

7th China-South Asia Friendship Organizations' Forum

Remarks by Ambassador Moin ul Haque

H.E. Ambassador Lin Songtian, President CPAFFC,

H.E Ambassador Hou Yanqi, Ambassador of China to Nepal

My Colleague Ambassadors joining from Beijing and Capitals from South Asia

Mr. Anoop Ranjan Bhattarai, President Organization for

South Asia Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China,

**Representatives from local and South Asian friendship associations
Good afternoon, Da Jia Shao Hao**

I am pleased to participate in the 7th China-South Asia Friendship Organization's Forum. I thank the hosts, the CPAFFC and OSARFCC, and the co-organizer Association for Sri Lanka-China Social & Cultural Cooperation for organizing this important event on the theme of "Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development".

Ladies and Gentlemen

The importance of international cooperation and solidarity to address our common challenges can neither be overemphasized nor ignored anymore. The urgency of the need for joint efforts and for embracing the concept of win-win cooperation for achieving common development struck us all after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic surged and swept across the globe bringing the entire humanity to its knees, affecting every aspect of our lives. Besides health pandemic, other common challenges like climate change, poverty, food and water security also impact humans across the planet, irrespective of color, ideology or ethnicity. We are all therefore intertwined into a shared destiny and only our collective will would help us respond to these challenges and achieve our objective of leaving no one behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen

South Asia, a densely populated region and house to world's one-third population, also has its share of these challenges. Despite its low ranking in human development and other socio-economic indicators, the region in terms of its historical significance, strategic location, immense resources and enterprising spirit of its people holds a great promise to embrace the idea of common development and win-win cooperation to usher in an era of peace and prosperity for its people and neighboring countries and regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Here, I would like to particularly mention the critical role of SAARC for realization of the goal of common development for South Asia. The organization's primary objectives to promote welfare of the peoples of South Asia, and accelerate economic, social and cultural development in the region still remain a work in progress. Pakistan remains committed to SAARC process. We look forward to the visit of new SAARC Secretary General to Pakistan this week and to discuss ways and means to bring a new life to the work of the organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen

China has been playing a positive and constructive role in forging cooperative partnerships with South Asian countries based on a win-win development model. Since President Xi's remarks on further deepening of cooperation with South Asian countries at the 19th Party Congress in 2017, China has undertaken strong, tangible and result oriented initiatives to build cooperative relations with the South Asian countries. Many of South Asian Countries including Pakistan are active members of BRI. CPEC is not helping Pakistan in its socio-economic development but also contributing to regional connectivity and prosperity.

In July this year, **China South Asian Countries Poverty Alleviation and Cooperative Development Centre** in Chongqing and **China-South Asia Emergency Supply Reserve Centre** in Chengdu were launched. I along with my colleagues from participating South Asian Countries attended these launching ceremonies. These two initiatives would go a long way in helping the South Asian nations to fight the pandemic and learn from China's experience of poverty reduction. I would also like to mention the launching of **everlasting China-South Asia online expo**, in 2020, in Kunming which provided a platform for digital economic cooperation among the South Asian countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the end I would like to reiterate Pakistan's commitment to working with South Asian countries for achieving our common goals on the basis of mutual respect, trust and cooperation. We also sincerely acknowledge, appreciate and support China's efforts and initiatives of promoting friendship and collaborative partnerships with the region.

I extend best wishes and greetings to you all for the New Year and I wish this event a complete success.

I thank you all.