



# CPEC STUDY CENTER

## UNIVERSITY OF GWADAR



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024-25

Prepared by: CPEC Study Centre  
University of Gwadar, Balochistan, Pakistan

# CONTENTS

◆ Introduction	01
◆ Message of the Vice Chancellor	02
◆ Message of the Pro Vice Chancellor	03
◆ Online Seminar on China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Tourism in Pakistan: Exploring and Capitalizing the Hidden Opportunities	04
◆ University of Gwadar's CPEC Study Centre Strengthens Collaboration with Fudan University, China	05
◆ University of Gwadar Faculty Participates in CPEC Consortium of Universities in China	06
◆ University of Gwadar Becomes Member of CPEC Consortium of Universities	07
◆ Director CPEC Study Centre Visits Wuhan Central Group	07
◆ CPEC Study Centre Director Keynotes at Sun Yat-Sen University	07
◆ Online Seminar on China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Federalism in Pakistan	08
◆ CPEC Study Centre's participation in Research and Capacity Building Workshop for Humanities and Social Sciences by Lahore University of Management Sciences LUMS and Association for Asian Studies AAS	09
◆ CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar Participates in 5th CPEC Universities Exchange Mechanism Conference	10
◆ Online Seminar on "China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Understanding of Western China"	11
◆ Research Publications by the staff CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar	12
◆ Future Plans of the Centre	12
◆ EDITORIAL BOARD	13

# INTRODUCTION

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is part of the One Belt, One Road project and has created a tremendous amount of interest among policymakers, scholars, as well as Chinese industries and investors wishing to invest in Pakistan and Pakistani firms desiring increased relations in China through the CPEC framework for investment opportunities, exchanges of technology and skills, and knowledge diffusion. Gwadar, being the gateway of CPEC, will host the bulk of CPEC-related economic, commercial, and entrepreneurial activities. As the only university in Gwadar, the University of Gwadar was keen on developing a Center for CPEC Studies to promote collaborative research, explore business avenues, and facilitate exchanges among China, Pakistan, and other stakeholders in CPEC projects. The Center is named "CPEC Studies, the Centre University of Gwadar".

Commencing activities under CPEC has generated business interest from both China and Pakistan. However, many issues hinder the smooth operations of the business and other joint ventures under the CPEC umbrella. The University of Gwadar is actively interested in developing and disseminating knowledge on economic, management, social, and cultural issues surrounding CPEC through the CPEC Study Centre. The Centre would like to help Chinese businesses become familiar with Pakistan's business, cultural, and legal environment, and help Pakistani businesses gain knowledge of Chinese culture, business norms, and legal frameworks. The Centre conducts research and meets its intended objectives through executive education and training.

CPEC Study Centre will be a leading policy-guiding think-tank and research center for the effective implementation of the CPEC portfolio. The mandate of the Centre is to conduct core research on CPEC, to promote a true narrative of CPEC, to guide CPEC implementers on policy matters, and to train the business community on CPEC-related business opportunities. The Centre will share its research with all potential stakeholders and concerned agencies, enhance awareness of this mega initiative, and encourage researchers to contribute to research on CPEC-related activities.

The Centre will launch a quarterly publication to publish updates and analyses on CPEC-related areas, and will also hold conferences, seminars, and roundtables to formulate recommendations for policy-making government departments, other organizations, and industries. The Centre will also liaise and coordinate all major collaborations between the University of Gwadar and the universities, HEIs, and research institutes in China. Therefore, establishing the CPEC Study Center at the University of Gwadar is an important step that would have a significant, positive impact on CPEC-related research and policy recommendations. It will provide a base for learning not only about Chinese society but also a window of opportunity to take advantage of this platform by developing research collaborations with Chinese Universities.

## VISION

To strengthen the economic, social, and geopolitical cooperation between China and Pakistan on the Platform of CPEC.

## MISSION

To build up strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan, specifically in the areas of business, economics, and geopolitics. Promotion of CPEC as a game-changing project not only for Pakistan and China but also for the other neighboring countries.

## OBJECTIVES

To study the geo-strategic and geo-economic dimensions of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC to understand their long-term impacts on Pakistan. To develop the capacity of universities and to provide policy input to governments on the challenges emerging in the wake of the implementation of the CPEC long term plan. To develop an understanding of Chinese history, culture, and the governance system that has created the Chinese miracle while drawing lessons for our own development.

