



*The Contributions of Yunnan
University, China to Regional
Cooperation in Higher Education
Report of a Chair Professor and
Distinguished University Ambassador at
Yunnan University, Kunming, China 2023*



**Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China
Research Forum, Pakistan**

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

The Contributions of Yunnan University, China to Regional Cooperation in Higher Education

**Report of a Chair Professor and Distinguished University Ambassador at
Yunnan University, Kunming, China, (21st November to 21st December 2023)**

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Ambassador, Yunnan University, Kunming, China,
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Author: Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pakistan and China's Friendship is higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel. Despite many internal storms and clams in China and Pakistan, the friendship between the two countries strengthened with every passing moment. In the last

more than seventy years this relationship became an all-weather friendship and then it transformed into an iron brotherhood. China helped Pakistan to strengthen its defense, economy and political stability and supported its stand in every forum including the Security Council on International and regional issues. On the other Pakistan supported China`s stand on many issues including Tibet, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.

Pakistan welcomed BRI when President Xi Jinping announced it in 2013. It further solidified the bonds between China and Pakistan when China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was initiated as a flagship project of BRI on 20th April 2015. Under CPEC Pakistan and China cooperated in every field including higher education. China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) coordinated their efforts and linked many Chinese and Pakistani Universities for the development of higher education.

A CPEC Consortium of Universities was established in 2017 with headquarters in Fudan University, Shanghai which proved a great leap forward for collaboration among the institutions of higher learning in the two countries. Another important development in this connection was the initiative taken by the Yunnan University, Kunming, China regarding the establishment of the South and Southeast Asian University Network with secretariat in the Yunnan University in 2018. This network through solid measures gave boost to collaboration among the Universities in the South and Southeast Asian region.

Every member University was represented in the network by its ambassador. Yunnan University has started one-month Chair Professor Program for the outstanding ambassadors of the S & SE Asian UN. Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Ambassador of the University of Peshawar due to his outstanding performance as an ambassador was awarded one-month Chair Professorship at Yunnan University. The report shares the enriching experience and humble efforts of Prof Dr Zahid Anwar for strengthening academic linkages, people to people contacts, and cultural and social understanding.

REPORT

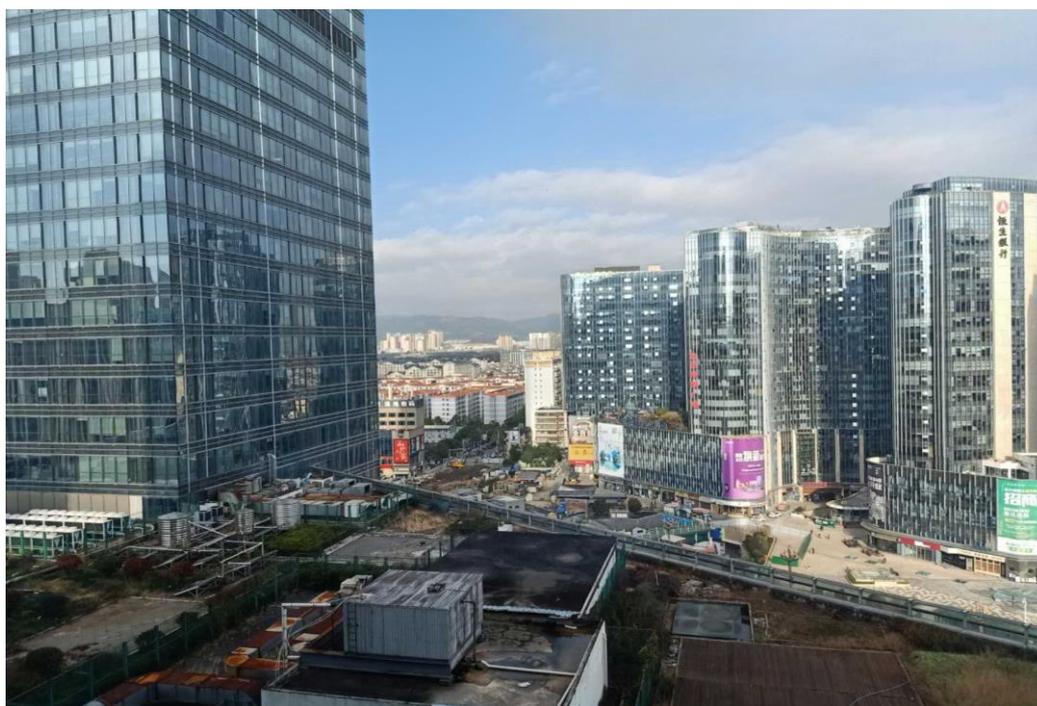
CHAIR PROFESSOR AND DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR, YUNNAN UNIVERSITY, KUNMING, CHINA (21ST NOVEMBER TO 21ST DECEMBER 2023)

By Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Pro Vice-Chancellor ® (Vice President, University of
Peshawar, PAKISTAN)



INTRODUCTION

The economic development of China gave hope to many developing countries. After the initiative of economic reforms in the late 1970s China developed with unprecedented speed. The four modernizations gave a clear road map to Chinese decision-makers and the economic reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping inspired Chinese youth. China has developed higher education as well and Chinese Universities and research institutions strengthened International and regional cooperation in higher education and academic research. In this connection, the establishment of the South and Southeast Asian Universities Network by Yunnan University at Kunming proved a great leap forward.



A view of Kunming from the 15th floor of Wyndham Grand Plaza hotel Kunming

Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province of China. Due to its mild climate, it is also called the Spring City/ City of perennial spring. Kunming attracts domestic and foreign tourists year-round. It is the largest city of Yunnan Province and acts as a transportation hub providing easy access to southwestern China and Southeast Asia. It is famous for its natural scenery and rich ethnic and cultural heritage. Kunming is in a mountain valley that was important as a trade route in the region. The city lies on the east shore of the large Dianchi Lake surrounded by mountains.



Dianchi Lake Kunming, China

The South and Southeast Asian University Network

The South and Southeast Asian University Network also known as S&SE Asian UN, is a higher education regional international cooperation mechanism approved by the Yunnan Provincial Department of Education and field in the International Division of the Ministry of Education, and initiated by Yunnan University (YNU) in Kunming. Yunnan Province in December 2018 The Secretariat of SASE Asian UN is permanently located at YNU. It aims to further enhance the people-to-people bonds between China and South Asian and Southeast Asian countries, establish a platform for regional higher education exchanges and cooperation, as well as build a regional higher education. To date, there are 118 member universities from 16 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and China. After five years of development, S&SE Asian UN has become an important platform for academic cooperation, faculty and student mobility and cultural Changes in the South and Southeast Asian community.



Yunnan University Old Campus, Kunming

Prof. Zhou Xuebin, Party Secretary of Yunnan University and the S&SE Asian UN Secretary-General explains the vision of the Network in the following words, `the year 2023 marks the 5th year of the establishment of the South Asian and Southeast Asian University Network (S&SE Asian UN). In the past five years, adhering to the purpose of further enhancing people-to-people exchanges between China and South Asian and Southeast Asian Countries, building a platform for regional higher education cooperation. and building a regional higher education community, the S&SE Asian UN has actively carried out work in disciplines, faculty staff, students, public service and other aspects. In terms of international academic cooperation, four sub-committees of Emerging Engineering, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Journalism and Communication, and Chinese Language Education have been established.

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

A total of 14 international academic conferences and seminars in different disciplines have been held, building a platform and bridge for international exchanges and cooperation in disciplines. Next year, we will also explore the establishment of three sub-committees of Mountain Development, Physics and Astronomy, and National and Area Studies to continuously promote cooperation in different disciplines.

In terms of the exchange of faculty staff and researchers, we have set up the Chair Professorship Program, Visiting Scholar Program and Ambassadors. So far, we have a total of 24 Ambassadors and 3 distinguished Ambassadors, who will carry out joint scientific research and in-depth academic exchanges with teachers and students of Yunnan University (YNU) as senior visiting scholars. In the future, we will continue to implement the Chair Professorship Program, and continue to enrich the ways of personnel cooperation and improve the quality of cooperation. In terms of student activities, we have carried out Sports and Cultural Exchange Week, International Summer Schools, exchange visits and other activities.

Next year, we will also carry out outstanding students visiting programs to broaden the channels for students to participate in international exchanges and studies. In terms of talent cultivation, we have set up the S&SE Asian UN scholarship for member universities from South and Southeast Asian countries to provide help for them to study in China. Over the past five years, the international cooperation and exchanges promoted by the S&SE Asian UN cannot be separated from the support of our members. We will never forget why we started, and where to go. We will take the fifth anniversary as a new start to contribute to regional cooperation in higher education continuously, he concluded.

3rd South and Southeast Asian University Presidents forum

To further promote exchanges and cooperation between higher education institutions in China and South and Southeast Asian countries, and to enhance people-to-people exchanges, the South & Southeast Asian University Network held the 3rd South and Southeast Asian University Presidents Forum at Yinyuan Hotel, New Campus, Yunnan University, Kunming from November 22nd to 25th, 2023, with the theme of "Opportunities and Paths for Cooperation between Universities in China and South and Southeast Asia under the New Situation".

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

Under the main forum, five parallel forums and the 2023 Ambassador Annual Meeting were held concurrently. Prof Dr. Zahid Anwar, Pro Vice-Chancellor @ University of Peshawar and Director, CSF (China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan) was invited to attend the meeting and become a Chair-professorship for a month (21st November to 21st December 2023) at the Institute of International and Regional Studies, Yunnan University in Kunming.

