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Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations Between Pakistan & UK



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Contents

06

QUEENHOOD: A Poem for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

08

Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee: Diplomat queen has helped UK overcome the pain of history

10

British Queen's Platinum Jubilee Week of Celebrations

11

Openness as Prerequisite & Essential Pillar of Reforms in New Uzbekistan

14

New Imputes in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan relations

16

Iqbal and the Turkic World

18

Arabs' Month of Diplomacy will have far-reaching consequences

20

Vulnerability of Humanitarian Aid Delivery in Syria

22

Afghanistan: The Aftermath of US pull-out

24

CPEC Development in Balochistan

27

Seminar: Gwadar Port: Latest Developments and Prospects of Shared Prosperity

29

5th Global Ambassador Awards 2022

43

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) - June 2022

45

CPEC, BRI and China Bulletin - June 2022

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Editor's Note



The Queen of England celebrated her Platinum Jubilee with blockbuster week-long celebrations across the Commonwealth world in more than 80 countries of the world. These celebrations were meant to pay homage to 70 years of the Queen's outstanding service to the UK and the Commonwealth. The celebrations were coinciding with the Queen's 96th Birthday. Queen's steadfast leadership and unwavering service throughout the years have inspired global attention toward building cooperation, development, and peace in the world. During her lifetime the Queen took 260 official visits overseas including 100 state visits with two in Pakistan in 1961 and 1997. Apart from the commitment to the service and leadership to UK and Commonwealth, Queen is supporting countless charities and offering awards to the outstanding community volunteers across UK and Commonwealth. While Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were ongoing, Pakistan and UK celebrated their 75 years of the strong bond and partnership that lasted. As an important member of the Commonwealth, Pakistan has a special place in UK's global presence and engagement, especially in South Asia and larger Asia. Both countries are built on a strong and deep tie based on our 1.6 million Diasporas living in UK and nearly half a million visits apart from nearly 100,000 British nationals living in Pakistan working in various capacities. The presence of such a huge number of diaspora and regular exchanges has led to the strength of relations for the past 75 years. Pakistan-UK relations at the 75, there were several ups and downs however the resilience of people and their strength has turned every obstacle into a milestone. For instance, the England cricket team will be visiting Pakistan in autumn, ending a 17-year wait. The 75-year anniversary is a time to reflect on the challenges, obstacles, opportunities, and milestones that both countries can create for future generations. Both countries are working towards building strong partnerships to increase economic cooperation especially when Pakistan is struggling to find that economic balance. Through an open and strong economy and potential for investments, the UK is ready to invest and cooperate with Pakistan. The UK is Pakistan's largest trading partner and is the third-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The UK is also supporting Pakistani youth to seek better skills and education through various programs especially the scholarships and training by the British Council and others. Diaspora doctors have earned recognition for playing a crucial part in the National Health Service's response to COVID-19. The "diaspora diplomacy" has been a significant factor in Pakistan's relationship with the UK. As a legacy of cooperation grows between the two states, the next 75 years of Pak-UK aik saath will continue to foster forward.

This June Diplomatic Insight Group organized the Global Ambassador Awards for paying homage to Ambassadors from different countries of the world based in Islamabad. The event is meant to recognize the outstanding Ambassador / High Commissioner / Head of Mission in Pakistan for their services in the promotion of the relationship between Pakistan and the respective countries. The Awards acknowledge the services of Ambassadors and diplomats, heads of international organizations, and businessmen. These awards are presented for the promotion of people-to-people contact, business, trade, and constructive bilateral relations with their respective states. Apart from Ambassadors, Heads of the UN agencies and different business groups also received awards. The awards are hosted annually as an acknowledgment of their services on the behalf of the people of Pakistan. They recognize the contribution to furthering Pakistan's trade and economic relations on a global scale. Moreover, they aim to encourage awardees' momentous and tireless work for promoting political, economic, cultural, education, people-to-people contacts, and development work. The awards recognize nominees for outstanding achievements in furthering the softer image of Pakistan and vice versa. Subsequently, a committee of distinguished experts from various backgrounds nominates the winners of this exclusive award. Diplomatic Insight group extends warm congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to all the Global Ambassador Award winners including Ambassadors of Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, country representatives from UNAIDS and WFP, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Honorary consul general of Sri Lanka and Paraguay. We all can together make a difference and transform impossible into possible for our people, countries, and across the globe.

QUEENHOOD: A Poem for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Simon Armitage



I

An old-fashioned word, coined in a bygone world.

It is a taking hold and a letting go,
girlhood left behind like a favourite toy,
irreversible step over invisible brink.

A new frock will be made, which is a country
hemmed with the white lace of its shores,
and here is a vast garden of weald and wold,
mountain and fell, lake, loch, cwm.

It is constancy and it is change:
the age of clockwork morphs into digital days,
but the song of the blackbird remains the same.

II

Queenhood: a long winding procession
from the abbey door to the abbey door.
Queenhood: vows taken among bibles and blades,
beneath braided banners and heralding horns;
the anointment of hand, breast, head, with oil
of cinnamon, orange, musk and rose; promises
sworn in secret under tented gold
so daylight won't frighten the magic away,
too sacred by far for the camera to see.
It is an undressing first then a dressing up,
a shedding of plain white cloth then the putting on



of a linen gown and the supertunica – dazzling gold foil
lined with crimson silk. Man will walk
on the moon, great elms will fail and fall.
But a knife's still a knife. A fork's still a fork.

III

So the emblems and signs of royalty are produced:
the gilded spurs; the blued steel sword – like a sliver
of deep space drawn from the scabbard of night –
to punish and protect; bracelets to each wrist,
sincerity and wisdom – both armour and bond.
Love is still love is still love, and war is war.

IV

And indestructible towers will atomise in a blink.
The God particle will be flushed from its hiding place.
The sound barrier will twang with passenger planes.

Civilisation will graft its collected thoughts
onto silicon wafers, laureates will pass through court . . .

