China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

By Pirzada Jamil

Pakistan was the first Muslim country to recognize China in 1950 and the third non-communist state Pakistan has voted in favor of a bill concerning the securization of China's legitimate rights in the UN. PLA became the first non-communist ally to fly into China in 1964. Pakistan was instrumental in breaking the thaw in initiating US-China relations through what was termed as piquing diplomacy when then US President Nixon and the then Chinese Premier Liu Enl played a role in bringing about the Sino-American relations.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is fast gaining momentum in Pakistan after Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in April 2015. It is a 3,000-km network of roads, railways, and pipelines linking Kashgar in northwestern China's Xinjiang, Uygur Autonomous Region, and southern Pakistan's Gwadar Port. It is also a part of China's proposed "Belt and Road" initiative. The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road are aimed at reviving the ancient trade routes that span Asia, Africa, and Europe.

At the national level, there have been discussions, interactive, and brainstorming sessions on new horizons in Pakistan-China friendship with particular reference to CPEC. The Economic Society (IoEM) organized an interactive session on "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" on 1st December 2015 at IoEM Auditorium. Academics, diplomats, experts, and industry participants participated in the discussion. Attendees included贾志刚, Mr. Wang Zhoin, and representatives from the Chinese Embassy.

Mr. Arif S. Andrabi, President PKFA, Senator Taj Haidar, and Dr. Tahil Wisan organized "Pakistan-China friendship in few words: "Best of Friends, Best of brothers." He reiterated and presented Pakistan-China friendship as higher than the Himalayas" and that CPEC conforms to the pertinent needs of Pakistan's economic development pertaining to human potential, natural resources, energy, infrastructures, and capacity building and would make Pakistan a hub of economic activity. Senator Taj Haidar offered for research and reference on CPEC documents extracts and reports of forthcoming Bills, Diverting between China's concern for development cooperation and other businesslike donor, Mr. Taj Haidar highlighted China's will for developing human resource and infrastructures for the recipients towards self-reliance as compared to the latter's "aid with strings tied policy." As such, CPEC would be a boon to Pakistan's economy through infrastructural development and creation of industrial and export zones.

Dr. Strategist Wisan, IoEM Economics Department said that other countries, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republic, and Iran, could also benefit from CPEC. He opined that we could start building industrial clusters around Balochistan, KPK, and Pakistan...