Prof Zahid Anwar reached Kunming on 21 November 2023. Yunnan University provided the return air tickets. At the airport an officer of the International Office, Mr. Kevin received him and they came in a taxi to Yunnan University (new Campus). In the evening a formal dinner was arranged by Yunnan University for the delegates of the International Academic Forum of the South and Southeast Asian University Network was going to be held on 23 November 2023. Prof Hu Jinming, the executive secretary general and the Vice President of Yunnan University welcomed all the forum delegates and arranged a grand dinner in honor of the distinguished guests. He introduced the Deans, Directors and other senior leaders of Yunnan University to the honorable guests.

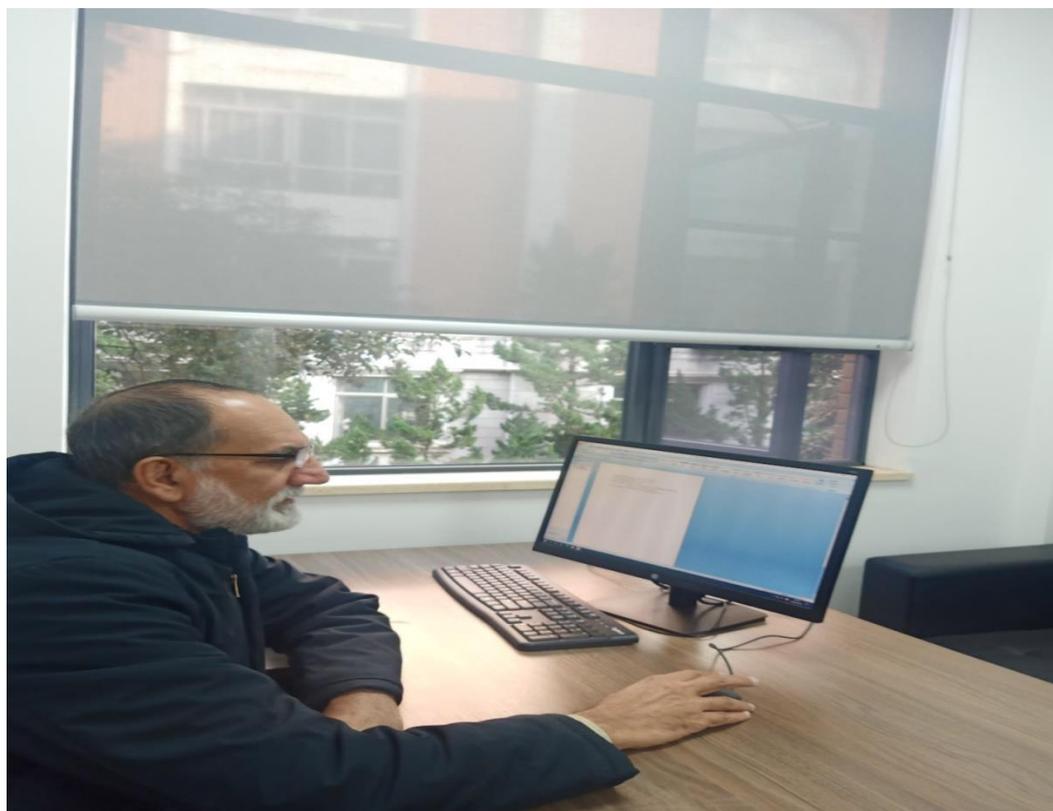


Dinner at Yinyuan Hotel, Kunming, China

Prof Zahid Anwar's accommodation was arranged in the Yunnan University Yuanda Hotel (old Campus) where all basic facilities were provided to me to make his stay

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

comfortable and academically fruitful. As a Chair-Professor he was given a well-equipped office, room number 216 on the second floor at the Institute of International and Regional Studies, Yunnan University (Old Campus).



Prof Dr Zahid Anwar`s Office as a Chair Professor at Yunnan University

Yunnan University

Wisdom from many, justice for all. On 23rd November I participated in the International Academic Forum of the South and Southeast Asian University Network with the secretariat at the Yunnan University, Kunming, China. Yunnan University located in Kunming, is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in China and is the only university in Yunnan province which has been developed into a "National Key University". It was founded in 1922, as the "University of the Eastern Land". Its name has been changed six times subsequently. The institution has 17 schools on the local campus and 3 independent schools located in other cities. It has two main campuses, an old campus and a new campus.



Prof Wu Yun, Director and Prof Liu Peng Deputy Director of the International Office YNU

The new campus of Yunnan University is located over a hill from where one can have a beautiful view of Kunming. Yunnan University located in Kunming is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in China and is the only university in Yunnan province which has been developed into a "National Key University". It was founded in 1922, as the "University of the Eastern Land". Its name has been changed six times subsequently. The institution has 17 schools on the local campus and 3 independent schools located in other cities. It has two main campuses, an old campus and a new campus. The new campus is located over a hill from where one can have a beautiful view of Kunming. It is part of the Double First Class University Plan and Project 211. Since its establishment in 1923, Yunnan University has focused on perfection in moral integrity, excellence in scholarly attainments and greatness in career results.



The International Academic Forum

The International Academic Forum of the South and Southeast Asian University Network, organized by the secretariat of the Network, took place in Kunming, China on November 23 to 24 to further promote exchanges and cooperation between higher education institutions in China and South and Southeast Asian countries, and to enhance people-to-people exchanges. The main theme of the forum was “Opportunities and Paths for Cooperation between Universities in China and South and Southeast Asia under the New Situation”. Under the main forum, five parallel forums and the 2023 Ambassador Annual Meeting were also held concurrently.

Prof. Wu Yun, Director, of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, at Yunnan University was the anchor person of the inaugural session. She discussed the efforts of Yunnan University to strengthen international collaboration.



At the opening ceremony, Prof. Hu Jinming, Executive Secretary General of the Network and Vice President of Yunnan University delivered a speech in which he explained the history, ranking, and regional significance of Yunnan University and also threw light on the high level of research and innovation in Yunnan University and how Yunnan University contributed to the promotion of higher education and academic research and its efforts to strengthen cooperation among the universities of the regional countries in the context of South and Southeast Asian Universities Network.



Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

Collaboration in Higher Education among the Members of the South and Southeast Asian University Network

Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar, Vice President (r) of the University of Peshawar in Pakistan, and Ambassador of the University of Peshawar spoke on behalf of member universities of the South and Southeast Asian University Network. Prof Dr Zahid Anwar in his keynote speech said that it was an honor and privilege for him to be invited by the prestigious Yunnan University to deliver a keynote speech at that August Forum.

Universities provide advanced learning opportunities and offer advanced knowledge and skills in specific academic or professional fields, where students have the opportunity to specialize in a particular area of study. Higher education prepares students for careers that require a higher level of expertise, critical thinking, analytical skills and specialized knowledge. Universities also play a crucial role in research and development.



They serve as centers for intellectual exploration, fostering a deeper understanding of academic disciplines. Universities strive to raise their ranking through academic reputation, quality education, facilities and infrastructure, International collaboration, attracting high-achieving student bodies, adequate funding, accreditation, innovation and entrepreneurship and graduate outcomes. Its presidents provide visionary leadership for the universities and set strategic goals and directions. They foster a positive and inclusive campus culture, uphold good governance and adapt to the

evolving landscape of higher education. China`s reforms in higher education especially Project 985, Project 211 and the Double First Class University Plan brought revolutionary changes in its higher education system.

The ranking of Chinese Universities has greatly raised through Government initiatives and funding for research and development, fostering of innovation, enhancement of global competitiveness, changes in curriculum design, content Integration of practical skills and interdisciplinary approaches, enhancing partnerships with foreign universities and exchange programs, Integration of online learning, digital resources, and smart classrooms.

The success story of Chinese Higher Education has inspired many developing countries and they embarked on a voyage of collaboration with China to improve the performance of their Universities. The Universities in China and Pakistan are cooperating under the guidance of the China Association of Higher Education and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The CPEC Consortium of Universities came into existence in 2017 with headquarters at Fudan University, Shanghai.

Academic exchanges, short training and many joint research projects have been initiated in different disciplines of higher education. Now more than 28000 students from Pakistan are pursuing their BS, MS and PhD degrees in high-ranking Chinese Universities. To this excellent collaboration in higher education, a solid foundation was provided by the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan. Belt and Road Initiative which is the 21st Century Silk Road was launched in 2013. It reintegrates the regional states through connectivity. The Silk Road is a modern metaphor for sharing and learning across cultures, art forms and disciplines. In the same way, BRI is a simile for exploring regional commonalities. CPEC is a flagship project of the BRI. The launch of CPEC was welcomed by the people of Pakistan as an opportunity. Pakistan and China Relations are based on five principles of peaceful co-existence, which were agreed upon by many developing countries at the Bandung Conference in 1955.

The University of Peshawar was established in 1950 and now more than 14000 students are enrolled. It is collaborating with many Chinese Universities including Yunnan University. The MOUs with many Chinese Universities have been signed and many joint research projects are underway. Many China Study Centers have been established in different Universities in Pakistan and many Pakistan Study Centers in different

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

Chinese Universities are contributing high-quality research and enhancing people-to-people contacts.

The wide range of research activities of these Centers includes understanding Chinese society, economy, political system, history, culture, civilization, Pakistan, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Belt and Road Initiative Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), regional integration and cultural cooperation.