But Taurus, the bull, on its heavenly tour,
will breach the same horizon at the given hour.

V

Queenhood: it is the skies, it is also the soil
of the land. It is life behind glass walls
and fortified stones. Robe and stole are lifted
onto your shoulders – both shield and yoke.
Motherhood and womanhood will be taken as read.
'Multitasking' will be canonised as a new word.

VI

It is an honouring, but also an honour.
In the flare and blur of an old film
ghostly knights and chess-piece bishops deliver
the unearthly orb, with its pearled equator
and polished realms, into your open palm;
and pass you the sceptre and rod of mercy
and justice, one bearing the cross, one plumed
with a white dove; and load your fourth finger
with a ring that makes you the nation's bride;
and offer the white kid glove with its scrollwork tattoo
of thistles and shamrocks, oak leaves and acorns;
then finally furnish your head with the crown –
jewelled with history, dense with glory –
both owned and loaned at the same time.

Do those burnished relics still hold
the fingerprints of a twenty-seven-year-old?

VIII

A priceless freight for a young woman to bear,
but, draped and adorned, a monarch walks forward
into the sideways weather of oncoming years.
And the heavy cargoes of church and state
lighten with each step, syrupy old gold
transmuted to platinum, alchemy redefined.
Queenhood: it is law and lore, the dream life
and the documentary, a truthful fantasy.
For generations we will not know such majesty.

The poet is an English poet, playwright, and novelist.

*The poem was originally published on the official website of the
British Royal Family. For the interest of the readers, we are
producing it here.*

Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee: Diplomat queen has helped UK overcome the pain of history

Alistair Burt



The UK this weekend celebrates the unprecedented achievement of Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee with genuine affection and warmth. Whatever the questions surrounding other elements of the UK constitution at present — and indeed the prospects for the monarchy itself, as set out by Andrew Hammond in his *Arab News* piece of May 28 — the queen can be assured that, this weekend, such issues will not be at the forefront of the minds of millions of people as they attend street parties and other gatherings the length and breadth of the country.

While attention will rightly be focused on what the queen has done for her people at home — from the child growing up under the shadow of war to the young woman taking on the duty of a lifetime 70 years ago — many tributes will be offered for the relationships she fostered abroad. The many friendships she has with

monarchies in the Arab world, for example, have been built on shared personal interests and pastimes, as well as real affection.

Only history will reveal to what extent Elizabeth helped shape policy as well as follow the path of a constitutional monarch in the service of her country's parliament and government. But her lifetime of diplomacy, through her unrivaled personal knowledge of the movers and shakers of the world, suggests much more than being a passive transmitter of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Her insights that “we share the same world but not the same opportunities” and that the real importance of the engagement between states is the “contact between peoples” evidently come from the heart and from her lifetime of experience, rather than simply a mandarin's pen.

It is hard for a modern generation to understand how Germany was seen by the world 70 years ago. The mistakes of Versailles were not to be repeated, but macro policy is a long way from personal rehabilitation. When Elizabeth married Prince Philip in 1947, his German relatives could not attend the ceremony in London. Her own first postwar visit to Germany in 1965 was easily within the memory of her citizens who had suffered grievously from the horrors of Adolf Hitler's ambition and the prospect of the visit attracted media and political criticism. Although it also played a part in the growing acceptance of the politics of a changing Europe for her government, the queen's determined pursuance of the visit, her recognition of its moment of history and her personal commitment to the theme of reconciliation was a success to be echoed again and again in speeches and visits.

There was more controversy, and thus greater personal courage, in the acceptance of a state visit to the UK by Emperor Hirohito of Japan in 1971. This had even more personal overtones, as Philip had seen active service in the war in the Far East. The brutal treatment of prisoners of war by Japan ensured public protests against the visit. But the queen was able to take the opportunity to say, memorably, “We cannot pretend that the relations between our two peoples have always been peaceful and friendly. However, it is precisely this experience which should make us all the more determined never to let it happen again.” Such a phrase is never wasted and there are many more today who might echo and act upon its sentiments.

This sense of “never again” is an ever-present in her speeches and visits to areas of controversy, where only time can heal. Her participation in Commonwealth summits dealing with the oppression of apartheid in South Africa helped

ensure any rifts in policy between states did not become so wide that the Commonwealth itself was ruined. She had visited South Africa before apartheid and was there again at its end, developing a relationship with Nelson Mandela that matched his own determination for reconciliation.

Nowhere was this determination more personally or perhaps painfully expressed than in Elizabeth’s relationship with Ireland. She made a state visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011 — the first by a reigning British monarch in 100 years — and a significant trip to Northern Ireland in 2012. In the first, she carried the UK’s sense of regret for past tragedy by visiting the scene of a notorious 1920 murder of civilians by those under British command. In the second, she shook hands with a politician who had given up a violent past, in which he had been closely associated with those who had murdered Philip’s uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, in one of the most

shocking and brutal acts of the Troubles. Both encounters helped to close painful chapters.

The queen could have retired long ago in grace and with goodwill. That she has not is due to a unique sense of duty. To use her time, decade after decade, to help overcome the pain of history, both long past or contemporary, has been a wonder that deserves emulation by other world leaders, as well as celebration.

The author is a former UK Member of Parliament who has twice held ministerial positions in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office — as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State from 2010 to 2013 and as Minister of State for the Middle East from 2017 to 2019.

The article has been published in Arab News; an English-language daily newspaper published in Saudi Arabia. For the interest of the readers, we are producing it here.



