

**Ambassador of Pakistan's Remarks at First Sino-Pakistan Symposium on
Traditional Chinese Medicine
09 June, 2021**

Honorable,

**Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister, Health and Population Welfare
Department, Government of Sindh,**

**Mr. Sun Da, Vice Commissioner National Administration of Traditional
Chinese Medicine,**

Mr. Li Chunqiu, Mayor of Huaihua City,

**Dr Kazim Hussain Jatoi, Secretary Health and Population Welfare
Department, Government of Sindh,**

**Prof Dr. Atta Ur Rehman, UNESCO Science Laureate, Academician Chinese
Academy of Sciences,**

Prof Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry, Director ICCBS Karachi.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Good Afternoon,

First of all I am pleased to be in the beautiful city of Huaihua. This is my first visit to Hunan Province the home of Chairman Mao. It holds special place in Chinese history and civilization. The birthplace of Dragon Boat Festival, Hunan in recent years have seen a tremendous economic growth becoming a transportation hub, industrial base and popular tourist destination. I am amazed by the natural beauty and hospitality of this land, and thank my hosts for their very warm welcome.

I am so pleased to attend the first "Sino-Pakistan Symposium on Traditional Chinese Medicine, which would also witness the Unveiling Ceremony of the Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center for Traditional Chinese Medicine and signing of a number of important agreements. These events are being held at a very opportune time to coincide with the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. 2021 is an important year for Pakistan and China. It marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of

diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China. This year also marks the centenary of CPC. I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to you on these two important events.

I would like to congratulate the organizers of the Symposium and local leadership of Huaihua city for organizing a successful event. I would like to thank Government of Sindh for supporting the event. I would especially like to mention, Prof Dr. Atta Ur Rehman, UNESCO Science Laureate Prof Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry, Director ICCBS Karachi here for their consistent efforts to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of traditional medicine. From China, I would like to thank Mayor Mr. Li, Prof, Mao, Prof. Dr. He and Dr. Liu Xinmin for their strong support for this event and overall cooperation between our two countries.

The knowledge and use of drugs go back to pre-historic times. Many drugs and treatments which we found in today's world were also present in many ancient civilizations. This old knowledge and practice has been passed from generation to generation, updated and further improved with new findings and research. According to an estimate, 80% of world population rely on traditional herbal medicine for primary health care. This huge figure clearly underlines the importance of traditional medicine.

Like China, Pakistan also has rich tradition of herbal and alternative medicine. Traditional Unani medicine is practiced in our part of the world for centuries. Almost every household in Pakistan would have received a treatment through a traditional method. I myself many times been treated by Hakeems, practitioners of Unani medicine, who still hold a respectable place in our society.

Despite its widespread popularity and use, the traditional medicine still faces many challenges. One reason is the growth of the modern medical science, which is backed by strong governmental support, billion of dollars of funding and investments going into research and development

of new drugs, and of course the large pharmaceutical firms who have their corporate interests too in promoting New Medicine.

One cannot deny the importance of modern medical science in its achievements and breakthroughs especially for finding cures and treatments for infectious diseases, cancer and other ailments; and development of vaccines as we recently saw for COVID-19, but traditional medicine which remains the basis of modern medical methods and also provide safe treatment options, should also receive same focus and attention from public sector, regulators, international organizations and big enterprises.

In this backdrop, this symposium today holds great significance. Besides further consolidating the ongoing cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of traditional medicine, it would also shed light on international best practices, ongoing research work to produce new varieties of traditional medicines, the importance of standardization and registration, development of patents, plantation of herbs and plants and seeking support of governments and relevant international organizations for more stronger and wider recognition of traditional medicine.

I am sure that institutions like ICCBS, Hunan University of Traditional Medicine Hamdard University, National Administration of Traditional Chinese medicine and Health departments of Pakistan would continue to take forward this cooperation to bring a paradigm change in this important field.

The Embassy would extend its full support to China-Pakistan cooperation in traditional medicine.

I wish success to this symposium.

Thank You

Long Live China-Pakistan Friendship