Chinese Institutions of higher education are playing a very important role in strengthening regional connectivity. For instance, after the pandemic, the South and Southeast Asian Universities Network has organized this annual meeting which will contribute a lot to strengthening cooperation among the member Universities.

It is a great leap forward to collectively address the challenges of higher education in South and Southeast Asian Universities. The University of Peshawar highly appreciates this initiative and will fully contribute to such efforts to empower the people of the less developed countries in the global south.

Academic collaboration in higher education is building bridges for academic excellence. Academic excellence can be achieved by Standardizing Academic Processes, initiating Language and Cultural Exchange Programs, establishing joint Administrative Committees, and securing funding through Grants and Partnerships.

Through collaboration, the Universities can galvanize and Enhance Academic Quality, Expand Research Opportunities, Foster Cultural and Global Understanding and Address Resource Constraints. They can achieve academic excellence by collaborating in higher education through Academic Exchange Programs and Joint Research Initiatives. To conclude, collective efforts through a win-win model in the realm of higher education will be a quantum jump to realize the cherished dream of a peaceful, prosperous and shared future.



Prof. Soe Soe Aung, Myanmar, Prof Zahid Anwar, Pakistan, Prof Hu Jinming, China

Prof. Soe Soe Aung, Pro-Rector of Naypyitaw State University in Myanmar, made a speech as a representative from Parallel Forums. Prof. Mohammad Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi, Director of the Confucius Institute at North South University in Bangladesh, spoke as a representative of distinguished Ambassadors of the Network.



Dr Liu Peng, the Network’s Senior Program Officer presented a five-year work report of the Network. The comprehensive report showed that the Network has organized many events despite the pandemic and through those activities strengthened cooperation among Universities in South and Southeast Asia.

Representatives from universities in China and South and Southeast Asian countries – including Zhou Aoying, Vice President of East China Normal University, Ni Lar Myint Htoo, President of the National Management College in Myanmar, Lu Qiao, Vice President of Zhaotong University, and Qi Bin, Vice President of Krirk University in Thailand – attended the opening ceremony. Representatives from various disciplines in China and South and Southeast Asian countries, and students and teachers from Yunnan University also participated in the forum.

At the opening ceremony, representatives from Yangon University of Foreign Languages in Myanmar, Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology in Malaysia, the School of Journalism and Communication at Yunnan University in China, the School of Journalism and Information Communication at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in China, and the Yunnan University Education Foundation jointly signed cooperation agreements. The signed agreements would support collaboration and exchange among member universities in big data and communication strategy research, “language + professional” combination talent training, and regional

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

country studies. Among them, the South and Southeast Asian International Innovation Talent Training Project received a donation of 600,000 yuan.

The forum featured six academic forums with 177 experts and scholars from 12 countries, including China, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Laos, Pakistan, and Cambodia. Discussions centered on ecosystem management in the new era, international communication, food security, language communication cooperation, regional country studies, and training emerging engineering talents.



Prof Ye Hailin is speaking at the parallel forum, Prof Lu Guangsheng, Dean, Institute of International and Regional/Country Studies Yunnan University, chaired the Forum

The Development of Sinology in Pakistan in the Era of BRI and CPEC

The Forum of Theory and Practice of International and Area Studies under the New Situation, one of the six academic forums is underway in Kunming. In this forum, Prof Dr. Zahid Anwar discussed in detail “The Development of Sinology in Pakistan in the Era of BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor)”.

He said that Area studies is an interdisciplinary field of research and scholarship that focuses on the study of particular regions or areas of the world. The goal of area studies is to gain a comprehensive understanding of a particular area. The interdisciplinary nature of area studies allows researchers to approach complex issues from multiple perspectives. Areas of study can be defined by geographical boundaries like East Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, and South East Asian Studies.

Sinology is the academic study of China. Sinologists, explore various aspects of China's past and present, including its political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions. Sinology has considerably adapted to changes in academic perspectives, research methodologies, and global geopolitical dynamics. It is playing a significant role in fostering a deeper understanding of China and its contributions to the world.

The economic reforms of Deng Xiaoping and its continuation by his successors transformed China into the fastest-growing economy. China became a global economic power that enabled China to realize its cherished dream of reviving the legendary Silk Road. The Silk Road played an important role in the peace and prosperity of Eurasia.

Belt and Road Initiative which is the 21st Century Silk Road was launched in 2013. Equality, consultation, cooperation and 5 principles of peaceful co-existence are the hallmarks of BRI. BRI is based on the Win-Win Model, each project of this initiative benefits each partner, and it is inclusive.

CPEC is a flagship project of BRI. It is a regional connectivity framework which improves road, rail and air transportation systems. The projects under the CPEC framework have created 192,000 jobs, produced 6,000 megawatts of electric power, built 510 kilometers of highways and added 886 kilometers to the core national transmission network in Pakistan. The CPEC has made a tangible contribution to the national development of Pakistan and connectivity in the region. China and Pakistan have also explored new areas for cooperation under the framework of CPEC, creating new highlights in cooperation on agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication, and people's well-being.

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan is aiming at capacity building existing higher education institutions (HEIs) to prepare suitable human resources for CPEC and promote cultural harmony between the two countries. These efforts have initiated a chain reaction in the field of higher education. Pakistan now has the largest youth population in its recorded history. More than 64 per cent of its total population is comprised of youth. The young people of Pakistan are taking a keen interest in the Chinese language, education, culture and economy. This interest can be gauged from the increased participation of Pakistani youth IN lectures, academic seminars, conferences and symposiums and applying for scholarship opportunities

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

Under CPEC China and Pakistan are cooperating in the field of higher education. CPEC Consortium of Universities was established in August 2017 under the auspices of the China Association of Higher Education and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The consortium's headquarters is located in Fudan University.

The first meeting of the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor University Alliance" exchange mechanism was held at Fudan University in 2017. The 2nd Exchanges Mechanism Conference of CPEC Consortium of China-Pakistan Universities was held in Zhejiang University in 2018. The 4th Exchange Mechanism Conference of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Consortium of Universities was held in 2021 at both Peking University and the National University of Sciences and Technology.

With the financial support of HEC six China Study Centers were established in Pakistan's four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and were provided several million rupees to cover the human resources related cost and library and study material. The Centers will organize Chinese language classes for the faculty and students, will organize activities to promote understanding of the Chinese system and culture, will undertake translations of Chinese literary classics to promote understanding of Chinese cultural traditions and will act as a Think Tank on China. China Embassy is very active in Pakistan and has encouraged a large number of students to study in China.

China Study Center at the University of Peshawar has organized many conferences on CPEC & in Higher Education and other important themes. We have completed many research projects on regional important issues. MoU between the Embassy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the University of Peshawar in 2016. The MOU between Northwest University Xian, China and the University of Peshawar, Pakistan was signed on 4 June 2017.

The MOU between Jiangsu University China and the University of Peshawar, Pakistan was signed and coordinated by the Director, of the China Study Center, University of Peshawar. The MOU between the University of Peshawar and Xidian University, Xian, China was signed on 19 September 2017. China Study Centre, the University of Peshawar and the Beijing University of Chemical Technology (BUCT) have signed

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

MOU on 27th June 2018. The MOUs with Yunnan University, Xian Jiaotong University XJTU, UIBE and Kashi University are in the final stage.

China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) and the University of Peshawar have signed the MoU. Director China Study Center appreciates the support of Dr. Rong Ying Vice President of CIIS. Prof Zahid Anwar did a post Doctorate from CIIS in 2019 on, “Afghanistan, China and Pakistan collaboration for regional peace and stability”. The University of Peshawar is developing academic linkages and promoting cooperation with renowned research institutions in China. In this connection, Prof. Dr Zahid Anwar Director, China Study Centre, University of Peshawar visited strengthened cooperation with CIIS, SIIS, CICIR and PSC, Peking University and PSC, Fudan University in August 2019.

Under BRI and CPEC people to people-to-people contacts are increasing and will open up new avenues for better social and cultural understanding. Without an iota of doubt, such constructive collaboration in higher education will provide a conducive environment for young people to promote their careers and contribute to China and Pakistan`s joint march towards a shared, peaceful and prosperous future.

BRI is a unique platform that provides an opportunity for its member economies to collaborate and develop. CPEC is an important project of BRI and under this initiative, China and Pakistan are collaborating. After the advent of BRI and CPEC the discipline of Sinology has become popular in Pakistan. Many Research Centers on China have come into existence to understand China, its culture, language, literature, economy, foreign policy, history, constitution, civilization and society.

Many Think Tanks and their alliance came into being to foster a deeper understanding of China. The largest number of Pakistani students are now getting higher education in Chinese Universities. Many have completed their studies and have returned and they are now further strengthening China-Pakistan's all-weather friendship.

To conclude the University of Peshawar welcomes Chinese partner Universities and other member Universities of the Network for win-win cooperation and to play a due and positive role in making this network successful and collectively building a community of shared interests. Many Presidents of Universities, Directors, experts in the regions, scholars and students participated in this important event.

Kunming

Kunming consists of an old, previously walled city, a modern commercial district, residential zones and university areas. The center is an area of importance to Kunming's Hui Muslim population, with Shuncheng Jie in the center of the city. There is a beautiful new mosque and its green dome and chevron-patterned minaret are visible from afar. Kunming has a diverse and rich cuisine culture. There are many restaurants which serve Chinese food and Western food and there are also many Muslim food restaurants in Kunming even inside the old campus of Yunnan University there is a Muslim Food Restaurant for Muslim students.