British Queen's Platinum Jubilee Week of Celebrations



The British Queen's Elizabeth II Birthday and Platinum Jubilee celebrations started at the British High Commission in Islamabad. The event was hosted by British High Commissioner Dr Christian Turner, in Islamabad and was attended by the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif as chief guest and other senior ministers, foreign dignitaries, and celebrities. It is pertinent to mention here that it was the first in a series of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee week, which will also see birthday events in Karachi and Lahore – the latter closing with a performance from Qawwali singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. The events across the world have been marking Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and her 70 years of service to the people of the UK, the Realms, and the Commonwealth. It is also the year marking 75 years of Pakistan and the UK's bilateral relationship. As part of the Platinum Jubilee on the weekend of June 4-5, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the British High Commission, lit a beacon to celebrate the occasion at the same time as it was done in the Commonwealth capitals. The Pakistan Monument in Islamabad was lit up in purple, the color of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



Openness as Prerequisite & Essential Pillar of Reforms in New Uzbekistan



Openness and transparency are considered among the most effective tools in the fight against corruption and its prevention.

Thus, the efforts instigated in Uzbekistan to secure the rule of law, introduce effective forms of openness and transparency, and establish genuine public control over the activities of government authorities have been gaining momentum as decisive and steadfast in nature.

As a result, initiated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, considerable positive strides have been conspicuous lately in the country in combating various forms of bureaucracy and corruption.

In particular, new procedures have been established to ensure the openness and transparency of the activities of government bodies and organizations, so have the conditions necessary for effective public oversight.

To this end, within a short period of time, the system for considering appeals from

individuals and corporate bodies has been radically redefined, and the People's Receptions, Helplines, and Virtual Reception of the President were launched.

Thus, the head of state demonstrated readiness for open communication with citizens. In addition, a functioning mechanism has been set up in each ministry and government agency to work with appeals in the form of ministerial helplines and virtual receptions or field receptions.

Moreover, the widespread use of digital and online technologies has helped bolster government accountability before civil society.

In particular, the Open Data Portal (data.gov.uz), the registered database of legal entities and business entities (my.gov.uz), and other platforms play an important role in reducing and eliminating bureaucracy, as well as combating and preventing corruption.

The adopted regulatory acts of conceptu-

al significance and other administrative reforms aimed at preventing corruption also bear fruit in ensuring the openness of government authorities and administrative bodies.

For example, in order to prevent the theft of budgetary funds, the Public Procurement Law was adopted. Now, according to this normative act, all information on public procurement is posted on d.xarid.uz portal.

Efficient mechanisms of public control have been created, and the newly launched Open Budget portal has allowed the population to be directly involved in the management of budget funds

In accordance with the 22 September 2021 Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, an effective system overseen by the local population and the general public was introduced for spending budget funds and surplus amount of the forecast of local budget revenues. The act also kick-started the Initiative Budget project.

In the first season of the Initiative Budget project in 2022, a total of 70 thousand initiatives were received from citizens, 2,215 of which won the contest. More than 6.7 million people took part in voting on these projects. Thirty-four percent of the winning initiatives were related to secondary school renovation projects.

In addition, a system was instituted whereby the sale of public property, real estate, land plots, vehicles, license plates, and the right to build and install outdoor advertising facilities, those for speed cameras should be realized through an open online auction (<https://e-auksion.uz/>).

Another example: a newly created system establishes mandatory public discussion of draft laws as well as draft regulatory acts to be adopted by the President and the government, with the launch of the portal regulation.gov.uz.

This, in turn, contributes to the transparency of important decisions planned for adoption, and the practical implementation of the principle of accountability to citizens.

One of the main achievements in this area is the improvement of press services that inform the public about the activities of government bodies and organizations.

That is, all government bodies and organizations have press services, and the status of spokespersons has been raised to the level of advisers to the head of a government agency on information policy.

In addition, the maximum openness and transparency of statistical data for a wide range of domestic and foreign users have been ensured.

Accordingly, open statistical data are posted on the Open Data Portal, including information on public procurement, registration of patents, medicines and medical products, public transportation, land use, and other information.

Similar systemic and consistent reforms have significantly improved the position

of Uzbekistan in a number of international rankings and indices, one of the main of which is the index of openness

For example, as of 2020, Uzbekistan rose by 125 positions, to 44 in the Open Data Inventory Ranking. The introduction of the practice of disclosing indicators in 20 areas of the state and public administration proved instrumental.

And, in the updated Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International for 2021, Uzbekistan climbed six positions compared to 2020, ranking 140 out of 180 countries.

As a logical continuation of the reforms, on June 16, 2021, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a decree envisaging additional measures to ensure the openness of the activities of government bodies and organizations, as well as the effective implementation of public control, which, according to both local and international experts, has become a truly groundbreaking document.

The decree approved the list of socially significant information to be posted as open data, and clearly defined government bodies and organizations that develop data, as well as procedures for publishing open data.

Committees on information policy and ensuring openness in government bodies under the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, as well as standing commissions on information policy and ensuring openness in local government bodies under the regional, district, and city councils of people's representatives started operating.

The Anti-Corruption Agency is tasked with coordinating and constantly monitoring the openness in the activities of government authorities, expanding the list of open data, strengthening public control, and cultivating in civil servants a culture of public accountability.

A new department for ensuring the openness in activities of government bodies and organizations has been created within the Agency structure.

Based on the information disclosed by government bodies and organizations, local media, including major media outlets, published about 140 news reports and journalistic investigations.

The Anti-Corruption Agency has established a system of continuous monitoring of the timely placement of socially significant information in designated resources as open data approved by the Decree.

For example, in January-February 2022, the Agency published on its official website reports on the study of the work done by 135 ministries and departments, and local government bodies regarding the placement on its official websites and the Open Data Portal of the necessary information about its activities, in particular about public procurements, expenses for business trips of officials and for the reception of foreign guests, and others.

At the same time, from December 1, 2021, sessions of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional, district, and City Councils of people's representatives are mandatorily broadcast live on TV channels and the Internet.

The live broadcast of the sessions serves to raise the level of legal awareness of citizens and their direct acquaintance with the content and significance of the discussed legislative acts, as well as with the opinions of the experts who developed them.

Over the past period, the Agency submitted 26 statutory notices and 35 warning letters to ministries, departments, and local governments to eliminate violations identified as a result of monitoring and analysis.

