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China Pakistan Economic Corridor
CPEC
SECRETARIAT



CPEC

Study Centre

THE UNIVERSITY OF GWADAR

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



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INTRODUCTION

The University of Gwadar is the only multi disciplinary public sector general university, chartered by the government of Balochistan. Before converting into an autonomous university, it remained a sub-campus of the University of Turbat from 2017 to 2021. Keeping in view the importance of CPEC and Gwadar Port and the establishment of Special Economic Zones in Balochistan, the University of Gwadar has formally established an academic and research institute, namely the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Study Centre, in the second meeting of the university's syndicate meeting held on October 2, 2022. The Centre focuses on different themes of CPEC and its socio-economic potential, along with organizing lecture sessions, conferences, seminars, and webinars on its sustainability and development. Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar, and prominent economist, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, was appointed as the first and founding director of CPECSC. The Centre is actively interested in developing and disseminating knowledge relating to economic, management, social and cultural issues surrounding CPEC through the CPEC Study Centre. The Centre aims to help Chinese businesses become familiar with the business, cultural and legal environment in Pakistan and help Pakistani businesses gain knowledge of Chinese culture, business norms, and legal frameworks. The Centre conducts research and meets of its intended objectives through executive education and training workshops.

The CPEC Study Centre not only evaluates the work of projects related to CPEC but it also academically highlights problems and grievances associated with it. The mandate of the Centre is to conduct core research on CPEC, to promote a true narrative of CPEC, to guide policies related to the CPEC projects and to train the business community on CPEC-related business opportunities.

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.

MESSAGE FROM VICE CHANCELLOR



I congratulate the CPEC Study Centre at the University of Gwadar for taking this initiative to publish its first annual report for 2022-23. 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 (T I)
Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar

MESSAGE FROM PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR

The CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar, is 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 first annual report of the centre provides an overview of the centre's performance in the years 2022-23 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

Session on topic “Global and Regional Imperatives of CPEC”



CPEC Study Centre organized its first session on the topic Global and Regional Imperatives of CPEC on October 12, 2022, at the hall of the University of Gwadar, in which former Secretary and Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) Foreign Affairs Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry addressed the faculty members and students of UG.



While he was accompanied in the lecture session by Naghmana Hashmi, former Pakistani ambassador to China, Dr. Zahid Anwar Pro Vice Chancellor of Peshawar University, Farrukh Patafi, columnist, Raja Amir Iqbal, former chairman of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Zahid Latif Khan, President of Islamabad Stock Exchange. Shakeel Munir, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China Pakistan Study Center, University of Gwadar Registrar Dolat Khan, Director Finance Shafi Muhammad was also present.

Pro Vice Chancellor UG Professor Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed in his opening remarks thanked the distinguished guests for coming to the University and briefed the delegation about the University. The Pro Vice-Chancellor further said that Gwadar University is looking forward to collaboration from all relevant institutions including Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Islamabad Stock Exchange, University of Peshawar and China Pakistan Study Center in teaching, academic and research fields. On this occasion former Secretary and Director General Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Foreign Affairs Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said that it was a great pleasure to come to Gwadar University. Universities are the heart of any city. The future of Pakistan is connected with this CEPC City and the heart of Gwadar is Gwadar University. At the end of the session, Pro Vice-Chancellor UG Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed presented the commemorative shields of the university to the distinguished guests on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir.

Session on “Great Power Rivalry or Cooperation Gwadar Pakistan, and Geo Economics”



