

China South Asian Countries Poverty Alleviation Centre

Excellency Mr. Wu Jianghai,

Leaders of National Administration for Rural Revitalization of China,

Leadership of Municipal People's Government,

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

- I am very happy to attend this momentous occasion of the opening of China South Asian Countries Poverty Alleviation Centre. Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.
- First of all I would like to thank and congratulate all the organizers especially the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Administration for Rural Revitalization of China and the Chongqing Municipal Government for establishing this important center.
- I am confident that this center would play a key role in providing a common platform for the participating countries of South Asia to join hands for the noble cause of poverty alleviation.

Excellencies,

- Chinese poverty alleviation achievements in lifting 800 million people out of absolute poverty within few decades is a miracle of our modern times. There is no denying of this fact that it happened due to the wise and visionary leadership of CPC and its people centric approach. This year when we celebrate the hundred years of CPC's formation, it is also time to remember, acknowledge and appreciate the struggle and the sacrifices, the resolve and the commitment, the discipline and the unity shown by the leaders of the CPC, and millions of its workers tirelessly working for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.
- Since my arrival in China in August last year, I have visited many provinces and seen many poverty alleviation projects. What impressed me was the whole of the government and whole of the nation approach; the focused

policy interventions; targeted solutions for different region or a village; use of technology and most importantly the volunteer work which was done by thousands and thousands of CPC workers all around China to help poor people come out of poverty.

- Generally, the assignment for such workers is two to three years but there are people who have spent their lifetime for this mission. Recently I saw a documentary at CGTN by famous Chinese journalist Ms. Liu Xin about a CPC member Mr. Zhang Fuping from the City of Changsha who spent 27 years away from his home helping farmers and poor families in Guangxi and Guangsu. For his wife and his daughter, it was extremely difficult for Mr. Zhang to be away from home for long periods.
- At the end of the documentary when Mr. Zhang was asked about his family and work, he said that “once you have chosen something then you can’t give it up”. This is the story of Chinese poverty alleviation campaign. Once a decision was taken by the government and the party, it was carried through a singular focus and commitment. Once a volunteer decided to be part of this noble cause, he/she carried out with utmost sincerity and devotion.
- Pakistan’s Prime Minister is a great fan of Chinese success in the poverty alleviation field. He has repeatedly mentioned in his speeches the need to learn from the Chinese experience. He greatly admires President Xi Jinping’s vision and statesmanship. In Pakistan too, we have started poverty alleviation programme called ‘Ehsaas’ which means ‘feelings’.
- Pakistan has also proposed to establish a joint working group on poverty alleviation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and as well as establishing a Poverty Alleviation Centre in Pakistan to bolster cooperation in this area. We look forward to working with China and other partner countries in South Asia to bring peace and prosperity to our people.

Thank You!