Now it is planned to work on this issue on an ongoing basis, to organize seminars with the involvement of experts from nongovernmental organizations working in this area.

One of the main issues on the agenda is expanding the list of open data and raising it to a qualitatively new level, developing proposals for the further development of the area.

Over the past period, legislation on the activities of government bodies and organizations in the field of openness has been fully documented, reasonable proposals have been developed to fill existing gaps and improve mechanisms that do not give the expected results.

In particular, three laws, one resolution of the President and three resolutions of the government, and one departmental document aimed at regulating the openness was adopted.



For example, a draft law 'On amendments to the Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan on administrative responsibility has been developed.

According to it, the new Code of Administrative Responsibility is supplemented by a new article 215, which provides for a fine of 3 to 10 reference calculation values for officials of government authorities who violate the requirements of openness legislation.

Another important issue is that in accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On additional measures to further improve the activities of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan', a Public Control Development Fund was established under the Agency.

From now on, the preparation of materials on the openness of the activities of

government bodies and organizations, the financing of projects of NGOs, and other civil society institutions to ensure openness in government bodies and organizations, as well as research in this area and a number of other areas, will be implemented at the expense of the Fund.

Also, at the expense of the Fund, the work of a call center with a single short number '1253' was established, which allows citizens to promptly report facts of corruption.

In addition, the Agency plans to form an Openness Index (rating) of government bodies and organizations and publish the rating based on the results of each year.

Most importantly, the Index allows to visually show the level of openness of any government body and organization to the public.

The Anti-Corruption Agency pays special attention to further improving the position of Uzbekistan in international rankings and indices by improving the efficiency of work in this area.

In particular, to improve the position of the country, a comprehensive analysis of the Open Government Factor, WJP Rule of Law Index, was carried out (Uzbekistan ranked 122 out of 139 countries with the highest index over the past 6 years in terms of the Open Government Factor – 0.37 points in 2021).

Based on the results of the analysis, a program of measures was developed to improve the country's position in this international index. In addition, as of 2022, steps are being taken to further improve and update Uzbekistan's rankings in the Open Data Inventory, the Rule of Law Index, the Global Open Data Index, and the Open Data Barometer.

If we want to achieve fundamental changes in the field of openness, we must, of course, meet the requirements of generally recognized standards through membership in international organizations.

In this regard, Uzbekistan became a member of the International Open Data Charter last year. The Charter works to ensure the openness and transparency of information from over 150 governments and organizations around the world.

The Agency established close cooperation with this organization and, together with the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan, with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, developed recommendations and the Final Report on open datasets on combating corruption in Uzbekistan.

The priority is to further expand access to open data and create an open data infrastructure based on international standards.

In a word, the policy of openness and transparency in Uzbekistan will now only gain momentum, the government will be even more open, greater transparency will be ensured, and cooperation between citizens and authorities will continue to improve and develop.

After all, openness and transparency are not only a requirement of the time but also a prerequisite and essential pillar of reforms in the New Uzbekistan.

The article has been published on The Diplomatic Insight.

Courtesy by Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

New Imputes in Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan relations

Muhammad Asif Noor



President of Azerbaijan visited Uzbekistan in his latest regional high level regional diplomacy and engagement pursuits. This was an important visit especially related to the rapidly changing regional and global political, strategic and economic dimensions. Both states signed a declaration on deepening the strategic partnership between the two especially related to the building comprehensive cooperation in all fields.

During the visit nearly 18 important documents were signed related to cooperation in industry, military and military related technical cooperation, and quarantine and plant protection, fighting against the illegal migration, development of the international road transport.

Visionary leader of Uzbekistan also proposed to increase the volume of

bilateral trade and opportunities for investment in diverse sectors in both countries. Both countries are establishing joint funds to finance the development projects which include machine building, textile, food, construction, wine-making, oil, gas petrochemicals and agro-based industries.

In fact Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan as leaders of Caucuses and Central Asia respectively have a greater role to play in the dimension of the regional cooperation and peace. Both countries have their own significant geographical positions that is making them important routes of connectivity.

Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan are playing their important role in making the diverse cooperation hence opening partnerships to other countries through

transit trade, development of economy and communications networks.

Both Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan have deep rooted diplomatic relations since 1995 when both states established their ties by opening embassies in each other's capital. There many diaspora living in each other's countries. Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan consider each other important friends and partners in having close cooperation. Both states are members of important global, regional multilateral organizations. Both countries support each other at their regional and global standpoints. Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan have strong bilateral ties with having deep historic, religious, cultural, political, diplomatic, economic and strategic ties.

The recent visit of the historic level has set new standards of cooperation where

nearly 40 areas of cooperation has been expanded to bolster the interstate trade and economic ties including the strategic and defense ties. The industrial cooperation and effective use of the transport, transit and communications linkage may create opportunities for the region and beyond.

Here it is important to note that the states have created a joint fund where cooperation projects with the states will improve the efficiency through effective transportation system. Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway mechanism is another potential through which the regional connectivity will increase. Through the cooperation in the road and other networks, there will be a greater chance for the overall building of regional connectivity.

This communications and connectivity potential will reach the goods and services from Caucuses, Central Asia, and South Asia and beyond. With growing connectivity brings trade and opportunities for business. There are other communications and network corridors, projects and initiatives are ongoing in

the region. Through these diverse linkages, there is a greater chance of for both countries to avail the opportunity of the transit trade and cargo transportation will increase manifold.

As a result of the growing regional and global tensions, there is threat to energy and food security, this cooperation between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan will be an opportunity to transport goods from one side of Asia to another and across the globe.

It is important to note that recently both states has their bilateral trade volume increased. According to the statistics the trade in 2021 was 111.9 USD million. There has been rise of the trade with steady increase of nearly 16 percent over the years. This also reflects the sense of trust amongst the people from both sides and there is huge potential and benefit for the other regional countries as well.