In the Eighth Gwadar Book Festival, the CPEC Study Centre at the University of Gwadar (UG) organized a session on “Great Power Rivalry or Cooperation? Gwadar, Pakistan, and Geo Economics on February 25th, 2023, in RCDC Gwadar. The keynote speaker was Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed. Other panelists at the discussion included Dr. Aqdas Afzal, Program Director at Habib University, and Mir Sher Baz Khetran, a researcher at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI). The discussion was moderated by PVC Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor University of Gwadar. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar, Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, was also present at the session.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said Pakistan was in a strategic location where huge transformations and transitions were taking place, with the peaceful rise of China and Pakistan endeavoring to be the hub of regional connectivity through CPEC by making a transition from geopolitics to geo-economics. The programme director at Habib University, Dr. Aqdas Afzal, said that. The economies of the countries were also considered far away from the economies of the United States, but now China has achieved its economic development to a considerable extent. At the end of the session, there was a question-and-answer segment in which the participants asked questions to the panelists. Former President RCDC Gwadar Khuda Bakhsh Hashim, Dr. Badal Khan, political and social personalities, faculties, and students of the university were present.

Two-Days Workshop on topic “Youth Capacity Building” in Commemoration of “Decade of CPEC and BRI”



A two-day training workshop on “Youth Capacity Building” in commemoration of the “Decade of CPEC and BRI” was organized by the CPEC Study Centre at the University of Gwadar on July 7th and 8th, 2023.

Dr. Nazeer Hussain, the former Dean of Social Sciences at Quaid-i-Azam University; Ms. Reema Shaukat of the Institute of Regional Studies; and Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor at the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, were the resource persons for the workshop. The Registrar of the University of Gwadar, Mr. Dolat Khan, welcomed the guests and participants and highlighted the importance of the workshop on the first day. He thanked Dr. Nazeer Hussain and his team for their time and devotion to the workshop as resource people. Dr. Nazeer Hussain formally started the first session of the workshop by shedding light on the geopolitics of Balochistan and its importance in regional and global politics. He highlighted the importance of Gwadar in terms of regional connectivity and said that the definition of geopolitics in today’s world is getting closer to the oceans and maritime other than the traditional land territory. He urged the participants to understand the geo-strategic importance of Gwadar and CPEC and play a passionate role in its socio-economic development. Dr. Salma Malik talked about the rich economic resources of Balochistan and presented ways to capitalize on them. Ms. Reema Shaukat identified and talked about the opportunities for youth capacity building in today’s world of digitalization. She also identified opportunities for the youth of Gwadar on the platform of CPEC. The Chief Guest for the second day of the workshop was the Director General





Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Mr. Mujeeb Qambarani.

Pro Vice Chancellor and Director of CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar, Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, welcomed once again the speakers and participants of the workshop. Dr. Manzoor in his opening remarks threw light on the historical development of the decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He said that the CPEC has undoubtedly changed the regional connectivity of this region to a great extent and emphasized the need for the youth to point out their weaknesses and try their best to meet the global requirements for competition. Director General Gwadar Development Authority Mujeeb ur Rehman Qambarani, in his speech to the participants, discussed the role of the provincial government and the Gwadar Development Authority in the development of Gwadar City. He appreciated the efforts of the CPEC Study Centre in organizing such a successful event and assured that GDA will fully support the university and its center in arranging such workshops in the future. At the end of the second session, the Pro Vice-Chancellor University of Gwadar and DG GDA distributed commemorative souvenirs of the university to the distinguished guests and certificates to the participants on behalf of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar Prof. Dr Abdul Razzaq Sabir.



Honorary Fellowship Positions for Mr. Zheng Baozhong and Mrs. Mariyam Suleman Anees at the CPEC Study Centre UG.

The CPEC study centre at the University of Gwadar has hired the services of Mr. Zhang Baozong and Mrs. Mariyam Suleman Anees for the promotion of research on the workings of Gwadar Port, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Mr. Zhang Baozong has been appointed as an honorary visiting professor and research fellow at the CPEC Study Centre, University of Gwadar. He is currently working as director of the China Fund for Peace and Development, Honorary Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company and Visiting Professor at Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Hunan, China. Mr. Zhang Baozong remained at Gwadar for about 7 years as chairman China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC). He played a pivotal role in the functionalization of Gwadar port. Apart from this, Baozong actively played his role in the socio-economic development of Gwadar city under the CPEC project.



