

**Draft Remarks by Ambassador for Sichuan University's
International Conference on Pakistan-China Cooperation**

Topics: Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperation, Cultural Exchanges, CPEC
and Trade Cooperation

Saturday, 23 October 2021: 1100 hours

Prof. Song Zhihui

Vice Dean, School of International Studies,
Director, Pakistan Study Centre.

Prof. Yao Leye,

Vice President of Sichuan University,
Director General, China Centre for South Asian Studies.

H.E. Ambassador Nong Rong

Prof. Li Xiguang

Mr. Muhammad Muddasir Tipu

Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Distinguished Guests,

It is indeed a great honour for me to participate today in International Conference on Pakistan-China Cooperation to share my thoughts on several aspects of Pakistan-China friendship.

I am grateful to all organisers including China Centre for South Asian Studies, Pakistan Study Centre and School of International Studies of Sichuan University for organising this event.

Sichuan University is famous for its academic excellence and innovative spirit all around the world. I would like to commend its efforts for research and academic work on Pakistan and spearheading our bilateral friendship.

I am confident that fruitful exchange of views today among distinguished experts and intellectuals would help us explore new avenues for strengthening Pakistan-China friendship.

Distinguished Guests,

The foundation of unique and all-weather friendship between our two countries was laid seventy years ago when the diplomatic ties were established on 21 May 1951. The seed of this unparalleled relationship sown decades ago has blossomed into an evergreen tree with deep roots and strong branches.

So abiding is the realisation of our historic ties that poetic expression are used to capture the essence of this fabulous relationship. It is truly hailed

as higher than mountains, sweeter than honey, deeper than oceans and stronger than steel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan and China are partners in peace, progress and prosperity. Despite vicissitudes of world politics and changing regional landscape, our two countries have always stood together and extended complete support to each other on all important issues. We have negated the notion that bilateral ties are merely the result of convergence of political interests.

On the contrary, we have proven that underlying forces driving strong international cooperation are mutual respect and understanding; adherence to international norms and values, and a sincere desire to work together for a transparent, fair and just international system.

Dear Friends,

Pakistan and China are cognisant of the changing realities of today's world. The enduring inter-states ties now are not solely dependent upon political relationship, but are instead being driven by interplay of economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people interactions. Seen from this perspective, our two countries have made a rapid progress to expanding our relationship to diverse fields of cooperation.

In recent years, a special focus has been placed on enhancing our bilateral trade and economic ties. Pakistan's multifaceted cooperation with China has been revitalized with the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a pilot project of BRI. CPEC is a transformational project which has contributed to Pakistan's national development by upgrading its transport and communication network, eliminating energy crisis and development of Gwadar Port. With the consensus of our leadership, CPEC is now focusing to deepen our cooperation in industrialization, job creation, poverty alleviation and agriculture development.

Distinguished Guests,

Modern Pakistan finds itself at the threshold of a new era of progress and prosperity. Coupled with its emphasis on harnessing Pakistan's potential as the geo-economics hub, Government of Pakistan has announced lucrative incentives to attract the foreign investment and initiated many fiscal and monetary policies to create an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth. Looking forward, industrial parks and Special Economic Zones being developed under Phase-II of CPEC represent the next stage of Pakistan's economic development and our bilateral cooperation with China.

Another significant and promising aspect of our multi-faceted bilateral relationship is the growth of people-to-people and cultural relations.

Currently, over 28,000 Pakistani students are studying in China benefiting from China's advanced educational system. We have established nine Sister-Province and twenty Sister-City relationships with China. Seven Pakistan Study Centers and eleven Urdu Language Departments in various Chinese universities, and four Confucius Institutes in Pakistan are promoting cultural understanding between the two countries.

Dear Friends,

The imperatives of 21st century demand a new paradigm to deal with emerging challenges as well as opportunities. Both Pakistan and China are tied together by a common vision to change the destiny of our region and wean it away from conflict and ideological dogmatism to one that promotes peace, development and prosperity.

I am confident that buoyed by the rich history of our past experiences, propelled by the common aspirations of our peoples and guided by the vision of the leadership, Pakistan and China would jointly continue their march to establish a community of shared destiny for our two countries.

I would like to conclude by commending Sichuan University for holding today's conference and convey my best wishes for its success.

I thank you all.