

**Investiture Ceremony of H.E. Ambassador Lin Songtian  
President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with  
Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) [02 June 2023]**

**His Excellency Ambassador Lin Songtian,**  
President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with  
Foreign Countries,

**Friends from the CPAFFC,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good afternoon and Da Jia Hao,**

It is my great privilege to confer upon Ambassador Lin Songtian the Sitara-i-Pakistan Award on behalf of the President of Pakistan in recognition of his valuable contributions for strengthening China-Pakistan friendly ties especially promoting business linkages, people-to-people exchanges and cultural cooperation between our two brotherly countries.

**Dear Friends,**

Pakistan and China are All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and Iron Brothers. Over the past 72 years, our bilateral relations have grown from strength to strength and reached a pinnacle that finds few parallels in the modern history of inter-state relations.

China-Pakistan relations are based on complete political support, strategic trust and peoples aspirations. Rain or shine, we stand by each other, sharing weal and woe.

An important aspect of our friendship is that it is time-tested. It remains constant and unaffected by any change of governments or international developments. It enjoys full support across political spectrum, institutions and public in our two countries.

In this regard, CPAFFC as China's leading public diplomacy institution has played a key role in nurturing and strengthening our friendship. Ambassador Lin is a seasoned diplomat with a vast experience of serving in several important positions in his long diplomatic career including as Vice Foreign Minister. Since his appointment as the President of CPAFFC, a new energy and vigour has been injected into its functioning, and as well its partnership with the Embassy.

In 2021, CPAFFC fully supported the Embassy to celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Together, we arranged a number of high-level events in particular the Grand Reception at Diaoyutai State Guest House on 21 May 2021, which was attended by Vice-President Wang Qishan, and the Sister Cities & Provinces Forum in November 2021.

### **Dear Friends and Colleagues,**

Besides playing a strong role in strengthening our bilateral cultural ties, CPAFFC, under the leadership and guidance of Ambassador Lin, also led efforts to galvanize Chinese public and institutional support to assist Pakistan in times of natural calamities and environmental disasters. After the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, CPAFFC facilitated donations of critical medical supplies, ventilators and personal protective equipment to several Pakistani institutions.

Last year, when Pakistan was hit by devastating floods, CPAFFC once again mobilized people, institutions and local governments across China to raise funds for helping the flood affected areas in Pakistan. Altogether, they arranged cash donations and relief goods worth over RMB 130 million. This was a tremendous support which helped us in saving lives, improving livelihoods and rehabilitation of affected people. Thank you Ambassador Lin, thank you CPAFFC.

**Dear Friends,**

Last year in November, Ambassador Lin visited Pakistan on the invitation of Pakistani government. It was his first overseas visit after assuming the office of president of CPAFFC.

During his visit, Ambassador Lin held meetings with senior Ministers, parliamentarians, government officials as well as engaged with think tanks. He gave detailed briefings about China's development model and economic achievements and discussed collaborations for promoting trade & economic linkages. I thank Ambassador Lin for attaching top priority to Pakistan and for strengthening our all-round cooperation.

**Dear Friends,**

This year, we are celebrating as the Year of Tourism Exchanges between China and Pakistan. Embassy has organized a number of events to promote Pakistani culture and tourism potential in China. A mega Gandhara exhibition was held at the Palace Museum, the first-ever truck art exhibition in China at Silk Road International Art Centre Langfang and launching of a special website in Chinese Language "discoverbatie" on the tourism potential of Pakistan at Phoenix TV headquarters. A dedicated tourism office at the Embassy is also being set up.

I would request Ambassador Lin Songtian and CPAFFC to help us promote tourism from China to Pakistan which would greatly help in increasing the people-to-people exchanges and solidifying the strong bonds of friendship between our two peoples.

In the end, I would like to again congratulate Ambassador Lin Songtian on receiving Sitara-i-Pakistan in recognition of his valuable contributions in deepening Pakistan-China relations and hope that he would continue to guide us for elevating these ties to a new pedestal of cooperation.

**Long Live Pakistan - China Friendship!**