The visit has also made fresh booster towards the cultural cooperation especially the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Khiva and naming one of the street in Uzbekistan after the name

of the national leader Heydar Aliyev. This memorial and historic advancement will paved the way in enhancing the friendly historic ties especially building on the common history and culture from both states.

The visit also reflects that both states are trusted partners and committed to deepening their diplomatic relationship driven by common heritage, lineage, religion, language and culture. It raises the prospects of cooperation and provides them a level playing field to strengthen their partnership in the region. It will be beneficial for thousands of overseas residents living in both states and contribute towards mutual development.

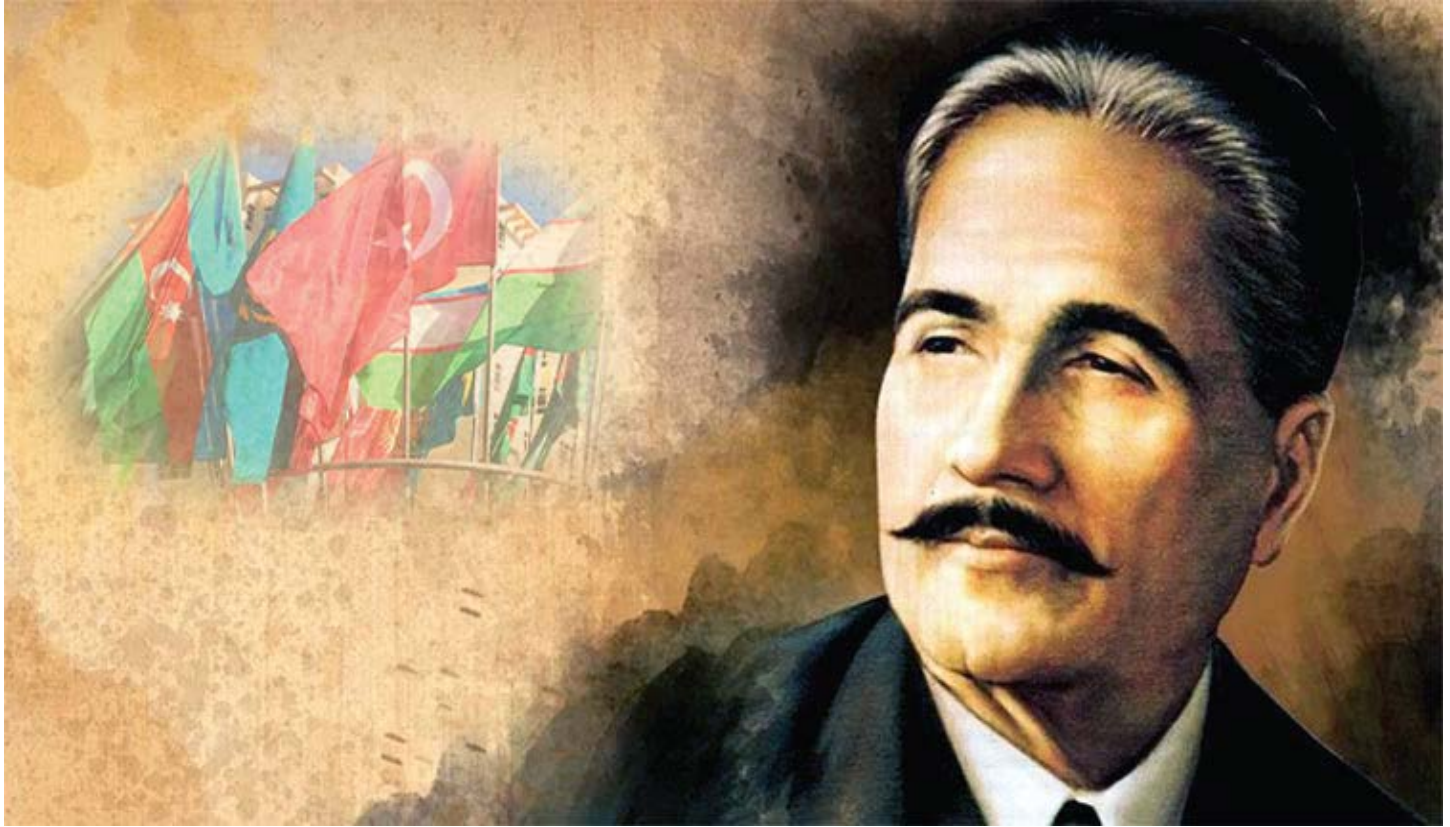
This recent visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Uzbekistan will inject a fresh impetus to the bilateral, regional, multilateral cooperation not only between the countries but also will increase its benefits for the region and across the globe.

The writer is Founder Centre for Central Asia and Eurasian Studies-Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies.



Iqbal and the Turkic World

Professor. Dr. Darkhan Kydyrali



It is known that in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the reformist movements had a significant impact on the spiritual and cultural development of the Muslim peoples of the East.

In Muslim countries such as Egypt, Iran, and India, it became a reform movement of “Tajdid and Islah”. In this context, the great thinker Muhammad Iqbal was the leader of the national awakening of Indian Muslims at that time.

Although he was in India, Iqbal wrote about the unity and values of the Turkic-Muslim world through his poems. Poems of “Rumi of the 20th century” on national liberation were in a similar spirit to the poems of Turkish poets such as Mehmet Akif Ersoy and Ziya Gokalp.

It should be noted that Iqbal’s poems in support of the Ottoman Turks became the backbone of his anti-colonial poetry. Therefore, during World War I and the Turkish national liberation struggle,

Indian Muslims sent financial aid to Türkiye.

In particular, his poem “Martyr of Tripoli” published in 1911, caused a great reaction in the Ottoman Empire.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, as many Muslim countries became more concerned about security, Pakistan’s founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, stressed the need to improve relations with Türkiye.

Therefore, the Muslims of India intensified their support for the Republic of Türkiye. At the same time, the spiritual leader of India, Iqbal, also glorified the heroism of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in his poems.

