

Ambassador's Speech at Inauguration of China-Pakistan Centre

16 October 2021

Mr. Liu Jianjun,

Director General, SCO Demonstration Area,

Mr. Wang Zihai,

Honorary Investment Counsellor of Pakistan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great honour for me to visit the beautiful city of Qingdao and participate today in the commencement ceremony of China-Pakistan Centre at SCO Demonstration Area in Jiaozhou, Qingdao.

I must express my profound gratitude to the leadership of Qingdao especially Mr. Liu Jianjun, the Party Secretary of Jiaozhou and Mr. Wang Zihai for according a warm welcome to me and my delegation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The beautiful and historic city of Qingdao is not unfamiliar to Pakistan. China's many top ranking enterprises operating in Pakistan hail from Qingdao. Qingdao is also the sister city of Karachi, Pakistan's trade and financial capital and one of the largest cities of Asia. Qingdao and Gwadar also established friendship ties in 2015. Yesterday, we held a ceremony for development of sister city ties between Qingdao and Faisalabad as well.

After the SCO Summit in Qingdao in 2018, Qingdao has rapidly emerged on international landscape as a vibrant and pulsating centre of profound significance. Its strategic location, proximity to the burgeoning East Asian market and location of the SCO Demonstration Area here only serves to remind us of Qingdao's significance as the major hub of regional trade and economics.

The choice of Qingdao as the seat of China-Pakistan Centre should therefore be seen from the aforementioned perspective. The establishment of China-Pakistan Centre would mark a major step toward rapid expansion of Pakistan's ties with SCO countries especially China in diverse areas of bilateral cooperation. It would be instrumental for promotion of bilateral ties between Pakistan and China in investment, trade, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

Government of Pakistan has appointed Mr. Wang Zihai as the Honorary Investment Counsellor for achievement of aforementioned objectives. Mr. Wang has earlier served as the President of Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

I am confident that as a friend of Pakistan, a seasoned businessmen and

trade expert, Mr. Wang would play a key role in the attainment of the desired objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am also hopeful that our concerted, sustainable and dispassionate efforts from the platform of SCODA and China-Pakistan Centre would help Pakistan, China and all SCO countries to shape a Community of Shared Destiny for our peoples in future.

Thank You All!