Kunming is famous for mushroom production and delicious mushroom dishes. Inside the campus lunch or dinner per person costs about 10 Yuan and outside the campus in restaurants person food about 15 Yuan. Generally, in northern China people prefer noodles while in southern China people prefer to eat rice. Kunming is located in the Southern part of China and people here prefer rice dishes. Xinjiang Cuisine is famous throughout China. There are many Universities in Kunming and in almost every university one can see many Pakistani students. I met many Pakistani research scholars including Hidayat Khan, Dr Samiullah, Rawaid Ali, and Imran Khan from different parts of Pakistan. These students were doing their graduation and post-graduation from different Universities in Kunming. They appreciated the way they were facilitated by these Universities to complete their studies. After their completion of PhDs, many Pakistani students get opportunities for Post-Doctoral Studies. These students are becoming cultural, social and educational bridges between Pakistan and China.



Dinner with Pakistani Students at Kunming



Khalal Food Street at Night, Kunming



With Pakistani Students at KUST, Kunming



A view of Xinlianxing Supermarket, Kunming

Kunming remains a major educational and cultural center in the southwest region of China, with universities, medical and teacher-training colleges, technical schools, and scientific research institutes. It has many institutions of higher learning including Yunnan University, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Yunnan University of Finance and Economics, Kunming Medical University, Yunnan Normal University, Yunnan Agricultural University, Southwest Forestry University and University of Political Science and Law.

Kunming has three economic advantages over other cities in southwest China: significant natural resources, a large consumer market and a mild climate. Due to its position at the center of Yunnan, Kunming is one of China's largest producers of agricultural products, minerals and hydroelectricity.

Kunming is also called Flowers` city. It is the most prolific wholesale flower market area in China and Dounan Flower Market is one of the biggest wholesale markets of the region with comparatively cheap prices for amazing flowers. Yunnan has developed into the largest flower export base in Asia, with many Dutch experts having transferred technology to the area.





The Dounan Flower Market

The Dounan Flower Market, located in suburban Kunming, is the largest in China with daily sales of more than 2.5 million yuan (US\$300,000). Yunnan is home to 25 of China's official nationalities, giving it a diversity of cultures. As of the 2020 census, Kunming had a total population of 8,460,088 inhabitants, of whom 5,604,310 lived in its metro area.

Cuihu Park (Green Lake Park)

Cuihu Park (Green Lake Park) is one of Kunming's major parks and is predominately a lake surrounded by greenery. Green Lake as a public park, with its beautiful environment, is called “Jade in Kunming”. Every winter there are a lot of seagulls flying to Kunming from Siberia.



Another View of Green Lake (Cuihu Park)

Dianchi Lake

Dianchi Lake (Dian Lake) is the largest freshwater lake in Yunnan Province and the sixth largest one in China. With 1,886 meters above sea level, Dian Lake has an area of 306.3 square kilometers and owns a water capacity of 15.7 billion cubic meters. Due to the magnificent, broad water surface, Dianchi Lake has the fame of “Pearl on the Plateau”.



Dianchi Lake Kunming, China

There are many scenic spots around Dianchi Lake, including Xishan Forest Park, and Yunnan Ethnic Village. It is spread over an area of 298 square kilometers.

Kunming is connected to other provinces and countries through air, rail and roads. Kunming is served by Kunming Changshui International Airport (KMG), which opened in June 2012. Highways link Kunming to Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, and provide Yunnan province access to seaports of Southeast Asia. Kunming has three major railway stations. Kunming is the main rail hub of Yunnan province. The Chengdu–Kunming railway from Sichuan, Shanghai–Kunming railway from Guizhou, and Nanning–Kunming railway from Guangxi converge in Kunming from the north, northeast and east.

Kunming Public Transport System

Kunming has a very efficient public transport system. Kunming City has a very good metro system. From Changshui International Airport to Yunnan University's old campus one person costs 6 Yuan by metro. Buses are also used for public transport and a bus takes 2 Yuan from one stop to another stop on that route of that bus. Generally, taxis are also used for transportation and a taxi takes 10 Yuan from one stop to another stop in the city.



Pakistan and the Us Relations after the Nato Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Prof Dr. Zahid Anwar delivered a lecture to the students and faculty of the Institute of International and Regional Studies on 6th December 2023 on “Pakistan and US Relations after the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan”. Prof Dr Hu Xiaowen, the Director and Prof Dr. Lei Liu, The Deputy Director of the Institute of International and Regional Studies, Yunnan University Kunming, China have invited Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Pro Vice-Chancellor ®, University of Peshawar and Chairman PEDF (Peace, Education and Development Foundation) to deliver a lecture to the research scholars of the institute on, “Pakistan and US Relations after the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan” on 6th December 2023.

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美国从阿富汗撤军后的巴基斯坦与美国关系
Pakistan and US Relations after Its Withdrawal from Afghanistan

主讲人: Dr. Zahid Anwar

主讲人简介:

Zahid Anwar博士, 巴基斯坦白沙瓦大学常务校长、中国研究中心执行主任, 南亚东南亚大学联盟讲席教授。Zahid Anwar教授共撰写编辑7部著作并发表50多篇研究论文。最近发表的论文包括:《历史视角下的不结盟运动和巴基斯坦》《中巴经济走廊: 巴基斯坦和中国共同迈向命运共同体》《印度-美国民用核协议(2008): 对巴基斯坦的安全影响》《印度人民党政府时期印度对阿富汗政策中的巴基斯坦因素》等。



主持人: 刘磊 云南大学国际关系研究院·区域国别研究院副院长 教授

讲座时间: 2023年12月6日 14:30-16:00
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主办单位: 云南大学国际关系研究院·区域国别研究院
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Professor Zahid Anwar has taught International Relations for 35 years to graduate and postgraduate students and has delivered more than 100 International conference papers. He remained the editor of “Central Asia” and “The Journal of Pakistan and China Studies” and currently he is the chief editor of the journal of higher education and development.



Prof Hu Xiaowen Director and Prof Lei Liu, Deputy Director of the Institute

At the start of the presentation, Prof Dr Zahid Anwar thanked the prestigious Institute for the invitation and said that International relations are the interactions among sovereign states. The scientific study of those interactions is also referred to as international studies, international politics, or international affairs. It is the relations between sovereign states. International Relations are the manifest result of the foreign policy of a country. Foreign policy is how a country uses different strategies to guide its relationships with other countries and international organizations. Foreign policy is the general objectives that guide the activities and relationships of one state in its interactions with other states.

There are some internal and external factors that by and large, shape the foreign policy of a country. Internal factors include Geographical Location, Population, History, Economic Resources, Ideology, The Efficiency of Government and Nature of Political Leadership, Quality of Diplomacy, Crisis and Immediate Events, Technological advancements etc. External factors are the global environment, great power structure, alliances, international organizations, world public opinion, other states' reactions, International Law and Institutions etc. Foreign Ministries are guided by national interests.



Pakistan and US relations have passed through several ups and downs throughout history. In the last 76 years, the people of the two countries witnessed much ebb and flow in their diplomatic relations. Different factors influenced the relations between the two countries. The US recognized Pakistan on 15th August 1947.



Pakistan faced an existential threat from its eastern neighbor i.e. India from the very beginning. The British rulers of India divided the assets of the Indian Sub-Continents between Pakistan and India. When the British left the sub-continent, India did not give its due assets to Pakistan. India was a big country in the region and it bullied its neighbors and tried to become regional hegemon. Indian security, political and economic threats compelled Pakistan to seek external support for its survival vis-à-vis India. Kashmir was a bone of contention between Pakistan and India and the issue is an unfinished agenda of the 1947 partition.

The warmth in Pakistan and US relationship became much more visible when the Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaqat Ali Khan visited the US in 1951. Pakistan joined the US Bloc during the Cold War between the US and the USSR. It became a member of SEATO and CENTO in the 1950s to avail US military and economic support for strengthening its security and economy primarily to cope with the existential threat from India.



Defense and economic relations further strengthened between Pakistan and the US during the regime of Ayub Khan (1958-69). In the Sino-Indian War in 1962, the Capitalist or Western Bloc gave huge aid to India without compelling India to join the Western Bloc. Pakistan perceived that though the Western bloc gave aid to India against China in 1962 India would use that military aid against Pakistan and that the Capitalist Bloc gave aid to Pakistan after it joined the Capitalist Bloc / Western Bloc and on the other hand the Western Bloc gave aid to India against China without any string attached and the condition to join the Capitalist Bloc. The impact of that development was negative on Pakistan and US relations.

Pakistan strengthened its relations with China and settled its border through an agreement in March 1963. In the 1965 war between Pakistan and India, the US stopped military aid both to Pakistan and India. India was getting aid from the USSR also so it was not much affected by the US decision but Pakistan was purchasing and getting military aid from the US so it was much influenced by the US embargo. Perhaps it was in that milieu, that Ayub Khan, the president of Pakistan wrote his book, "Friends, not Masters". In 1969 Ayub Khan handed over power to Yahiya Khan, who became the Chief Martial Law Administrator

In 1971 India and the USSR signed a Friendship Treaty and then India invaded East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh). The USSR fully supported India while people in Pakistan thought that being an ally, the US had not supported Pakistan the way the USSR had

supported India in that crisis. Yahya Khan handed over power to Bhutto in 1971 who tried to strengthen Pakistan and improve Pakistan's relations with other countries.