Mariyam Suleman Anees is a development specialist, freelance writer, and researcher from Gwadar. She completed her masters in Gender and Development Studies at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Her main focus is Gwadar and the Balochistan region, and she writes on politics, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and gender and development issues. Her work has appeared in Dawn, Herald, and Global Editors' Network Den. She is also a scholar of the British High Commission's Chevening program.

One-day International Conference on "Significance of Gwadar as a Regional and Commercial Hub: History, Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward"

The CPEC Study Centre in collaboration with Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) is organizing a one-day research conference on the "Significance of Gwadar as a Regional and Commercial Hub: History, Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward" expectedly scheduled in April 2024. The conference will provide a platform for academicians and researchers to present their research and ideas on regional and geopolitical importance of

Gwadar with a special reference to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The core objective of the conference is to identify the potentials of Gwadar in the socio-economic development of Pakistan in general and

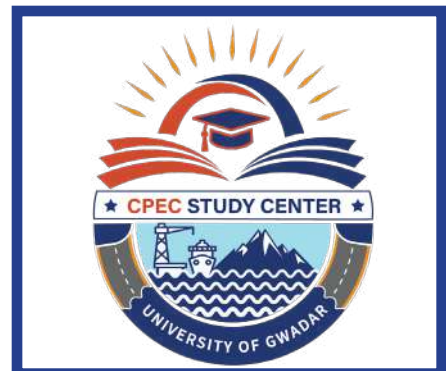


Balochistan in particular. The conference will also shed light on the historical significance of Gwadar as a strategic city in past.

UG Membership in the “CPEC Consortium of Universities” by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has recently taken an initiative, namely “Academic Collaboration under the CPEC Consortium of Universities,” which is anticipated to support promising research partnerships between Pakistan and China, aiming at finding solutions to CPEC-related problems through joint research by the universities of Pakistan and China, drawing upon the research potential of academia on both sides. Keeping in view the scope and foreseeable impact of CPEC, this initiative will go a long way in supporting collaborative research proposals and addressing problems and issues pertaining to Pakistan’s socio-economic development in general and CPEC in particular.

The University of Gwadar has formally applied for membership through the CPEC Study Centre by fulfilling all its indispensable prerequisites. The CPEC Cell of the Higher Education Commission has formally accepted the request of the case of UG for its upcoming annual meeting scheduled for May 2024. The membership in the CPEC consortium of universities will allow the University of Gwadar and the CPEC study centre to go for further research on the different dimensions of both the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).



Virtual Seminar On “Contemporary Issues and Political Economy of China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC”



A virtual seminar on the topic ‘Contemporary Issues and Political Economy of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor’ was recently organized by the CPEC Study Centre at the University of Gwadar. Distinguished speakers at the event included Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar, Dr. Rashid Ahmed, Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations at National Defense University, Islamabad, Dr. Khalid Khan, Senior Policy Researcher at the Balochistan Civil Services, and an Associate Professor at LUAWMS, and Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, Dean of the Faculty of MS, Commerce, and Social Sciences at the University of Gwadar. The event was moderated by Dr. Kambar Farooq, Director of QEC, and Controller of Examinations at the University of Gwadar. The esteemed speakers delved into various dimensions of CPEC, providing detailed insights into its impact on regional and economic dynamics, the political environment, and various socio-economic factors. Topics of discussion included the role of CPEC in addressing regional disparities and fostering national cohesion, its contribution to economic inclusivity, the political dimensions of CPEC, economic inclusivity in Pakistan, regional disparities in the country, the origins of CPEC, internal and external threats to CPEC, and various other significant aspects. Prof. Manzoor Ahmed formally concluded the event, expressing gratitude to all the speakers and participants. He underscored the importance of continuing discussions on issues relevant to contemporary policy discourse and pledged that the CPEC study center at the University of Gwadar will consistently organize such events in the future.



CPEC Study Centre's participation in the 8th CPEC Media Forum Conference.