Following the example of Atatürk, Iqbal sought to give a new impetus to his nation. Along the way, he helped lay the foundations for a new state within the framework of democracy and social justice.

Atatürk’s figure in Iqbal’s works was an example of the ideas of Indian Muslims. “Today, Türkiye is the only Muslim country that has woken up from a dogmatic slumber,” he said.

“Among Muslim countries, only Türkiye sought the right to intellectual freedom. Only Türkiye has achieved the dreams.” Iqbal tried to present Atatürk’s reforms and heroism to Indian Muslims against the British Empire.

In 1922, in he wrote a poem “Dedication to Kemal Pasha”. Thus, Iqbal inspired his people with Atatürk’s victory in the struggle for national liberation in the struggle against British imperialism.

Iqbal’s poems glorifying the victory of the Turks further strengthened the friendship between the peoples of Türkiye and Indian Muslims. And when the state of Pakistan was established in 1947, Türkiye was one of the first countries to recognize and support it.

The spiritual ties that began with Atatürk and Iqbal gave a new impetus to the Turkic world and strengthened the brotherhood with Pakistan.

At the beginning of the last century, a number of leaders from Turkistan took refuge in Pakistan and formed associations that continued the ideals of liberation, and published various publications.

Examples include the Turkestan Association of Turkic Refugees and the bi-monthly "Tarjuman-e Afkar" magazine in Urdu and Turkish. On October 22, 1953, a meeting of the Turkistan Refugee Association was held in honor of Baimyrza Hayit at the Nigar Hotel in Karachi.

Maulana Azam Hashmi, Secretary-General of the Turkestan Refugee Association and editor of "Tarjuman-e Afkar" magazine, who spoke at the meeting, said that since 1933, the Turkestan Press and Muhajir publishing houses, headquartered in Delhi, India, have been operating successfully and that there were about 2,500 Turkistan refugees in Pakistan

This was announced in the July 1952 issue of the German publication "Milli Turkistan". Therefore, there is reason to believe that the friendly relations established by Iqbal contributed to the support of the liberation movement of the Turkistani people in Pakistan, which contin-

ued in different countries after the fall of the Turkistan Autonomy.

It is also known that the Kazakhs, who fled China under the Nationalist government in the 1930s and 1940s, crossed the Himalayas and reached via India to Türkiye.

At that time, thousands of Kazakhs took refuge in Pakistan and survived. According to sources, the Kazakhs who came to Bhopal, India, called their camp "Kazakhabad"

Against this background, it is important to know Iqbal and his legacy as this leads to the discovery of Pakistan. Generally, Iqbal's legacy has been translated into many European languages as well as Eastern languages.

In Pakistan, India, Great Britain, Canada, and other countries, research institutions have been established to study his heritage. In Pakistan, Iqbal's works, especially excerpts from his poetry, are included in school curricula.

Academic dissertations have been defended in a number of countries around the world. In Lahore, there is the Iqbal Academy, which studies the legacy of the poet-thinker.

During our visit to Pakistan in December 2019, we made a special visit to Lahore, visited the academy, and paid homage to the eternal home of the great thinker.

Today, special attention is paid to Iqbal's works. Iqbal's contribution to Islamic civilization, his poetry on freedom, his lyrical poetry, and his views on the doctrine of the "perfect man" should be studied in comparison with Kazakh thinkers of 19 and early 20 centuries.

In particular, we believe that Iqbal's acceptance of Yassavi's Sufi teachings through Rumi, and his philosophical heritage, which began with Farabi, should be analyzed and widely studied.

In 2020, the Turkic Academy together with the Standing Committee on Science and Technology of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH) organized the Global Al-Farabi Forum in the country of Iqbal.

And on 26-27 May 2022, for the first time in Kazakhstan, the Iqbal Forum was held to promote the legacy of great thinkers.

Coinciding with the 145th anniversary of Muhammad Iqbal, the forum brought together wellknown scholars from Pakistan and other parts of the world. This initiative can be considered a new milestone in the study of Iqbal's legacy in Kazakhstan.

The author is the President of the International Turkish Academy.

The article has been published on The Diplomatic Insight.



Arabs' Month of Diplomacy will have far-reaching consequences

Dr. Abdellatif El-Menawy



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Egypt on Monday. And US President Joe Biden is to visit Saudi Arabia next month where he will meet many Arab leaders.

So it seems that certain constants will be settled within the limits of inter-Arab relations on the one hand and Arab-global relations on the other.

In a month of diplomatic tours in the region, the Crown Prince's visit to Cairo highlights the first constant, which is the strength and durability of Egyptian-Saudi relations.

These have reached the level of a strategic partnership in light of the historically harmonious positions between the two countries and a common destiny that has brought them together.

This relationship has increased in strength in recent years, with permanent contacts and successful visits between the leaders of the two countries, with the

aim of strengthening and supporting relations in various fields.

These important developments in Egyptian-Saudi ties have taken place in parallel with a clear consensus on various regional and international issues.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia bear the greatest burden in achieving Arab solidarity and reaching the goals that Arab people aspire to, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. Meanwhile, Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia is considered to be very important for both parties.

The US is looking to settle differences and strengthen its partnership with Riyadh and with all Arabs in general, especially in light of the internal conditions it is witnessing ahead of November's midterm elections.

The current US administration is very concerned about the influences on its popularity and its waning opportunities to maintain a majority in Congress, so it

is logical that Washington needs Arab support, especially with regard to oil prices.

Biden's meeting with the crown prince will have great significance because it will emphasize that the two sides have settled the differences that recently arose as a result of their discordant visions on some issues.

It will also emphasize the position of Saudi Arabia and its important role in America's strategy in the region, as well as its role in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

This was evident in the statement of White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, who pointed out that Biden "appreciates King Salman's leadership and his invitation."

She added that: "He looks forward to this important visit to Saudi Arabia, which has been a strategic partner of the United States for nearly eight decades."