Pakistan facilitated Henry Kissinger, the US Secretary of State's secret visit to China to pave the way for US President Nixon's visit to China and then the signing of the famous Shanghai Communiqué. When India detonated its nuclear device in 1974, Bhutto also started a nuclear program to maintain deterrence vis-a-vis India. The US pressured Pakistan to halt its nuclear program with which Pakistan did not agree. Then in a political crisis, General Zia ul Haque became head of the state in 1977 in Pakistan. In April 1978 Saur Revolution (Socialist Revolution) occurred in Afghanistan. The political crisis continued in Afghanistan and in December 1979, the Soviet Troops invaded and occupied Afghanistan.

This brought a paradigm shift in regional developments. The relations between the USSR and China after the death of Stalin were not that cordial. Pakistan, China, Western Europe and the USA opposed the Soviet Union invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. The US supported the resistance forces (Mujahidin) in Afghanistan against the USSR supported the Government of Noor Muhammad Tarakai, Hafizullah Amin, Babrek Karmel and Muhammad Najibullah.

The US and her allies started "Operation Cyclone" and huge American funds were used to support Mujahidin against the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. This development is also portrayed in "Charlie Wilson's War" a Hollywood Movie released in 2007. Fighters from all over the world especially the Muslim World were encouraged and trained to join the war against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. After negotiating for several years in the Geneva Accords in 1988, the USSR agreed to leave Afghanistan.

From 1979 (the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and revolution in Iran) to 1988 the Geneva Accords, the relations between the US and Pakistan remained very cordial and Pakistan got huge military and economic aid from the US. After the withdrawal of the Soviet Troops from Afghanistan in 1988, the US stopped its aid to Pakistan. The region became the graveyard of the last battlefield of the Cold War. Pakistan was left alone to deal with the huge debris of that battlefield.

The US and its allies stopped aid to Pakistan and also to Mujahidin in Afghanistan after the Geneva Accords. After the withdrawal of the Soviet Troops from Afghanistan a civil war ensued among the Mujahidin parties. In 1996 a new force, the Taliban emerged on the political stage of Afghanistan. Taliban defeated Mujahidin parties and occupied almost 90% of Afghanistan till September 2001.

In 1998 when India again detonated its nuclear device, then as a compulsion Pakistan did the same. The US imposed sanctions both on Pakistan and India, which further deteriorated relations between Pakistan and the US. On September 11, 2001, attacks on the US took place and in retaliation, the US started a war against global terrorism and the Taliban. At that time the Taliban Government in Afghanistan was recognized by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Pakistan highlighted the political rather than military solution to the problem. The US and NATO invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban Government.

Pakistan became an ally of the US in the war against terrorism. India also became an ally of the US in the war against terrorism. During the war against terrorism, India continuously used Afghanistan's land to destabilize Pakistan. People in Pakistan thought that the US knew that, yet it did not restrain India from destabilizing Pakistan. As an ally, Pakistan facilitated the US and her allies in Afghanistan by also providing SDN (Southern Distribution Network) which was much cheaper than NDN (Northern Distribution Network). In the war against terrorism, Pakistan lost 80000 citizens and economically suffered more than \$120 billion. The war against terrorism continued during the tenures of US Presidents i.e., Mr. Bush, Mr. Obama and Mr. Trump.

In Doha, capital of Qatar, the USA signed a deal with the Taliban to bring to an end the war (2001-2021) in Afghanistan. In the wake of the Doha Accord, the US and the NATO troops left Afghanistan and the Taliban again got power in Afghanistan and became the De-Facto rulers of Afghanistan. This new development again influenced

the relations between Pakistan and the US and the dynamics of Pakistan and the US Relations considerably changed. The US was no longer dependent on Pakistan to support its troops in Afghanistan.

Notwithstanding, the significance of Pakistan substantially remained the same for the US interests in the South Asian Region. It has 10th largest Armed forces in the world. It is 7th Nuclear Power in the world, especially the only one in the Muslim World. It is located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia and East Asia. Pakistan shares borders with China and this is important keeping in view China`s BRI and the US and her allies` B3W, EUCS, PQI, BDN, IMEEEC, AUKUS and other such initiatives

Pakistan shares borders with India and the US has developed a strategic partnership with India Pakistan shares borders with Iran and the US relations with Iran are not friendly since 1979. Pakistan also has a long border with Afghanistan and the US has recently fought a long war against global terrorism in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has the fastest-growing population. Its 64 % population is comprised of youth. The 50% population of Pakistan is under 22 years of age. India under the BJP Government is pursuing fundamentalist, extremist and hegemonic policies, which may give rise to radicalism in Pakistan, this is also an area of attention for the US. Abandoning and bringing to an end its cooperation with Pakistan will deprive the US of its intelligence capabilities. Pakistan`s armed forces are playing an active role in the UN peacekeeping and peace-building operations. There are more than 5 lacs Pakistani diaspora in the US and there are more than fifty thousand Americans in Pakistan. The two countries have strong economic relations.

Pakistan is an important member of the OIC with a significant niche among the Muslim World. Pakistan has excellent strategic partnership with China. Afghanistan will remain a key issue in Pakistan`s security paradigm. Pakistan wants good relations with all regional countries. Pakistan wants good relations with all great powers including the US but it will not put all its eggs in one basket as it did during the Cold War. The world has become multipolar and the recent developments in Ukraine and Ghaza highlight that even great powers like the US require the support of the developing countries.

To conclude, the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the US is very complex and has experienced periods of cooperation and tension. US policy towards Pakistan

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

has been multifaceted with important military, economic and diplomatic dimensions. US Policy towards Pakistan often reflects a balance between pursuing common interests and addressing areas of divergence. Pakistan`s Policy towards the US is characterized by a mix of strategic partnership and occasional challenges.

Dialogue, diplomacy and addressing shared concerns are essential elements in shaping Pakistan`s policy towards the US. The US will maintain diplomatic relations with Pakistan for regional stability and counterterrorism. It will be the US key concern that Afghanistan does not become a safe haven of terrorism. The US may also seek cooperation from Pakistan to cope with regional challenges, fostering economic ties and promoting stability in South Asia. It will continue diplomatic engagement and collaboration on shared interests with Pakistan in the aftermath of its withdrawal from Afghanistan. A lengthy question-answer session followed the presentation. In the end, Prof Liu Lei thanked Prof Zahid Anwar for his informative lecture to the students.

The 6th Kunming Forum on Education Cooperation in South & Southeast Asia

On 15th December 2023 Prof Dr Zahid Anwar participated in the Forum of the Presidents of South and Southeast Asian University Network in which many presidents of the network members` Universities participated. The 6th Kunming Forum on Education Cooperation in South & Southeast Asia took place on 15th December.



Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pdf.org.pk

China and Pakistan have laid a broad and profound foundation for educational cooperation. At this main forum, a dialogue was held on the theme on "New Policy Opportunities for Education Cooperation between China (Yunnan) and South Asia", the forum carried out in-depth exchanges on the status quo, prospects and policy support of education cooperation between China (Yunnan) and South Asia. Representatives from the education circles of China and South Asian countries attended the forum. Prof Zahid Anwar was invited as a guest speaker of the dialogue to share the experience and future trend of educational cooperation between China and Pakistan and discuss how to deepen the cooperation between the two countries in the field of education. He discussed the new mode of cooperation between universities in China (Yunnan) and South Asian Countries from a bilateral perspective and experience, the mode and future direction of cooperation between universities in South Asia and China as well as the successful experience of educational cooperation between universities in China and South Asian countries.

Pakistan and China Collaboration in Higher Education under CPEC

Prof. Zahid Anwar in his presentation said that Pakistan and China have been cooperating in higher education for the last several decades. However, the turning point in this relationship was the launching of BRI and CPEC, which have galvanized this collaboration to a great extent. China and Pakistan have strengthened their cooperation in higher education through various initiatives.



Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

Since the launching of CPEC in 2015, CAHE (China Association of Higher Education) and HEC (Higher Education Commission of Pakistan) have taken several solid steps that firmly connected the institutions of higher education of the two countries. A large number of Universities on both sides have signed MOUs and joint practical cooperation has started. CPEC Consortium of Universities was established in 2017 which paved the way for the cooperation of high-ranking Universities of China and Pakistan for quality enhancement, academic exchanges and joint research projects. The membership of this consortium has now exceeded 100. Every year HEC awards research grants especially, to outstanding researchers who want to research on any aspect of BRI, CPEC and Pakistan and China Relations.



The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has played a significant role in enhancing educational ties, with a focus on developing human resources and promoting research and innovation. Additionally, scholarships and funding opportunities are often provided to Pakistani students for higher education in China, fostering greater educational collaboration between the two nations.

China Study Centers were established in many Universities in Pakistan, which have focused on the dissemination of information about Chinese culture, language, civilization, economy, foreign policy, society, and development of science and technology. I remained the Director of the China Study Center at the University of Peshawar for 7 years. HEC has selected six China Study Centers including that of our University based on their performance and awarded them grants to translate important

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

Chinese books into Pakistani languages, conduct quality research and organize events that spread information about China and important developments in the region. Those Centers facilitated students to learn Chinese.

During the era of CPEC, more than 28000 Pakistani Students were admitted to Chinese Universities mostly with Chinese scholarships. Many of them have now returned to Pakistan with good memories and bright career prospects. They have bridged the cultural gaps and become ambassadors of goodwill. These successes attracted young people of Pakistan and now thousands of students are learning Chinese to enhance their understanding of China.



