

Conference organized by ACFTU & NDRC
My Story with CPEC – Workers’ Perspective
(Beijing, 16 June 2021)

H.E. Mr. Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan

Mr. Ying Xiong, Director General of the NDRC

Mr. Asim Bajwa, Chairman of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority

Mr. Jiang Guangping, Vice-Chairperson of the ACFTU

Ladies & Gentlemen

Ni Hao & Greetings of Peace to all the participants

- It is a great pleasure for me to attend today’s Conference.
- I thank the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) in organizing today’s event, which is part of our 70 years celebrations of diplomatic ties. I also acknowledge the participation of executives from various enterprises involved in CPEC and workers from Pakistan and China at the CPEC projects. Today’s event is of course about their stories and to acknowledge their valuable contributions.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

- The legendary and unique friendship of China and Pakistan, the iron brotherhood and the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership is entering a new phase. This year, as our two countries celebrate 70 years of our exemplary ties, we are making a pledge to take our relationship to greater heights. One of the focus of our such endeavours would be the high quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.
- Despite the extraordinary situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, CPEC has continued to move ahead and contribute to Pakistan’s socioeconomic development and regional connectivity. It has thus lived up to its role as the flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative and a major pillar of our all-encompassing practical cooperation.
- Thanks to the resilience of our people-centric cooperation on CPEC: we have ensured that no CPEC project is stalled; nor has any Pakistani worker on a CPEC project lost his job.
- Completed CPEC projects and those in the pipeline are substantially and steadily lifting the standard of living of our people.

- CPEC has not only helped Pakistan overcome the economic shock of the pandemic, but has also unleashed the human development potential of our large and youthful population. It is expanding in line with the aspirations of our people.
- Entering a new stage of high-quality development, the focus of CPEC phase-II is on industrial relocation, agricultural modernization, science and technology cooperation, and the socioeconomic well-being of our people.
- Today we pay tribute to all the enterprises, their executives and engineers and especially thousands of workers from China and Pakistan for their valuable contributions in realizing these important CPEC projects. These CPEC workers are Ambassadors of Pakistan and China and have a key role to play in continuing the traditions of our mutual cooperation and strengthening the bonds of friendship. They are our heroes who have helped in building bridges of goodwill and fostering better understanding between our two peoples.
- I would specifically like to acknowledge the hard work done by thousands of Chinese workers away from their home and families. We truly acknowledge your contributions today. I am reminded of those Chinese workers who laid their lives for building the famous Karakorum highway which not only connected our two countries through a land route but also connected the hearts of our two people. Those same traditions continue as part of CPEC projects.
- CPEC as a transformational project continue to enjoy full support of our leadership and governments. No matter what, we would ensure its completion for the benefit of our two people. In this win-win endeavour you would always have full and unwavering support of the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

Thank you

Long Live China-Pakistan Friendship