The statement added that, during his visit, Biden will discuss a number of bilateral, regional, and global issues, including the situation in Yemen and his support of the truce mediated by the UN, which has led to the most peaceful period since the war there began seven years ago.

He will also discuss ways to expand economic and regional security cooperation, including the new and promising infrastructure and climate initiatives, as well as deterring threats from Iran and ensuring global energy and food security.

Jean-Pierre added: “The president looks forward to outlining his affirmative vision for US engagement in the region over the coming months and years.”

There is no doubt that the Arab position toward the war in Ukraine is unique politically and economically. The Arab bloc did not rush behind the West in supporting Ukraine and also did not support the Russian position.

The Arabs, led by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, are in a state of nonalignment with regard to the conflict, despite its clear repercussions on the export of grains and the high prices of commodities and products on the global market, which has undoubtedly exhausted the Arab peoples.

Therefore, the summit between the Gulf countries, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the US during Biden’s visit will undoubtedly address energy prices and establish a mechanism on how to provide food security in light of the repercussions of the Ukraine war and Iran’s threats. Biden may well have known that the Arab position on this issue would not waver with time.

During his visit, he might propose a multitude of incentives to change the situation in his favor, but confidence is great in the firmness of the Arab position, especially at this time, because it is based on rational thinking and an awareness of the global situation, as well as the internal conditions and the wealth that the Arabs possess, which can affect the whole world.

There could also be developments regarding the Palestinian cause. Jean-Pierre said that Biden will visit Israel, where he will discuss Tel Aviv’s security, prosperity, and increasing integration in the region.

And he will visit the West Bank “to consult with the Palestinian Authority and to reiterate his strong support for a two-state solution, with equal measures of security, freedom, and opportunity for the Palestinian people.”

Although the White House press secretary’s statement appears diplomatic, it may actually carry clear hope for the establishment of security and peace in the Occupied Territories.

There may be a shift in the American position on the situation in Palestine after the crisis reached its climax during the previous US administration, which insisted on moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem to emphasize the right of Israel to the Islamic holy city.

Arab countries opposed this move with great courage in international forums and institutions. I am not exaggerating when stating that the Arab region is at a very sensitive point in its history.

The American President — the most important head of state in the world — is, after a period of reflection and consultations, coming to the Arab land, acknowledging the size and weight of the countries of this region.

The author is a critically acclaimed multimedia journalist, writer, and columnist who has covered war zones and conflicts worldwide.

The article has been published in Arab News; an English-language daily newspaper published in Saudi Arabia. For the interest of the readers, we are producing it here



Vulnerability of Humanitarian Aid Delivery in Syria

Peace Gudo



The civil conflict in Syria continues to cause vast and systematic human misery. According to reports, around 14.6 million Syrians require humanitarian help.

This is the largest number since the beginning of the war. Nearly 14 million Syrians have fled their homes, and more than 12 million are starving.

Civilian killings are ongoing by attacks and weapons, and fundamental services are being destroyed. The country is still dealing with an escalating economic crisis, rising food and fuel prices, as well as rising unemployment.

The Syrian government and the international community continue to be anxious about the country's humanitarian disaster. There has been no hint of meaningful diplomatic progress in resolving the country's prolonged dilemma.

Humanitarian progress, on the other hand, continues to be enormous. International NGOs have served as a light of hope for the Syrian people and the rest of the globe. Humanitarian aid has helped to alleviate suffering and restore hope in the country.

The lives of citizens are being jeopardized, despite the humanitarian assistance by INGOs. This is due to the vulnerability in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The distribution of humanitarian aid is a source of concern not only for Syrian citizens but also for the refugees. INGOs continue to strive to meet the needs of people despite the fact that access points are dwindling.

Civilians received tons of food, housing, hygiene, and health products as a result of humanitarian operations. However,

airstrikes and shelling are destroying refugee camps, schools, medical facilities, and even humanitarian deliveries.

This is continuing to harm civilians, instilling fear and hindering efforts to improve Syria's educational condition. There have been reports of killings, for example, in Syrian camps such as the Al Hol camp, which houses displaced people.

This camp houses 56, 000 civilians. The vast majority of them are women and children. In addition, displaced people, including children and their mothers, are held in prisons and camps that resemble prisons.

Millions of people, such as those in the Rukban camp, are unable to get humanitarian aid. For over three years, Assad's dictatorship has prevented UN supplies from entering the camp.

Thus, these displaced people do not appear to have access to humanitarian supplies. As long as displaced women and children are unable to access their services, these people will continue to suffer in spite of humanitarian assistance from INGOs.

Humanitarian support must ensure that these people are not left behind and aid must reach them. Apart from that, the politics of assistance delivery continues to hamper humanitarian relief delivery in Syria.

Donor organizations have been unable to pay for non-essential items such as early recovery help as a result of this. Humanitarian assistance efforts must ensure the de-politicization of aid distributions.

There is a need to give aid packages security assurances to ensure that the aid products arrive at their intended destination. Furthermore, US sanctions have deterred donors and hampered assistance distribution.

The UN Security Council appears to be oblivious to the repercussions of the US's unilateral sanctions. Early recovery programs in regime-controlled areas have grown increasingly difficult to implement.

It is important to remember that when early recovery aid reaches the intended recipients, it raises the living standards of people. However, the US has not shied away from stating that the provision of humanitarian assistance is a significant aspect of its agenda.

The \$808 million in additional humanitarian aid announced at the sixth Brussels Conference is a clear signal. Moreover, the disparity of international players' opinions on Resolution 2585 is a major source of worry about humanitarian relief delivery.

The resolution supports early rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. It also aids in the delivery of fundamental services. In light of this, the international community continues to struggle with the implementation of early recovery and reconstruction programs.

There has been a lack of agreement among states involved in Syria to carry out all parts of Resolution 2585. Therefore, international players must address this morass. They must ensure that aid reaches all those in need.

