

1st First Pakistan China Literary Forum

25 May 2021

Her Excellency Ms. Tie Ning,

President, China Writers' Association

Dr. Yousuf Khushk,

Chairman, Pakistan Academy of Letters

Mr. Hu Bangsheng,

Member of Secretariat of China Writers' Association

Distinguished Guests and Intellectuals of Pakistan and China,

It is my singular honour to participate in 1st Pakistan-China Literary Forum held today to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. I would like to express my profound felicitations to all audience and especially to the CWA and PAL for holding today's successful event and important consensus arrived at between the leading intellectuals from both sides.

After listening to the through-provoking and illuminating speeches from both sides, I must say that I am deeply impressed to explore that the role of literature and literary icons is indispensable for the future growth and development of Pakistan-China friendship.

Distinguished Guests,

Pakistan and China are 'All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partners', iron-brothers and most reliable partners. The friendship between our two countries was forged in the crucible of time and has grown from strength-to-strength in last seven decades. Our two countries have always stood by each other and shared each other weal and woe. The 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between is an opportune moment to celebrate joint achievements of last seven decades and also to reaffirm our resolve to explore new avenues to expand our bilateral cooperation.

Besides other fields, deepening our bilateral exchanges in the field of art and literature could become an important catalysing factor for the growth of our future bilateral relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Literature is the barometer of life. The power of words and ideas have always transformed human societies. Of many manifestations of beauty, fairplay and justice in life, the ethereal beauty of soul-stirring ideas expressed in captivating words, perhaps, is the most appealing. Literature is the microcosm of our history, a reflection of our present societal, political and cultural trends and a mirror into which we can see the glimmerings of the distant future.

Like other manifestations of beauty, literature transcends the narrow confines of race, language, culture and nationality. This is so because literature, like a fountain, issues from the deepest recesses of human soul. It therefore, mirrors the common aspirations of all humans.

Distinguished Guests,

The role of literature, as evidenced today, in strengthening Pakistan-China Friendship and in laying the foundation of Community of Shared Future could not be underestimated nor over-looked.

There is a natural affinity in the literary trends of Pakistan and China. Our two countries boast of ancient civilizational roots which have fashioned the modern day literary style of our respective nations. Our literature is an apt reflection of Asian values, a vehicle for highlighting the historical continuity of our civilisations and promoting a spiritual and tolerant outlook of our national ethos.

I would underscore the need to forge strong linkages between the intellectuals of Pakistan and China. The two governments are intensifying their efforts to expand our bilateral cultural exchanges and bringing the people of our two countries together. It is a tribute to our combined efforts that two-way literary exchanges between Pakistan and China have increased manifold in recent years. Our two countries are working to translate and publish the literary works of our two countries in respective nations.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. We need to maintain this healthy momentum and encourage more exchanges between our students, artists, intellectuals and academicians.

My dear Friends,

Today's Forum serves to remind us that the intellectuals and artists are the true ambassadors of our respective countries. And it is to them we turn to for advice and wisdom and for their leading role in deepening Pakistan-China friendship for progress and development of our peoples and for the lasting regional peace and stability of our region.

I thank you all!