Daily in Pakistan, programs on CPEC, BRI, Pakistan and China Friendship are organized on social and electronic media to educate the audience. In Pakistani Universities, events are organized and students are groomed to apply for different Chinese scholarships. Our China Study Center under my directorship organized more than 300 events and translated Chinese classics into Urdu and Pashto languages. The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan has started the “Ambassador’s Scholarship” program under which millions of PKR have been given over the last several years to deserving students of the University of Peshawar.

The University of Peshawar participated in many webinars and events organized by the prestigious Yunnan University under the auspices of the South and Southeast Asian

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

University Network on innovation and entrepreneurship, IT, Mass Communication and Journalism and the fight against COVID, etc.

Nation-building is a gigantic task replete with challenges and the development of higher education through collaboration is no exception. Some likely challenges are cultural differences, administrative hurdles, quality assurance, infrastructure disparities, visa and geopolitical factors. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing communication, mutual understanding, and concerted efforts from both sides to create conducive environment for effective cooperation in higher education.

In the first decade of BRI and CPEC, many goals were achieved despite the pandemic, economic hardships in Pakistan and the very conducive global environment. The relationship between Pakistan and China is termed as higher than the Karakorum, deeper than the Arabian Sea, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel. It is called All-Weather Friendship and Iron Brotherhood. This solid and trustworthy relationship has helped the two countries to transform their challenges into opportunities.

The first decade of BRI and CPEC highlights that there are bright prospects for further cooperation in higher education between China and Pakistan and the Universities and youth of Pakistan are inspired by the win-win model and welcome President Xi Jinping's vision of a community with a shared future.

Promoting Scientific Cooperation to Address Environmental and Socio-Economic Issues in the Mountains and Upland of South and Southeast Asia

Dr Sachi, HUC and ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal invited Prof Zahid Anwar to serve as a panellist in a special session focusing on the Promotion of Scientific Cooperation to Address Environmental and Socio-Economic Issues of the Mountains and Uplands in South and Southeast Asia, as part of the Third President Forum of the South and Southeast Asian University Network hosted by Yunnan University, in Kunming, on 15 December 2023.



Prof Zahid Anwar in his speech stated that Pakistan is an important member of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) which is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge-sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.

The University of Peshawar is the oldest and biggest University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and one of the oldest Universities in Pakistan has considerably contributed to the efforts for the uplift of communities living in the Hindu Kush, Karakorum and Pamir Region. It has many departments that impart education, skills and research related to communities living in Malakand, Chitral and other mountainous regions of Pakistan. In this respect, the Department of Geology, Center of Excellence for Geology, Center for Disaster Preparedness and Management, Department of Environmental Sciences, Department of Geography, Center for Biodiversity, Center for Biotechnology and the Faculty of Social Sciences are worth mentioning. For the last many years, the University of Peshawar has had scientific collaboration with many Universities around the world with a focus on addressing issues related to the people of the mountainous regions. He gave some examples to augment his viewpoint.

The University of Peshawar is actively involved in diverse projects pertinent to the mountain community of Pakistan. The key scientific domains where the faculty of Peshawar University accomplished different projects include 1. Mineral exploration with the support of the local people and students in different areas of Chitral, Skardu and Gilgit, landslide control measures to overcome the severe concern in different

regions of Gilgit Baltistan, frequent exchange of knowledge through collaborative projects between the University of Peshawar and with Karakoram International University, Gilgit, University of Baltistan, Skardu and the University of Chitral. German Research Center of Geoscience in Potsdam Germany has an active research Project with a faculty member from the Department of Geology, University of Peshawar, which covers the geological mapping and mineral exploration aspects of Gilgit, Kohistan and Skardu region. Camborne School of Mines, United Kingdom and China University of Geoscience have also conducted multiple projects with the faculty of the University of Peshawar. Geological evolution of Hazara Region Pakistan with special emphasis on the rock material uses in the construction industry, Camborne School of Mines, UK.

The University of Peshawar Faculty of Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management (CDPM) has completed a project in collaboration with UNDP on Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (HVRA) for the GLOF-II Project of Targeted Valleys in northern areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The project activity aimed to carry out Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment (HVRA) in the GLOF-prone valleys of the target districts in the KP province which will provide a base for the intervention of GLOF's risk reduction activities such as early warning installation, community-based adaptive and mitigate measures. Another worth mentioning UNDP project was the GIS Mapping of Hazard Communities of Potential Hazard Locations (GLOF Lakes) and Interventions in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The project activity aimed to carry out GIS Mapping of Hazard Communities of Potential Hazard Locations (GLOF Lakes) for possible interventions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and also a project focused on the Small Scale Infrastructure to Reduce Medium and Long-Term Risks of Floods (Construction of Gabion Walls, Check Dams, Spillways etc) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The projects aimed to identify the flood-prone households, agricultural lands and other community structures for detailed designing of Gabion Walls, Check Dams or Spillways etc. as disaster risk reduction measures. The targets achieved through the project were Surveys of the target villages, Identification of hazard-prone sites, Geotechnical Tests of the sites, and Detailed designing of the structures.

He talked about how the University of Peshawar collaborated with institutions from China, Germany, the UK, and the US and Karakoram International University, Chitral

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

University in addressing socio-economic issues of the mountainous community in Pakistan. He said that the University of Peshawar always welcomed cooperation with partner Universities for the development of mountainous communities and appreciated the worth appreciation efforts of ICIMOD / HUC for the uplift upland communities in South and Southeast Asia. He underlined that our collective efforts should culminate in the development of the community.

The University of Peshawar produces quality graduates and welcomes to enhance collaboration and networking among the regional universities leading to increased capacity of professional women and men for sustainable mountain development through mountain-specific education. The University of Peshawar welcomes strengthening capacity by developing joint research and knowledge management programmes on environmental or socio-economic issues faced by the mountains community in the Hindukush, Pamir, Karakorum and Himalayan Region.

The University of Peshawar will cooperate with HUC to overcome the shortcomings in terms of capacity and funding. Without an iota of doubt collective efforts will help to develop, share, and adopt curricula designed to train students to meet present mountain challenges and those of the future. The University of Peshawar will contribute to any concerted effort for the betterment of the communities living in the uplands and mountainous regions and will cooperate with HUC/ICIMOD and other Universities to participate in mountain-specific research, education, outreach, and practice to build a new generation of transformational leaders committed to advancing HKH-specific research and innovative policy solutions, he concluded.

During the Forum I also got the opportunity to meet Prof Yang Wei, Vice President of Yuxi Normal University, he invited me to visit Yuxi Normal University. We first met in Zhejiang University at the second annual meeting of the CPEC Consortium of Universities on 1st November 2018, he invited me to the inaugural meeting of the South and Southeast Asian Universities at Yunnan University on 10th December 2018. Prof Dr Zahid Anwar also visited a model village near Kunming at the bank of Dianchi Lake along with the guide, Mr Chen.



China-Pakistan Relations and Internal Political Factors in Pakistan

On 20th December 2023, Prof Dr. Zahid Anwar delivered a lecture to students and faculty of the Institute of International and Regional Studies on China-Pakistan Relations in the context of internal political factors. Prof Zahid Anwar said that Pakistan and China's Friendship is higher than mountains, deeper than the Indian Ocean, sweeter than honey, and stronger than steel. It is also called all-weather friendship and iron brotherhood. Pakistan and China have a convergence of interests on many global and regional issues.

The relations between China and Pakistan further strengthened after the BRI and CPEC. Pakistan and China relations developed have deep historical roots and developed over several decades. It is a model relationship and both countries support each other in many international and regional issues. This friendship between the two countries is considered higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel. It is also called all-weather friendship and iron-brotherhood. This friendship has windswept all storms and restored calms because of it due to its exclusive nature and is still contributing to regional peace and prosperity.

Pakistan and China have established formal diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951. The Asian-African Conference or the Bandung Conference was held in Bandung, Indonesia from 18 to 24 April 1955. During the Bandung Conference the Premier and Foreign Minister of China, Zhou Enlai met twice Muhammad Ali Bogra, the Prime Minister of Pakistan which strengthened understanding between the two countries.

The two countries developed their relations based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence i.e., mutual respect's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and co-operation for mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence. Madam Song Ching Ling, The Vice President of P R China visited Pakistan in 1955. It was the first high-level visit to Pakistan from the Chinese side.

Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited China in 1956 which was the first high-level visit to China from Pakistan. Zhou Enlai, the Premier of China visited Pakistan in 1956. The Sino-Indian War in 1962 considerably influenced politico-strategic developments in the South Asian Region. It brought Pakistan and China closer to one another. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited China in 1963. In 1963 Pakistan and China signed a boundary agreement and also reached the first formal trade agreement.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) started its flights to Beijing in 1964. In 1965 war between Pakistan and India, China diplomatically supported Pakistan. The United States placed an embargo on the supply of military equipment to India and Pakistan on September 8, 1965 and then China became the principal arms supplier to Pakistan. In 1971 war between Pakistan and India, China diplomatically supported Pakistan. Pakistan facilitated Henry Kissinger, US National Security Advisor visit to China in 1971.

And China signed scientific and cultural agreement in 1976. Karakorum Highway that links Northern Areas of Pakistan to Xinjiang was officially opened in 1978. In 1979 revolution occurred in Iran and the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Pakistan and China opposed the Soviet Union occupation of Afghanistan and supported the Mujahiddin (Afghan fighters who resisted the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan).