The 8th CPEC Media Forum Conference was held on December 20, 2023, simultaneously in China, Islamabad, and Gwadar University. The Federal Minister for Information, Murtaza Solangi, was the chief guest of the conference from Islamabad. Apart from him, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor and director of the CPEC Study Centre University of Gwadar, well-known journalist Hamid Mir, and others participated in the conference. Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Sui Jin and Chinese journalists from China attended the conference online.

The conference in Gwadar was attended by the CPEC Study Centre, presided over by Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar. In the 8th CPEC Media Forum, the achievements of the CPEC project were reviewed upon the completion of the 10-year phase of CPEC. The Federal Caretaker Information Minister said that CPEC is a great project, and this project is not only for China and Pakistan. Rather, CPEC will prove to be a game changer for the entire region. CPEC has accelerated the economic development of Pakistan. Currently, various mega





projects are under completion in Pakistan, including Gwadar, and some projects have been completed. After the completion of all the projects, economic change will be seen in Pakistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, while addressing the participants of the conference, said that the socio-economic scenario of Pakistan has changed due to CPEC. There has been a lot of innovation in the friendship of the people.

During his address, senior journalist Hamid Mir emphasized on the imperative requirement for proactive involvement from both China and Pakistan in the region of Balochistan, asserting that the destiny of the CPEC is intricately linked to the developments in Balochistan.



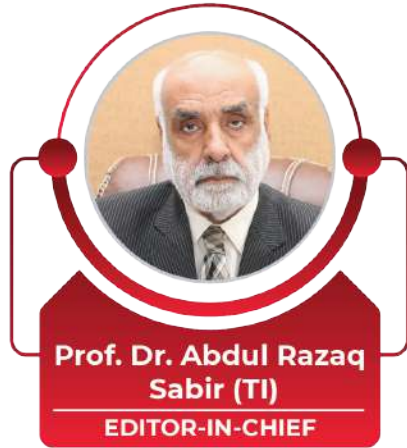
In a panel discussion, University of Gwadar Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed highlighted the performance of the CPEC project in the last ten years and said that many CPEC projects have been implemented in Gwadar. All the important projects are in the stages of completion. Some projects, including Pakistan China Technical and Vocational Institute, have reached completion and become functional, the fruits of which are reaching the people of the area. However, to make the CPEC project fully functional in this region, it is very important to have a railway line track and communication system to Gwadar, which are not available at present.



Local journalist Behram Baloch from Gwadar

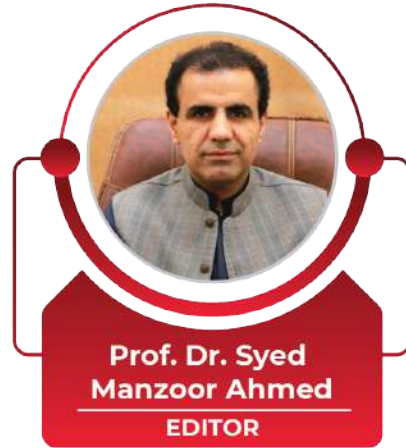
and Saboor Naseer, a student from the Department of Management Science, also addressed the participants of the conference and shed light on the CPEC projects. Behram Baloch, correspondent Dawn, also spoke at the conference. Miss Sadia Naseer, the Director of Student Affairs, administrative staff, students from different departments, and the journalist community of Gwadar Press Club also participated in the online conference.

EDITORIAL BOARD



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Vice Chancellor



Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed
EDITOR

Pro-Vice Chancellor/
Director CPEC Study Centre



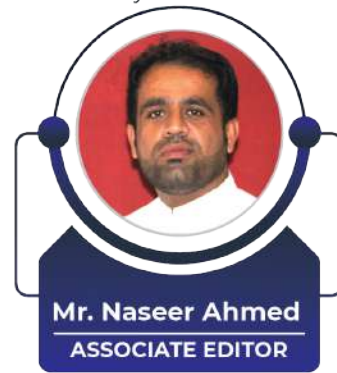
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