# Vice Chancellor's Message



I congratulate the CPEC Study Centre at the University of Gwadar for taking this initiative to publish its second annual report for 2024-25. The China-Pakistan Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI), acts as a vital bridge that connects China with Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia. By linking China with the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf, CPEC will indeed expand trade potential and enhance the energy security of the region. It will directly benefit the people of China and Pakistan. I am particularly pleased to note that the Centre,

in this short span of time, arranged many constructive and positive sessions on the project of CPEC. These sessions provided valuable recommendations and ways out for the success and expansion of this megaproject. The role of academia is highly significant in the successful completion of development and energy projects under CPEC. China and CPEC study centres in the higher education sectors will certainly play a pivotal role in filling all those gaps that need comprehensive research on CPEC and BRI. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the director of the centre, Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, and his staff team for their efforts in this regard.

I am very hopeful that the CPEC study centre at the University of Gwadar will open new avenues of research for researchers, scholars, intellectuals, academicians and students to explore CPEC and its role in the socio-economic development of Gwadar and Balochistan. I express my gratitude to everyone involved and offer my best wishes for their continued endeavours in furthering the mission of the CPEC Study Centre at the University of Gwadar.

**Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir (TI)**  
Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar

# Pro-Vice Chancellor's Message

The CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar, serves as a think tank, a reservoir of information, and a research centre, arranges talks among experts and well-known scholars, disseminates knowledge, and develops research on the subjects of the political economy of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The centre is fully functional and performing its impressive role by arranging sessions ranging from the global and regional imperatives of CPEC and challenges that it faces in the contemporary world. The CPEC Study Centre is also keen



to bring the importance of Balochistan and Gwadar into the limelight of Pakistani and Chinese academia, politics, and economies land scape. CPEC is now entering its second phase, and it is time to be academically more focused on both its accomplishments and problems. Socio-economic development, together with the industrialization of Gwadar and Balochistan within the framework of CPEC, is in dire need of time. CPEC can never be fully translated into absolute reality until and unless industrialization not only within the Gwadar Free Economic Zone but in entire Balochistan is wholly started, and for that, the CPEC study centre is planning to provide academic recommendations to policymakers from its own platform.

The second annual report of the centre provides an overview of the centre's performance in the years 2024-25 by shedding light on the sessions, events, and range of important contributions made by the members of the centre. I am very hopeful that in the upcoming future, the centre will give its full potential to become the flagship Centre of the University of Gwadar, by utilizing its resources and bringing in light the key dimensions of CPEC and its projects which will, hopefully transforms the entire socio-economic land scape of not only Gwadar and Pakistan but the entire region.

**Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed**  
Pro-Vice Chancellor / Director CPEC Study Centre,  
University of Gwadar

# Online Seminar on China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Tourism in Pakistan: Exploring and Capitalizing the Hidden Opportunities

on  
**CPEC AND TOURISM  
IN PAKISTAN; EXPLORING  
AND CAPITALIZING THE  
HIDDEN OPPORTUNITIES**

Organized by  
**CPEC Study Centre  
University of Gwadar**

**Speakers**

**Dr. Abdul Sattar**  
Director China Study Centre  
BUISTEMS, Quetta

**Dr. Dost Muhammad Barrech**  
Department of International Relations,  
University of Balochistan, Quetta

**Muhammad Irshad Buledi**  
Director ORIC, University of Gwadar

**Moderator**  
**Naveed Razzaq**  
CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar

**Monday, 06 May 2024**  
**10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

<https://zoom.us/j/99515343256?pwd=VkhHOEdOSXA3NkhtRE5GUFRnVkJZdz09>

@uniofgwd @uniofgwd @uniofgwd www.ug.edu.pk

The CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar organized a virtual seminar titled “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Tourism in Pakistan: Exploring and Capitalizing the Hidden Opportunities.” The event brought together faculty, researchers, and students from across Pakistan to discuss the role of tourism in socio-economic development under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Distinguished speakers included Abdul Sattar, Director of the China Study Centre BUISTEMS, Quetta; Dost Muhammad Bareech, Lecturer at the University of Balochistan; and Irshad Ahmed Buledi, Director of Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization, University of Gwadar. The seminar was moderated by Naveed Razzaq, Lecturer at the CPEC Study Centre, who also introduced the centre’s work to participants.