Pakistan and China signed MOU on educational exchanges in 1983 which paved the way for current robust cooperation in higher education between the two countries. Pakistan and China reached comprehensive nuclear cooperation agreement in 1986. Pakistan and China signed an agreement on Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investments in 1989.

Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, signed Agreement for Traffic in Transit in 1995. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited China in 1995.

China helped Pakistan in the construction of a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant, which was completed in 1999. The defense ties between Pakistan and China further strengthened in 1999 when the two countries signed a contract on development and production of JF-17 aircraft.

In the wake of 11th September 2001 attacks on the US, the NATO troops invaded and occupied Afghanistan. This development considerably influenced the geopolitics of the region. Premier Zhu Rongji visits Pakistan in 2001. Pakistan and China also signed China and Pakistan sign agreement on Tourism Cooperation in 2001.

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Banggu attended ground-breaking ceremony for Pakistan's Gwadar deep-sea port in 2002. China provided \$198 million for \$248 million joint project. Pakistan and China signed Preferential Trade Agreement in 2003 which provided excess to Pakistani exports. The two countries concluded bilateral MoU on Cooperation in Information Technology in 2005. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Pakistan in 2005.

Pakistan and China signed "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Good Neighborly Relations" in 2005 that further cemented the friendship between the two countries. Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Pakistan in 2006. China and Pakistan signed Free Trade Agreement in 2006 which paved the way for enhancing Pakistani exports to China. Pakistan welcomes the Chinese Olympic Torch in Islamabad in 2008. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Pakistan in 2010. JF-17 inducted in Pakistan Air Force in 2010.

Premier Li Keqiang visited Pakistan in May 2013 and Pakistan and China issued a Joint Statement on Deepening Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation, which provided solid foundation to project like China Pakistan Economic corridor. Pakistan and China signed the landmark MOU in 2013 on Cooperation for the Long-term Plan on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Chinese mega initiative in the BRI. Pakistan awarded a contract for the construction and operation of the Gwadar Port to China in 2013. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif visited China and both sides agree to the Common Vision for Deepening China-Pakistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership in the New Era in 2013.

Pakistan and China signed MOU in 2013 on the Cooperation of Developing CPEC Long-term Plan and Actions, opening the flow of Chinese FDI and investment into

Pakistan. Pakistan and China agreed on the construction of the 27 km Orange Line metro train project in Lahore in 2014. In 2014 the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) stated that Pakistan is China's biggest arms buyer, counting for nearly 47% of Chinese arms exports. The two countries celebrated 2015 as the Year of Friendly Exchanges and trade between the two countries reached US \$16 billion.

President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in 2015 and the two countries signed over 50 documents including the agreement on CPEC outlining projects worth USD 46 billion. The pledged investment already raised USD 62 billion. Pakistan and China celebrated the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and unveiled the Long-term Plan of CPEC in 2016.

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif attended the Belt and Road Forum in 2017. Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China in 2018 and both sides agreed to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and jointly build China-Pakistan Community of a Shared Future in the New Era. The China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement phase II was signed in 2018. Prime Minister Imran Khan attended the First China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai in 2018.

The Groundbreaking ceremony of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone was held in 2018. Pakistan launched Remote Sensing Satellite-1 (PRSS-1) in 2018 from China's Jiuquan Satellite Centre which enabled Pakistan to the membership of the prestigious Space Club. The groundbreaking ceremony of Allama Iqbal Industrial City (M3), Faisalabad Special Economic Zone took place in 2019. Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum in 2019. Pakistan and China launched the JWG (Joint Working Group on International Coordination and Cooperation in 2019. The Vice President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Qishan, will visit Pakistan from 26-28 May 2019.

The two sides celebrate 2019 as the year of sister city/province in 2019. Pakistan hosts the Third China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue in Islamabad in 2019. The Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China in October 2019. CPEC Authority has been set up to coordinate and monitor progress on CPEC Projects and a CPEC Cell was also established in the Prime Minister's Office and the 9th JCC took place in Islamabad in November 2019. China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement Phase-II became operational on 1st January 2020.

The Pandemic wreak havoc in the region notwithstanding, during Corona virus pandemic China and Pakistan cooperated and China extensively provided technical and material support due to which the level of damage to human life in Pakistan was considerably contained. President of Pakistan, Arif Alvi visited China in 2020 and many MOUs were signed including the one for the establishment of JWG's on Science & Technology and Agricultural Cooperation.

Wang Yi, the Foreign Minister of China held the 3rd round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Pakistani Foreign in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in 2021 and stated that we agree that a high degree of mutual trust, mutual assistance, seeking peace and promoting development together are the most distinctive features of China-Pakistan relations, and the underlying rationale of our ironclad friendship. During the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to China a Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was issued in 2022 which highlighted every important aspect of this comprehensive relationship between the two countries.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan met President Xi Jinping on 6th February 2022 in Beijing. China supported Pakistan when floods caused considerable damage in Pakistan in 2022. China's Exports to Pakistan were US\$23.09 Billion during 2022. The Prime Minister of Pakistan visited China in October 2023 attended the BRI Forum and met President Xi Jinping which further cemented the comprehensive relations between the two countries.

There are different political parties in Pakistan as there is a multiparty system in the country, analyzing the manifestos and leadership statements of the political parties, all the major political parties are on one page regarding relations with China; they consider China an all-weather friend and want to have close friendly relations with China.

To conclude, People in Pakistan welcomed President Xi Jinping's Initiatives whether it is the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) or the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). The analysis of Pakistan and China relations highlights that the two countries are on the same page on many global and regional issues and shared weal and woe. As time passed, convergence of interests developed and the friendship between Pakistan and

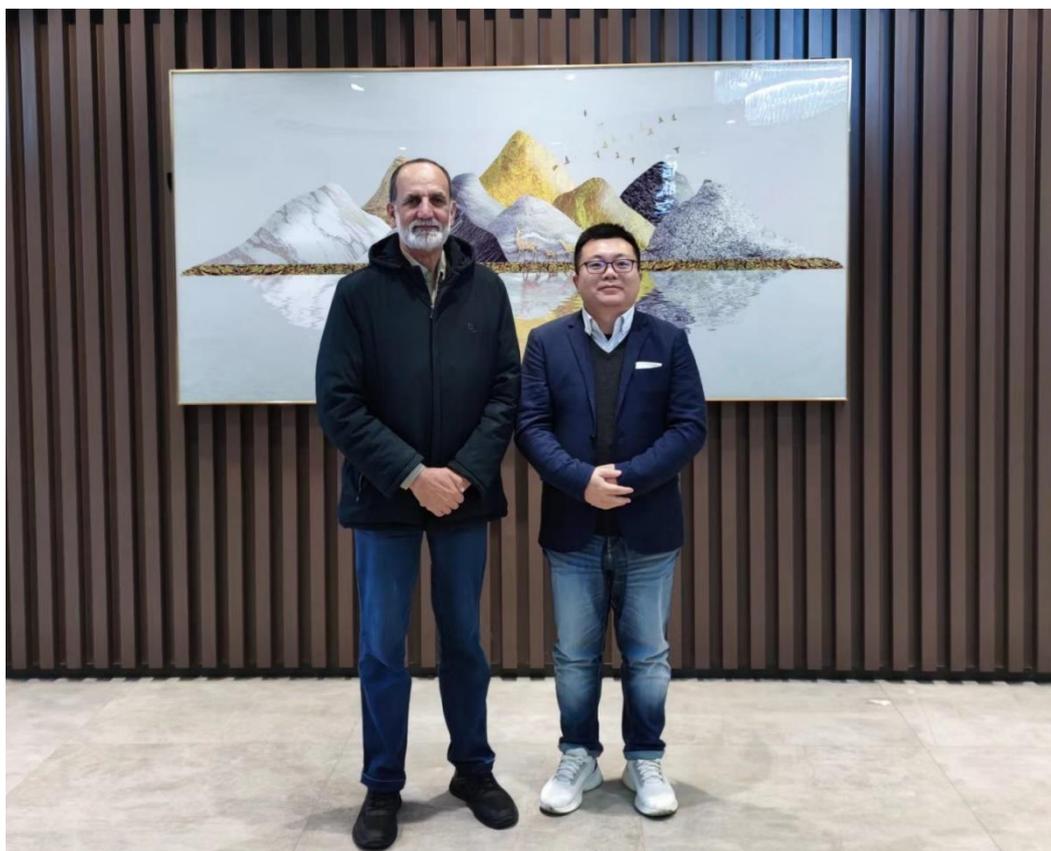
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China strengthened and this iron brotherhood augmented regional stability and prosperity.

This one-month Chair Professorship also provided an opportunity to meet renowned professors and researchers in different Universities of China I shall particularly mention my meetings with Prof Wang Yuhang at UIBE, Beijing and Dr Nian Peng, Director of the Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies on 19th December 2023.

Meeting With Dr Nian Peng, Director of the Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies

Dr Nian Peng said that the Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies (HKRCAS) is a nonprofit research organization focusing on Asian affairs. It is a newly established institution founded in February 2022 by Dr. Nian Peng in Haikou and subsequently moved to Hong Kong in September 2023. He further stated that they currently have an international research team with nearly 100 resident/nonresident researchers from China and other countries.

