in vision, and made valuable contributions to Pakistan-China friendship.

In the end, I would like to pay tribute to the endeavours of Ambassador Lu by recalling few verses of American poet Wordsworth Longfellow that:

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.*

I thank you all!