

7th Silk Road International Arts Festival

2-6 December 2021

Draft Speech for Ambassador

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
My Dear Friends,**

It is my great honour to virtually participate today in the 7th Silk Road International Arts Festival. I would like to convey my heartiest felicitations to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China and Department of Culture and Tourism of Shaanxi province for organising this important festival.

Dear Friends,

Since its inception in 2014, the Silk Road International Arts Festival has made laudable contribution to the growth of art and culture among the Silk Road countries. It has emerged as an important platform for reinvigorating the Silk Road spirit by enhancing cooperation among the member states on various manifestations of art and culture.

Distinguished Guests,

Art is the barometer of life. It has always transformed human societies and accorded a purpose and meaning to life. As the microcosm of our history, art is a reflection of our present and a mirror into which we can see the glimmerings of the distant future. Artistic expression is the most powerful way to captivate beauty, harmony and thoughts in words, figures and paintings.

As humanity finds itself at the threshold of unprecedented changes at a global scale, the significance of art to seek unity in diversity and make a common stand for resolution of major challenges has been amplified.

Dear Friends,

Belt and Road Initiative has upheld the Silk Road spirit of regional connectivity, transparency and inclusiveness. The Silk Road countries are heir to glorious artistic traditions which have shaped our collective identity and history. Under the broad rubric of Belt and Road Initiative, the member countries can synergise their efforts for preserving our ancient artistic traditions and make new innovations and contributions in this field.

Seen from this perspective, the significance of platforms like Silk Road International Arts Festival increases manifold.

Dear Friends,

Pakistan is situated at the cross-roads of South and Central Asia and the Middle East. It is the birthplace of ancient civilizations having made major contributions to the growth of art, philosophy and literature since ancient times.

As the BRI's earliest and most enthusiastic proponent, Pakistan emphatically endorses the Silk Road Spirit and look forward to working with all member countries for cross-fertilisation of our artistic traditions for shaping a prosperous and peaceful future.

In addition to its deep-rooted friendship with China, Pakistan has sincere feelings of goodwill and friendliness towards all Silk Road countries and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Year-2021 carries immense significance for Pakistan and China. It marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic ties and centenary of the Communist Part of China.

In order to celebrate this important year, our two countries have organized many activities with main focus on deepening our bilateral cooperation in the fields of art and culture. Pakistan looks forward to maintain this healthy momentum and elevate our art and cultural ties with China to a new plane of cooperation.

In the end, I would like to congratulate all organisers for holding this festival and convey my best wishes for its astounding success.

I thank you all!