

Webinar on 71 Years of Pakistan and China Research and Development Cooperation

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Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to participate today in webinar organised by Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies and Honder College of Arts and Sciences of Inner Mongolia to review Research and Development Cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Distinguished Guests,

Longevity, resilience and trust best describe Pakistan-China friendship. There is no relationship like ours which so deeply touches the soul of our peoples and evokes such strong emotions. Poetic expressions with imaginative diction are used to capture the essence of this fabulous friendship. There is a famous Chinese saying that:

‘As distance tests stamina of horse, so time reveals the sincerity of a friend’

Seen from this perspective, the seed of bilateral friendship sown 71 years ago has blossomed into an evergreen tree with deep roots and strong branches.

Dear Friends,

One of the most promising aspects of our bilateral relations is the increasing collaboration between our two countries in the areas of research and development.

Realising the importance of innovation and academic investigation, the scholars and students from our two countries are engaged in joint research and development in number of areas in our two countries. It is heartening to note that these endeavours for R&D cover a wide range of subjects ranging from engineering, ICT and agriculture to history, culture and literature.

Ever since the advent of CPEC in 2013, our joint educational cooperation has received a fillip with more and more Pakistani students availing scholarships offered by Chinese universities.

I am confident that this educational corridor would further enrich our R&D cooperation and help us scale new heights in the multiple disciplines.

Distinguished Friends,

R&D cooperation between our two countries is not merely significant for the socio-economic development of our two countries but is also important for enhancing our fraternal relationship.

Ever the establishment of our diplomatic relations, many young Chinese and Pakistani students and professionals remained associated with the educational and technical institutes of Pakistan and China and later achieved prominence in their chosen fields.

As we assemble here to explore more possibilities for future R&D cooperation, it is also pertinent to acknowledge the endeavours of those heroes who are the true architects of Pakistan-China friendship.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In shaping the contours of international relations, diplomacy, no doubt, plays a leading role. It is the force multiplier which galvanises the genesis of bilateral ties, builds upon the commonality of interests and oversees the gradual strengthening of international relations on sound footings.

But diplomacy could not perform such gigantic task alone.

In today's world, when international ties have become more complex, academic and research work has assumed a greater significance. The role of think tanks and academic circles to make a faithful record of bilateral ties, identify new areas of international cooperation and explore deftly the complex matrix between politics, economics and culture, can never be underestimated.

My dear Friends,

Pakistan and China would therefore always need the advice and input of their think tanks and academia to highlight strength of our bilateral ties, its significance for progress and prosperity of our nations, and indeed, its indispensability for peace and stability in our region.

I am confident that they would keep enlightening us with their guidance and wisdom.

I thank you all.

