

Inauguration of China-Pakistan Friendship Square

02 November 2021

H.E. Mr. Zhao Haishan, Vice Governor of Hubei Provincial People's Government

H.E. Mr. Jaing Wei, Vice Mayor of Wuhan Municipal Government

H.E. Zhao Jun, Vice-Secretary General of Hubei Provincial People's Government

H.E. Mr. Qing Yu, Director General of Hubei Provincial Foreign Affairs Office

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentleman,

(Assalam-o-Alaikum and Shangwu Hao)

- It is my great honor and singular privilege to attend the inauguration ceremony of the grand China-Pakistan Friendship Square at the beautiful riverbank of Yangtze River. It is a historic day. This beautiful Friendship Square is the first of its kind in China. It manifests iron-clad friendship and strong brotherhood between Pakistan and China. A true symbol of the fabled history of Pakistan-China relations.
- We just jointly toured the Friendship Square. It has been very carefully and artistically designed. Blending the key features of Chinese and Pakistani landmarks and our national animals like Panda and Markhor, the square truly reflects the great affinity, our diversity and importantly the deep love, trust and respect between our two countries and peoples.
- I would also like to share that to reciprocate Wuhan's great gesture of friendship and love, a similar Friendship Square is being established in Karachi. It will be inaugurated soon.

Dear friends,

- Today, we are also establishing Sister-Provinces Relationship between Sindh and Hubei Provinces, Sister-City Relationship between Wuhan and Karachi, Kahuta and Yiling and between Haripur and Yichang. Establishing a series of friendship relationship with one province in one day is also unprecedented. Together with Friendship Square these Province and Sister City relationships will further strengthen and deepen pragmatic cooperation

between Pakistan and Hubei province in all the fields of mutual interest particularly, trade, investment, water resource management, science & technology and people-to-people exchanges.

Dear friends,

- Last time when I came to Wuhan in April, we discussed all-round cooperation between Pakistan and Hubei province. And I am very glad that within a short period of six months, we are today signing six cooperation documents in the fields of education, establishment of centers of excellence (chemical technology, robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data) in Islamabad and Sialkot, artificial intelligence-based medical technology and water resource management. Last time, we also discussed a unique proposal of establishment of Brother-River Relationship between Indus River and Yangtze River. I am very happy to share that both sides have work very hard and finalized the Memorandum of Understanding. It will be signed during a future high level visit.
- I therefore take this opportunity to sincerely thank the leadership, government, institutions, and the people of Hubei Province and Wuhan City for their great support and cooperation in building this wonderful Friendship Square and fore signing of these MOUs.
- The province of Hubei and the city of Wuhan have a very special place in the hearts of the people of Pakistan. They admire the resilience, unity and efficiency of the people in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. Your courage and discipline in achieving a great victory in people's war against pandemic was a beacon of hope for the entire world. We salute that.
- This year is very special. This year marks the 100th anniversary of CPC. I congratulate the CPC on its historic 100th anniversary. Like all other developing countries, Pakistan seeks inspiration from CPC's people's-centered governance model and efforts to empower the people of China.
- We also value Hubei's vital support for some important projects in Pakistan. After launching of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Hubei-based enterprises and institutions have become key development partners in different infrastructure projects particularly in the field of dam construction.
- This year we are also celebrating 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China. Both sides have organized

more than 100 commemorative events so far. This inauguration and signing of different cooperation documents are important addition to this great friendship marathon of commemorative events in China and Pakistan. We also look forward to the thematic light show tonight,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

- During the recent telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Imran Khan, President Xi rightly said that China and Pakistan had worked together to tackle risks and challenges such as COVID-19 and consolidated strategic mutual trust and deepening strategic cooperation. He further stated that history had once again proved that two countries were most reliable iron-clad brothers for each other. Indeed, this special and unique nature of our All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is in full display today. I am confident that this would add a new glorious chapter in building a China-Pakistan community of shared future.
- Let me conclude by wishing prosperity, peace and all-round progress to the beautiful province of Hubei province and its people.

Long-Live Pakistan-China Friendship!

(Ba-Zhong Youyi Wan Sui)