

**Remarks by the Ambassador for Opening Ceremony of
Truck Art Festival to be held in Langfang, China on 28 April 2023**

Mr. Jin Yongsheng, Vice President of ENN Group,
Ms. Claudia Yang, Director and the entire team of Silk Road
International Art Centre,

Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon and Dajia Hao,

On behalf of my wife and my colleagues at the Embassy, it is my immense pleasure to welcome you all, once again, to this magnificent Art Centre in this beautiful city of Langfang on a bright spring afternoon to celebrate the 83rd National Day of Pakistan in a unique and colourful manner.

This is a very special occasion for us at the Embassy. A project that we have been planning for the last 2 years is being realized today. I would therefore thank everyone who has joined us for this special event, and especially those who have travelled from Beijing and other cities.

Before I proceed, I would like to convey my appreciation to the following:

I would first like to express my profound gratitude to ENN Group and its leadership for partnering with the Embassy once again to organize this festival at this exquisite venue and to make our celebrations special and memorable.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge Silk Road International Art Centre's popular director Ms. Claudia Yang and her able team for their strong support and embracing this project with great enthusiasm.

Thirdly, our special appreciation for the two talented young curators Rebekah and Deborah for putting this unique exhibition, which you would shortly visit. We admire their creative and imaginative planning and organization.

Fourthly, I would like to express my utmost appreciation to the brilliant Phool Patti team, led by Mr. Ali Salman Anchan and comprising of artists Ali, Mumtaz, Amin and Gulraiz, which has become synonymous to the internationalization of Pakistan's indigenous Truck Art in over thirty countries around the world. I thank them for their phenomenal creative work for to showcase this unique art of Pakistan in their first exhibition in China.

And finally, I would acknowledge the contributions of the Embassy team for playing their part diligently and responsibly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National Day of Pakistan is an important landmark in the history of Pakistan. On this day, we commemorate the valiant struggle of our forefathers for a separate homeland that began with the historic Pakistan resolution of 23 March 1940, and culminated in the attainment of an independent homeland on 14 August 1947.

On this day, we pay rich tribute to our Father of the Nation and all leaders, elders, martyrs and heroes for their invaluable contributions and great sacrifices in the realization of our dreams. On this day, we celebrate our freedom, our independence and our unity.

On this day, we make a collective pledge to make our beloved Pakistan a peaceful, progressive, prosperous and pluralistic country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

No mention of Pakistan's journey is however complete without the mention of our relationship and time-tested friendship with China. It is a special heart-to-heart bond that is a conscious choice of our people and a historic reality. These unique, iron clad ties have been nurtured over successive generations of leadership and people of the two countries. We have stood together through thick and thin through vicissitudes of time.

As a famous Chinese proverb says:

“In hardship, we see true friendship”.

Yes, no wonder Pakistan-China friendship is called time-tested and all-weather. And our people and leadership have made this solemn commitment to make it stronger, deeper, higher and more enduring.

Owing to the warm sentiment and good will between our two people, we always rightfully accord great importance to cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges to further nurture these bonds of friendship and love. And today’s event is part of such efforts aimed at building a close and culturally rich ‘China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future’ in the New Era.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Truck Art is an indigenous art originating from the modern-day Pakistan with unique and creative manifestations, and colourful patterns celebrating our lifestyle and traditions, earning wide international acclaim for our cultural diversity. Termed as “Art on Wheel” by many, this artistic expression represents cheerfulness, optimism, appreciating beautiful aspects of nature and seeing life in its brightest, and positive way.

Later, we would get a detailed introduction of Truck Art by the artist Mr. Ali himself and of course by visiting the exhibition itself.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today’s event is also a part of the activities being planned to celebrate 2023 as China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges. I hope today you will find even greater reason to visit Pakistan and experience our rich cultural medley.

The event is also a part of our continued exchanges with Hebei province and beautiful city of Langfang, where we had last year celebrated the 75th anniversary of the independence of Pakistan. The event was a resounding success despite the Covid-19 pandemic and attracted around 10,000 visitors. Here I would like to acknowledge the presence of Mr. He Luming, Deputy Director-General of Hebei FAO, Mr. Xue Hong, Deputy Director General of Standing Committee of Langfang People's Congress and Mr. Su Bingwu, Deputy Secretary-General of People's Government of Langfang City and Director-General of Langfang FAO, SU Bingwu, among the guests today and thank them for their support

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation for everyone involved in the preparations and am hopeful that you would thoroughly enjoy today's festival and experience Pakistan and the artistic expressions of its people in a unique manner.

I thank you!