

## **Launch of stamps commemorating 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations**

**(Beijing, 21 May 2021)**

### **Ambassador's remarks**

#### *China Post officials who may be included in salutations*

1. Mr. Fan Xiaorong, Deputy General Manager of Beijing Postal Branch
2. Ms. Zhao Rong, Culture and Media Department Manager of Beijing Postal Branch
3. Mr. Yuan Xi, General Manager of Beijing Chaoyang Postal Branch

#### *Suggested talking points*

- It is a matter of great pleasure to launch the pair of stamps and day-one covers commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.
- We commend the joint efforts of China Post and Pakistan Post on the beautiful designs and appreciate Beijing Post's efforts to organize today's delightful ceremony.
- The postal services of our two countries have a longstanding tradition of such joint issuances.
- These stamps are an invaluable chronicle of the seven splendid decades of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, and tell a unique and enchanting story of our unique and ironclad friendship.
- The stamps we are launching today feature the sister ports of Gwadar in Balochistan Province and Zhuhai in Guangdong Province.
- As in the past, these stamps are also a snapshot of our cooperation that has grown from strength to strength in keeping with the times, the consensus of our leaders, and the deep-rooted mutual goodwill, respect and trust in the hearts of our people.
- Gwadar and Zhuhai established sister-city relations in 2015, during the historic visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan that kick-started

the early-harvest phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

- In the short span of only a few years, China's investment under CPEC has transformed the natural deep-sea port of Gwadar, which was once a remote fishing village.
- Thanks to our joint efforts, Gwadar is coming up with state-of-the-art infrastructure, socioeconomic development projects for the local people, and favourable policies and inland connectivity.
- Gwadar is now poised to play its role as a fully functional hub of regional and international commerce and industry, learning from Zhuhai, which was one of the first special economic zones (SEZs) set up by China in 1980 and has grown dramatically in the years since.
- The story of the two ports told by our stamps is the story of friendship and cooperation along the road to shared prosperity. It is a microcosm of the all-encompassing and all-weather Partnership between our two countries, and enjoys both our peoples' wholehearted support.
- The Embassy has been inundated with requests by philatelists in Pakistan and elsewhere who would like to add today's prized stamps and day-one covers to their collections.
- As an avid stamp collector, I share their enthusiasm and look forward to working with China Post to make these more widely available to the many admirers of our relations in Pakistan, China and across the world.
- Thank you.

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