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Speakers highlight importance of CPEC



Speakers at a conference highlighted the importance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) saying the project would prove a catalyst of economic change in the country. A two-day International Conference on "The State of Pakistan's Economy: Issues and Challenges in the 21st Century," was held at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) on Tuesday, according to IoBM Public Affairs Section. Issues pertaining to economy, trade, agriculture, environment, energy, climate, industry and society were discussed at various sessions of the Conference.

Oleg N. Avdee, Consular General of Russian Federation, Dr Shahida Wizarat, Dean CESD, Chief Editor Pakistan Business Review (PBR) and HoD Economics Department, IoBM, also the Convenor of the Conference; Ambassador (Retd.) Syed Hasan Javed, Director, Chinese Centre, NUST, Islamabad; and Dr Natalia Zamaraeva, Senior Researcher, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russia also spoke at the conference.

Talib S. Karim, Rector IoBM in his opening remarks, apprised participants of different programs and courses being offered at IoBM. He said IoBM was guiding students to pursue entrepreneurial projects to become job creators and not job seekers. He said through IoBM's Student Exchange Program a number of students gained international learning and knowledge.

The Guest of Honor Oleg N. Avdee asserted that the deliberations made during this Conference should enable us to create a better economic future. He stressed upon the significance of Pakistan-Russia in business projects for mutual growth and in creating regional harmony.

Dr Shahida Wizarat elaborated various aspects of an action plan for Pakistan's sustainable economic development in her research paper "A Secure, Strong and Prosperous Pakistan-Some Policy Guidelines." Her proposed policy guidelines on improving Pakistan's economic health focused on agriculture, industry, physical and social infrastructure, natural resources, trade and finance and the need for elevating honest, competent, and patriotic Pakistanis in leadership positions.

Syed Hasan Javed in his paper "Learning Lessons from China's Economic Reforms and Open Door Policy" opined that the CPEC was going to be a 'game changer' for Pakistan. He said that countries develop their economies by implementing economic reforms therefore Pakistan must reforms as exercised by China including collective leadership, investment in human capital and research, and by learning from global best practices. Dr Natalia Zamaraeva shared her perspective on "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Prospects and Challenges." She underlined China's assistance to Pakistan in expanding cooperation in the fields of infrastructural development, electricity, engineering, technology, and environment.

The Conference was also attended by Andrey V. Fedorov, Senior Consul/Deputy Chief of Mission, Russian Consulate in Karachi; Memon Abdul Jabbar, Honorary Consul to Ukraine at Karachi; Khalid Rahman, Director General, Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad; and Dr Abdul-Salam Lodhi, Associate Professor, Economics, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences.

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