

**Inauguration of Pakistan Pavilion at 28th Beijing
International Book Fair**

14 September 2021

Name of Leader,

Representative of Press and Publications Administration of China

Name of Leader,

China National Publication Import and Export Corporation,

Name of Leader,

Aviation Industry Corporation of China,

Mr. Wu Shulin,

Executive Vice President of China Publishing Association

Distinguished Guests and Intellectuals,

It with great pleasure that I welcome you all at the auspicious occasion of inauguration of Pakistan's pavilion at the 28th Beijing International Book Fair.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to the leadership of China National Publication Import and Export Corporation and Aviation Industry Corporation of China for according Pakistan this opportunity to present its literature, history and culture to our Chinese guests as the Country of Honour.

As our two countries celebrate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties this year, I am hopeful that Pakistan's participation as the Country of Honour would definitely deepen bilateral literary and cultural ties between our two countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Literature is the barometer of life. The power of ideas and words have transformed human societies and shaped the course of history. Of all manifestations of beauty, the ethereal charm of soul-stirring thoughts expressed in captivating words and recorded faithfully in books 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. It transcends the narrow confines of race, language and nationality and reflects the common aspirations of the entire humankind.

No wonder all great nations and societies have turned to books and libraries for power and glory!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan and China are ‘All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partners’, iron-brothers and most reliable partners. 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.

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,

Distinguished Guests,

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!