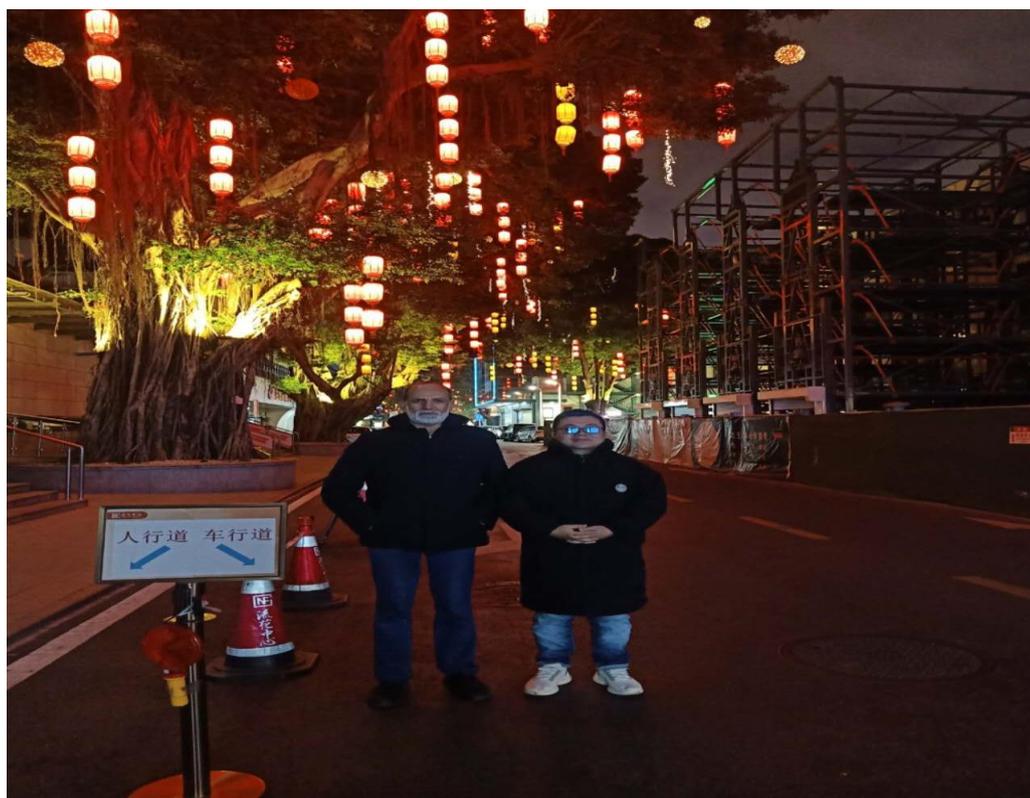


With Dr Nian Peng in Guangzhou

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

HKRCAS aims to become a leading research institute and think tank on Asian affairs in the Indo-Pacific region. To date, RCAS has conducted research programs on maritime disputes in the South China Sea (SCS), China's relations with the Indo-Pacific states, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), terrorism counterterrorism in the Afg-Pak region, and so on.

HKCRAS is committed to promoting maritime cooperation, regional integration, and regional peace in the Indo-Pacific region at large. HKRCAS has published nearly ten books in Chinese and English and more than 20 papers in SSCI/SCOPUS/CSSCI-indexed journals. Prof Zahid Anwar Director, CSF and Dr Nian Peng Director, HKRAS agreed on joint research on important regional issues.



Guangzhou 19th December 2023

BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor): A Way Forward to Cultural and Civilizational Understanding

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar was also invited by the UIBE (University of International Business and Economics, Beijing) for its annual conference, met Prof Wang Yuhang and other colleagues and delivered a presentation on BRI at UIBE in Beijing on 24 November 2023. In my presentation at UIBE, I have highlighted “BRI (Belt and Road

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

Initiative) and CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor): A way Forward to Cultural and Civilizational Understanding”. The opening up and economic reforms in China by Deng Xiaoping and his successors made the Chinese economy the fastest-growing and second-largest in the world. That economic strength enabled it to realize its cherished dream of reviving the legendary Silk Road.



Delivering Keynote Speech at UIBE, Beijing, China



Belt and Road Initiative is the 21st Century Silk Road that was launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013. If the Silk Road is a modern metaphor for sharing and learning

Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Director, China Study Forum, Peshawar, Pakistan: info@pedf.org.pk

across cultures, then BRI is a simile for exploring regional commonalities he added. Prof Zahid Anwar said that CPEC is a flagship project of BRI and the projects under the CPEC framework have created 192,000 jobs, produced 6,000 megawatts of electric power, built 510 kilometers of highways and added 886 kilometers to the core national transmission network in Pakistan.

President Xi Jinping's Global Civilizational Initiative advocates respect for the diversity of civilizations and the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusivity, stresses humanity's common values like peace, development, equality, democracy, and freedom, calls for the inheritance and innovation of traditional cultures, and promotes the strengthening of international people-to-people exchanges that foster mutual understanding. He concluded his speech by saying that a win-win approach, dialogue among civilizations, and mutual learning will pave the way for the realization of the precious dream of a community of shared future.

I am thankful to Yunnan University for this honor especially to Prof. Zhou Xuebin, Prof Hu Jinming, Prof Liu Lei, Prof Wu Yun, Prof Liu Peng and their team at the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange for facilitating my enriching visit and one-month stay at Yunnan University, Kunming, China.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Five principles of peaceful co-existence is the corner stone of Pakistan and China's cooperation in every walk of life including higher education. China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) have contributed a lot to strengthening cooperation in higher education between Chinese and Pakistani Universities. The establishment of the CPEC Consortium of Universities in 2017 with headquarters at Fudan University, Shanghai and the foundation of the South and Southeast Asian University Network with a Secretariat at Yunnan University, Kunming in 2018 has strengthened to a great extent collaboration among the Universities in the region. To date, there are 118 member universities of the South and Southeast Asian Universities Network from 16 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

The Network enhances cooperation among its member Universities through the Presidents` Forum, Chair Professor Program, Universities Ambassadors` Forum, the Network Sub-committees on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Journalism etc. students and faculty exchange and many other such initiatives.

Yunnan University located in Kunming is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in China and is the only university in Yunnan province which has been developed into a "National Key University". It was founded in 1922, as the "University of the Eastern Land". The International Academic Forum of the South and Southeast Asian University Network, organized by the secretariat of the Network, took place in Kunming, China on November 23 to 24 2023 to further promote exchanges and cooperation between higher education institutions in China and South and Southeast Asian countries, and to enhance people-to-people exchanges. The main theme of the forum was "Opportunities and Paths for Cooperation between Universities in China and South and Southeast Asia under the New Situation".

Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar, Vice President (r) of the University of Peshawar in Pakistan, and Ambassador of the University of Peshawar delivered a keynote speech on 23rd November 2023 on behalf of member universities of the South and Southeast Asian University Network.

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In this forum of Theory and Practice of International and Area Studies under the New Situation, Prof Dr Zahid Anwar discussed in detail “The Development of Sinology in Pakistan in the Era of BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor)”.

Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province of China, due to its mild climate; Kunming is also called the City of perennial spring. It has a rich and diverse cuisine culture. Kunming is famous for mushroom production and delicious mushroom dishes. It has an efficient public transport system. The Dounan Flower Market, located in suburban Kunming, is the largest in China. Cuihu Park (Green Lake Park) is one of Kunming's major parks. Dianchi Lake (Dian Lake) is the largest freshwater lake in Yunnan Province.

Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar delivered one lecture on Pakistan and U.S. relations after the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan and another lecture on China-Pakistan Relations and Internal Political Factors in Pakistan at Yunnan University.

In the 6th Kunming Forum on Education Cooperation in South & Southeast Asia on 15th December 2023, Prof. Dr Zahid Anwar discussed strengthening cooperation in higher education among the Network Member Universities and especially cooperation among the partner Universities for the development of mountain communities under the auspices of ICIMOD /HUC.

Recommendations

- ❖ China is a country of lovely people, rich culture and interesting history. One-month Chair Professor program enables experts to a realistic view of China. It is helping to achieve the goals of the South and Southeast Asian University Network
- ❖ Ambassadors of member Universities are playing an important role in enhancing collaboration among the Network Member Universities. Providing opportunities for these ambassadors to visit China will allow them to know Chinese people, history, culture and society.
- ❖ Faculty exchange among member Universities should be strengthened which will broaden their vision as a result they will inculcate that vision among their students.

- ❖ Students Exchange Program among the Network Member Universities should be strengthened which will galvanize the grooming of our future leaders.
- ❖ Though China is a developing country yet it is scientifically very developed and has become a favorite destination for students to study. Chinese Universities should offer more scholarships to the students of the member countries. It will help to empower and educate the young people of other developing countries and on the other it will augment cultural and social understanding among the youth of the member countries.
- ❖ The Network Member Universities encourage and facilitate their students to go to China for higher studies and research.
- ❖ The South and Southeast Asian University Network should launch joint research projects in different fields and collaborate in teaching and academic research.
- ❖ International conferences should be held on important themes that will provide an opportunity for experts to share their views and refine and enrich their expertise.
- ❖ The five-year history of the Network highlights that it is a useful and successful endeavor, now is the time to further institutionalize the activities of the Network and move from general to particular and collaborate in Life and Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences and Numerical Sciences.
- ❖ Before signing the MOU with a Chinese University in Pakistan No Objection Certificate (NOC) from different Government institutions is required, its process is complex and time-consuming sometimes it takes months and years. For smooth and timely research collaboration the NOC process for MOU Approval needs to be simplified.
- ❖ The Network Member Universities should further strengthen cooperation through technology transfer, online course sharing, knowledge exchange, innovation and entrepreneurship.