

**Speech by Ambassador Masood Khalid at the seminar: The
One Belt and One Road Initiative in the Global Context on
10 October 2016**

Mr. Wang Linqui, Ex. Vice Chairman, NIGS, CASS
Mr. Cai Fang, Vice President, CASS,
Mr. Peng Long, President Beijing Foreign Studies University
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am honored to speak to this august gathering of distinguished scholars, thinkers and experts from various walks of life. I am grateful to organizers for inviting me.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

President Xi Jinping's vision of One Belt One Road (OBOR) is a model of inter-regional and intra-regional integration and connectivity based on the concept of mutual prosperity and win-win cooperation. When this visionary concept translates into reality across the regions and continents, it would entail unparalleled dividends in economy, trade, infrastructure and energy resource development for all the countries associated with OBOR. Just like the traditional Silk Route, the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road will connect different regions and civilizations.

Pakistan's geographical location supplements the potential of the Silk Road and enhances the scope of its sustainability in the future. Our geography links the Yellow Sea with the warm waters of the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf; passing through the Karakorum, Kunlun mountains and the Indus Valley. This is linear dimension of our relevance with the Silk Road Economic Belt.

Pakistan is at the confluence of China, the Eurasian land-bridge and the Middle East. This positions us to be en route to a three pronged economic corridor between China, Central Asia and the

Middle East. This is the triangular dimension of our relevance. Pakistan's long coastline also makes our ports of Gwadar and Karachi as key transit points on the Maritime Silk Road.

CPEC is a flagship project of OBOR. CPEC envisions a network of roads, railways, pipelines and communication networks, development of dry and sea ports, major energy and infrastructure projects and establishment of Special Economic Zones.

CPEC complements Pakistan Vision 2025 which like OBOR is Pakistan's long term vision of economic development and prosperity which emphasizes enhanced physical infrastructure development, effective institutional arrangements and empowering people for regional connectivity and economic cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

CPEC is the agenda of mutual prosperity and a recipe for economic development, enhanced trade and energy security and equally critical for peace, prosperity and well-being of our peoples, the region and the world.

People of Pakistan see China as their trusted friend and a strategic partner. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has given a new socio-economic development dimension to our already strong relations. CPEC has evolved into a concept of mutual prosperity- an intersection where both nations' visions of development and prosperity meet.

Both our countries share a vision for regional connectivity, trade, infrastructure and energy resource development for our societies. Revival of the fabled Silk Road along the lofty terrains of China, Central Asia, Middle East and Europe will bind communities and integrate economies. We are confident that CPEC under One

Belt and One Road will transform the economic landscape of the region to the mutual benefit of our two peoples. And I am confident that CASS will continue to play its positive role to focus on the longer picture of OBOR and our interaction especially between scholars and respective Think tanks will increase.

I thank you all.

Zhong-Ba YouyiWansui