Dr. Abdul Sattar highlighted the historical development of tourism in South Asia and stressed the need for national consensus in policy-making. He noted that successive governments have often overlooked long-term tourism strategies, and emphasized that CPEC provides a unique opportunity for socio-economic growth in Pakistan and Balochistan. He urged local investors and the business community to actively participate in tourism development along CPEC routes.

Dr. Dost Muhammad Bareech presented his paper, “Revival of Gandhara Civilization under CPEC,” emphasizing the historical and religious significance of Gandhara and the potential for Buddhist tourism from 27 ASEAN countries. He suggested that Pakistan could replicate China’s soft power strategy to enhance its global image while promoting religious harmony.

Mr. Irshad Buledi highlighted the tourism potential of Balochistan’s coastal areas, including Astola Island, and stressed the importance of applying Chinese development models to fully capitalize on local resources. The seminar concluded with an interactive discussion, reinforcing

the significance of tourism development under CPEC for Pakistan's economic and cultural growth.



## University of Gwadar's CPEC Study Centre Strengthens Collaboration with Fudan University, China



Director of the CPEC Study Centre and Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar Prof. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed met Zhang Jiadong, Director of the Centre for South Asian Studies and Dean of the BRI Strategy Institute at Fudan University, China. During the meeting, they decided that the CPEC Study Centre and the Centre for South Asian Studies would work together. Their focus will be on evaluating the Belt and Road Initiative in general and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in particular. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed informed the Chinese academicians that the CPEC Study Centre at Gwadar University has

organized several seminars and webinars. These events explored the problems and prospects of CPEC Phase I, drawing on input from national and international scholars.

He said it is now the right time for Pakistani and Chinese scholars to work together to provide significant recommendations for the success of CPEC Phase II. Dr. Jiadong assured that the Centre for South Asian Studies will work closely with the CPEC Center in future.

## University of Gwadar Faculty Participates in CPEC Consortium of Universities in China



The University of Gwadar became a permanent member of the CPEC Consortium of Universities in August 2024. The CPEC Study Centre at the University of Gwadar formally applied for membership in the CPEC Cell of the Higher Education Commission. By becoming a permanent member, the University of Gwadar has been continuously participating in international exchange programs and attending national-level seminars organized by the CPEC Consortium. A long-weekend advanced training program under the CPEC consortium of Universities was held at Tianjin Foreign Studies University, China. The program was conducted for senior faculty members and administrative officials from the Pakistan Higher Education Commission HEC and the China Association of Higher Education (CAHE). The University of Gwadar was represented by Mr. Irshad Ahmed, Lecturer in Management Sciences and Director of ORIC, and Mr. Obaid Ali, Director of Financial Aid and Lecturer in the Department of Management Sciences. The program focused on contemporary global trends in higher education worldwide and their productive replication in Pakistani and Chinese universities through joint collaboration. Participants also undertook study visits to key cultural and historical institutions and sites in China. Vice Chancellor UG Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir congratulated Mr. Irshad and Mr. Obaid on the successful completion of the training and expressed confidence that such training would enhance the academic capabilities of the faculty in the future.



## UG Becomes Member of CPEC Consortium of Universities

The University of Gwadar has officially become a member of the CPEC Consortium of Universities. Through the CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar, the university will pursue academic and research projects aligned with the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative.

The membership was confirmed by Safdar Ali Shah, Director General of the CPEC Consortium at the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad. Vice Chancellor Abdul Razzaq Sabir and Pro-Vice Chancellor Syed Manzoor Ahmed lauded the CPEC Study Centre team for securing this milestone, which will strengthen Pakistan-China research collaboration and promote solutions for CPEC-related challenges through joint academic initiatives.



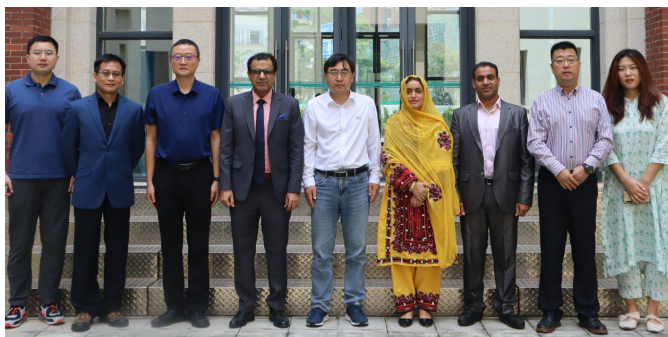
## Director of CPEC Study Centre Visits Wuhan Central Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation

Director of the CPEC Study Centre and Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, paid a visit to Wuhan Central Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation Wuhan, China, in October 2025. During his meeting with the director of the WCFETC, a joint agreement was signed where it was decided that both organizations will start a series of academic webinars and programs on the working of the Belt and Road Initiative BRI and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC.



