

The 10th China-Couth Asia International Cultural Forum
Theme: Inheriting the Silk Road Spirit and Looking Ahead to
Asia's Future

Ambassador's Remarks at Youth Cultural Saloon
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Dear Students of South-Asian Countries,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend heartiest felicitations to the CPAFFC for organising Youth Cultural Saloon and inviting me to express my views on today's theme, '*Inheriting the Silk Road Spirit and Looking Ahead to Asia's Future*'.

Dear Friends,

The landmass of Asia has played a pivotal role in shaping world's political, economic and cultural landscape. Since ancient times, Asia has remained a cradle of civilisation. Its fertile plains and river valleys radiated from waves upon waves of spirituality and wisdom, which illuminated the entire world and opened new horizons for thought and action.

In ancient times when a great section of the world was shrouded in obscurity and oblivion; Asia dazzled the world with its unconquerable spirit, innovative genius and entrepreneurial skills.

Among many of those ideals, the ancient Silk Road occupied a seminal importance.

Treading on this route, many a world's famous monks, travellers and merchants spread the message of inclusiveness, unity and love everywhere. The historical process set in motion by the ancient Silk Road continued unabated and inspired many others to undertake the similar voyages of exploration, discovery and understanding.

In our age, it has found due manifestation in Belt and Road Initiative to carry forward the spirit of openness and cooperation, and make useful contribution for the shared future of the entire humanity.

Dear Friends,

The 21st century is the “Asian Century”. Asia has definitely risen. Its role in the global economics and politics is experiencing profound transformation. By 2050, Asia is expected to account for more than half of the global economy thus restoring the world's largest continent to its former position of economic primacy and cultural brilliance. Despite the sluggish global growth due to pandemic, Asia is well poised to remain as the major driver of future global economic growth.

China, after successfully defeating the virus, would be leading this post-COVID economic recovery.

Distinguished Guests,

Pakistan is situated at the cross-roads of South and Central Asia and the Middle East. It is the birthplace of ancient civilizations which made major contributions to the growth of art, philosophy and literature.

Our national ethos are a beautiful blend of Asian values, cultural diversity, historical experiences and spiritual and tolerant outlook. In our nation building process, our youth plays a key role in keeping alive our time-honored traditions and making new contributions for nurturing sentiments of goodwill and friendliness, thus promoting peace and development in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

History and culture are the most inexhaustible resources for shaping our future. In present times, we need to revive the Silk Road Spirit and make concerted efforts to keep our doors ajar for fresh breeze of new ideas and initiatives and continue forward the march of globalisation and internationalism.

The Youth Cultural Saloon serves to remind us that the younger people are the true ambassadors of our respective countries. They are our most valued asset. Their ideas of today would translate into actions tomorrow, which would write the destiny of our continent.

As the agents of change and innovation, I would, therefore, call upon our youth to study deeply the rich history of Asia and play their role in the peace, progress and prosperity of the entire region.

I am confident that they would shoulder this responsibility with courage and conviction.

Dear Friends,

Like the ancient travellers of the Silk Road, Asian nations need to work together to building bridges of cooperation and trust, and demolish the artificial walls of doubt and divisiveness.

This is the trust that the history has placed on us.

Thank You!