

Event: The 31<sup>st</sup> Harbin International Fair for Trade and Economic  
Cooperation

Theme: Energizing the New Era with Science and Technology, Jointly  
Building the New Development Paradigm

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great honor and privilege to for me to participate virtually in the esteemed 31<sup>st</sup> Harbin International Fair for Trade and Economic Cooperation.

First of all, I congratulate the Heilongjiang provincial government and Harbin's Municipal government on successful organization of this world-renowned fair.

Theme of this year's fair is very timely and relevant to emphasize the role of science, technology and innovation in our future development.

**Distinguished Guests,**

COVID-19 pandemic has changed paradigm of governance, development and people-to-people exchanges. It has accelerated the pace of development of scientific and technological innovation. It has speed up the wave of digitalization.

Today, almost all the new infrastructure development is data-driven. Data has become the oil of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning have become integral part of innovative governance, digital economy, cross-border e-commerce is revolutionizing economic development and trade.

**Excellencies,**

Pakistan and China are closest friends and excellent

partners. Our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnerships is deeply rooted in the hearts of the peoples of the two brotherly countries.

Pakistan and China have been co-building China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to promote pragmatic socio-economic cooperation between two brotherly countries.

Likewise, Pakistan and China have been working on China-Pakistan Digital Corridor to promote cooperation on science, technology and innovation between two countries.

Last year, Pakistan-China held the first meeting of Joint Working Group on Science and Technology to promote exchanges and collaboration in this area.

Our pragmatic scientific cooperation aims to promote business-to-business exchanges, R&D collaborations in the field of digital economy, AI, big data and cloud computing and cross-border e-commerce.

### **Excellencies,**

This year as our two countries celebrate 70 years of establishment of diplomatic ties, let's join our hands to promote and deepen our trade and economic cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples in the New Year.

I wish all success to the 31<sup>st</sup> Harbin International Fair for Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Long-Live Pakistan-China Friendship.

Thank you.

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