## Director CPEC Study Centre University of Gwadar visits Sun Yat-University, China

Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, Director of the CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar and Pro-Vice Chancellor, visited the School of International Relations at Sun Yat-Sen University, China. He delivered a keynote on “Understanding Pakistan-China Relations Under CPEC and Beyond” at the seminar “CPEC Cooperation and China-Pakistan Relations,” highlighting Gwadar’s strategic role, industrial development needs, improved connectivity, and the importance of a skilled workforce to unlock the region’s economic potential.



# Online Seminar on China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Federalism in Pakistan

on  
**CHINA PAKISTAN  
ECONOMIC CORRIDOR  
AND FEDERALISM IN  
P A K I S T A N**

Organized by  
**CPEC Study Centre  
University of Gwadar**

**Speaker**  
**Dr. Filippo Boni**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Politics and International Relations,  
The Open University, United Kingdom

**Moderator**  
**Naveed Razzaq**  
CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar

**Wednesday, 20 Nov 2024**  
**02:00 PM to 03:00 PM**

<https://zoom.us/j/98207987084?pwd=dh2Bva3DI7U5t27j5IzHMA2FncPw8.1>

A virtual seminar on the topic “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC and Federalism in Pakistan” was recently organized by the CPEC Study Center at the University of Gwadar. Renowned expert on CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative, Dr. Filippo Boni from the Department of Politics and International Relations at The Open University of the United Kingdom, was the speaker at the event. Registrar, University of Gwadar, Mr. Dolat Khan; Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Jan Muhammad; and Dean, Faculty of Sciences and Engineering, Dr. Mohib Ullah, attended the event along with the university’s faculty members. The event was moderated by Mr. Naveed Razzaq, in charge CPEC Study Center’s at the University of Gwadar.

Dr. Filippo delved into various dimensions of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Pakistan’s federalism, providing detailed insights into their impact at the national and provincial levels. He further argued that the topic of the center-periphery debate revolving around the

- Centralised from the start
- Slight increase in provincial autonomy following 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- Centre-province tensions since the very inception
- To what extent has all this been translated in CPEC?
- Focus on institutional setup and energy, transport and Gwadar

**Table 3. De/centralization in Pakistan compared: 1956 and 2020.**

	Legislative mean	Administrative mean	Fiscal Mean	I1 constitutional autonomy	I2 Provinces' institutional autonomy	I3 Central manipulation of provincial elections
1956	3.9	4.0	3.2	2	4	3
2020	3.5	3.9	3.6	3	6	3



China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has received less scholarly attention from both the local and international academia. In the discussion on the western and eastern routes of CPEC, he said it's quite astonishing that the eastern route has consistently been given greater preference over the western one, despite the limited role of the provinces. He further stressed that provinces should be fully taken on board in decision-making at the center, for which the Council of Common Interests (CCI) platform is of great importance. In the discussion of Gwadar's socio-economic development, he felt delighted that projects like Pakistan-China Technical and Vocational Institute PCTVI have been completed and are running effectively under the University of Gwadar.

At the end, during the question-and-answer session, Dr. Filipoo answered various questions from participants in the conference hall of the CPEC Study Centre.

## **CPEC Study Centre's participation in Research and Capacity Building Workshop for Humanities and Social Sciences by LUMS and Association for Asian Studies AAS**

Lahore University of Management Sciences LUMS in collaboration with the Association of South Asian Studies AAS organized a two-day skills-building workshop for the faculty members of Pakistani Academia. This workshop is the first in a series of practical steps to address the long-standing imbalances in Pakistani educational centers. Like most developing countries, Pakistan has been trying to devote the requisite funding to its higher education sector. The workshop is designed to provide an opportunity to improve the research and professional capabilities of the selected cohort of early-career faculty members. Naveed Razzaq, in charge of the CPEC Study Centre, represented the University of Gwadar, Balochistan. During the sessions on cultivating the humanities and social sciences sector, Mr. Naveed highlighted the importance of research centers and their role in developing social sciences within Pakistani universities. Socio-economic development in the federating units, the problem of climate change in Pakistan, professional networking and community engagement were the main themes of the workshop.



## CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar Participates in The 5<sup>th</sup> CPEC Universities Exchange Mechanism Conference



The Fifth Meeting of the Exchange Mechanism of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Consortium of Universities and the “Silk Road Wisdom” Conference on building the China-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor was held at Shenzhen University in Shenzhen, China on June 16, 2025. The event was organized under the guidance of the China Association of Higher Education and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

The conference brought together representatives from leading Chinese and Pakistani universities to strengthen academic cooperation and promote joint research under the CPEC framework.

The CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar participated in the conference, with Naveed Razzaq representing the university. During the event, the University of Gwadar highlighted its growing role in regional academic development and shared insights on learning from Chinese practices to address climate change challenges in Balochistan.

The conference provided an important platform to enhance academic collaboration and educational exchange between Pakistan and China.



# Online Seminar on “China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Understanding of Western China”



The CPEC Study Center, University of Gwadar organized a virtual seminar titled “The Prospects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: The Understanding of Western China” on March 5, 2025. The keynote speaker was Matthew MacCartney, a renowned expert on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative, former director of Asian programs at University of Oxford and senior instructor at the Charter Cities Institute, Washington, USA.

Faculty members and students from various departments of the university attended the seminar, while researchers from institutes in Islamabad and Quetta joined online. The session was moderated by Naveed Razzaq, In-Charge of the CPEC Study Center.

During his talk, Dr. MacCartney discussed the historical role of port cities in economic development and highlighted China’s strategy of developing western regions, particularly Xinjiang, as an economic hub. He noted that Pakistan could learn from these development models through CPEC.

The seminar concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session where participants engaged with the speaker on various aspects of CPEC and regional development.



## Research Publications by the staff CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar

	Name	Designation	Reference Title	Year
1	<b>Naveed Razzaq</b>	In charge CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar	Reconstructing the Past; The Medieval and Pre-Medieval Makran, <b>Journal of Development and Social Sciences JDSS</b>	Published 2025
2	<b>Naveed Razzaq</b>	In charge CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar	Role of China Pakistan Economic Corridor in the Economic Development of Balochistan. <b>Daily Gwadar Times</b>	Published 2025
3	<b>Naveed Razzaq</b>	In charge CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar	China Pakistan Economic Corridor and Climate change in Balochistan; Problems and Prospects <b>Journal of Development and Social Sciences JDSS</b>	Published 2024
4	<b>Naveed Razzaq</b>	In charge CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar	Replicating Chinese Agricultural Models in Balochistan: Opportunities and way forward under China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC Phase 2 <b>Journal of Development and Social Sciences JDSS</b>	Abstract Accepted 2025

## Future Plans of the Centre

CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar, is planning to arrange a seminar and a workshop on the sustainability of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC and Pakistan-China relations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China relations, which will be completed in 2026. Renowned Chinese and Pakistani academicians will be invited to share their views. Meanwhile, the center will soon organize an online webinar on CPEC Phase II.

CPEC Study Centre is going to start a bi-annual research by the title "China Pakistan Economic Corridor Review CPECR" in 2026. China Pakistan Economic Corridor Review will encourage quality research articles in social sciences. Journal will accept quantitative and qualitative original papers covering China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC, Belt and Road Initiative BRI, Pakistan-China Relations, Chinese language and Culture, Defense and Strategic Studies.

An international conference "Significance of Gwadar as a Regional and Commercial Hub" is also scheduled to be held in 2026 with the joint collaboration of ORIC and CPEC center university of Gwadar.



**PATRON-IN-CHIEF**  
Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir (TI)  
Vice Chancellor



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Prof. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed  
Pro-Vice Chancellor / Director  
CPEC Study Centre



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Lecturer CPEC Study Centre



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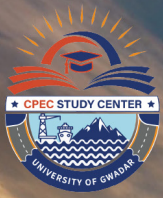


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# CPEC STUDY CENTER

## UNIVERSITY OF GWADAR



## Annual Report 2024-25



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