The international community must act with pace and increase the Syrian humanitarian process. They must act

with urgency and come up with approaches that curb these vulnerabilities. INGOs must continue to reaffirm their commitments to helping the Syrian people.

INGOs must continue to provide more humanitarian support to lessen the suffering and bring some hope to the country. There is no better time than now for countries to start emphasizing the importance of unhindered humanitarian assistance.

The country is in great need of cross-line humanitarian aid delivery. Countries, leaders, and the international community must re-authorize cross-border humanitarian aid deliveries.

Likewise, INGOs must re-authorize cross-line aid and early recovery projects. Continued commitment to helping the Syrian people emerge from the humanitarian crisis is critical. Both positive and negative peace is something that Syria has yearned for, for decades.

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Afghanistan: The Aftermath of US pull-out

Muhammad Khalique



Afghanistan, described as the ‘Heart of Asia’ by the renowned Pakistani poet Muhammad Iqbal, has been left devastated by the invasion of the US and its allies as well as their irresponsible withdrawal after twenty years of war without fully achieving a single goal that they outlined while invading Afghanistan.

The sudden collapse of Afghanistan’s security forces debunked the US claim of building a strong army that could sustain the so-called hard-earned gains.

Likewise, the flawed withdrawal strategy by the US without ensuring the peaceful transition of power demonstrated the legacy of US abandonment.

The US termed it as its primary objective to build a sustainable system of governance that could adequately ensure security for the Afghan people.

In 2006, the US Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan was established with an aim to elevate the

reach and effectiveness of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police to ensure the development of a stable Afghanistan by strengthening the rule of law and deterring, defeating, and eventually eliminating terrorism within its borders.

However, the collapse of Afghan security forces in August 2021 and the ensuing takeover of Kabul by the Taliban reflect that the US miserably failed in achieving this aim.

The recently released interim report of SIGAR outlining the factors behind the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban blamed the administrations of Donald Trump and Joe Biden as well as the Afghan government of Ashraf Ghani.

The report found that the single most important factor in the ANDSF’s (Afghan National Defense and Security Forces) collapse in August 2021 was the US decision to withdraw military forces and contractors from Afghanistan by signing the US-Taliban agreement in February

2020 under the Trump administration, followed by President Biden’s withdrawal announcement in April 2021.

The report noted that the withdrawal agreement the US signed with the Taliban in Doha, coupled with the growing success of the Taliban on the battlefield was interpreted by many Afghans as a clear sign that the tide had turned against them.

“Due to the ANDSF’s dependency on US military forces, these events destroyed its morale. The ANDSF had long relied on the US military’s presence to protect against large-scale ANDSF losses, and Afghan troops saw the United States as a means of holding their government accountable for paying their salaries.

The US-Taliban agreement made it clear that this was no longer the case, resulting in a sense of abandonment within the ANDSF and the Afghan population”.

The SIGAR report also pointed toward a lack of acumen by the then the Afghan

President, Ashraf Ghani, who failed to devise a national security policy in the view of the US withdrawal, frequently changed ANDSF commanders during the Taliban offensive, appointing his loyalists, who lacked military experience and battlefield experience, and sidelining the well-trained ANDSF officers aligned with the US.

It is noted that Ashraf Ghani feared that his own military would turn against him and also suspected that the US wanted to remove him from power.

The rampant corruption by the Ashraf Ghani government was also outlined as a factor that augmented the Taliban's gains on the ground as disappointed by the failure of Ghani's government in ensuring security and economic stability, the local government and tribal elders in the majority of the provinces handed over power to the Taliban by making deals.

Looking back at the strategic failure of the US as described by General Mark Milley, it can be argued that instead of blindly sticking to a policy that centered on war-fighting, the US might have adopted a policy centered on diplomatic efforts to reach a political settlement among Afghans and bringing the Taliban into a share of power.

Pakistan had been consistently trying to persuade the US that there is "no

military solution" in Afghanistan and called for a negotiated political settlement between all Afghan stakeholders to ensure lasting peace and avert the consequences of a fragile and insecure Afghanistan.

Despite the US intelligence assessment reports that the Afghan government could fall in as little as six months after the US withdrawal as reported by Reuters, no attention was paid by the US administration to avert any such outcome.

Moreover, the abrupt abandoning of Afghanistan by the US, without ensuring the peace and economic stability they promised has put the country on the brink of collapse because the Afghan economy heavily relied on international aid necessary for health, education, governance, security, and development whereas this aid dried up after the withdrawal under the pressure of the US.

This led to the economic downfall of the country well before the Taliban's takeover. The rationale behind Pakistan's insistence and continuous diplomatic efforts for achieving a peacefully negotiated settlement in Afghanistan, something that the West falsely considered as apparent support to the Taliban, was to avoid the consequences of the economic and humanitarian crises.

Being a neighboring country and the biggest victim of the two-decade war in Afghanistan, Pakistan wanted stability and peace in Afghanistan to avoid serious challenges to security and the economy.

Therefore, it always sincerely worked with the international community for peace and stability in Afghanistan as it would ensure its own security.

Instead of blaming Pakistan for the failures of the US, Ashraf Ghani's government, and the international community, the need of the hour is to focus the attention on addressing the ongoing economic and humanitarian crises so as to make sure that Afghanistan does not plunge into instability.

Durable peace and stability and the economic well-being of the Afghan people are indispensable for regional and international peace and stability and the international community needs to engage with the Taliban to ensure economic well-being and provision of basic rights to the Afghan people.

The author is an independent analyst with an interest in regional political and security issues.

The article has been published on The Diplomatic Insight.



CPEC Development in Balochistan

Ameer Hamza

Balochistan is at the heart of CPEC where the jewel of BRI Gwadar is building and progressing with each passing day.

Gwadar's development progress is *sin qua non* to the development and progress on BRI. With trade going from the mountains of Kashgar to the Arabian Sea and beyond across the globe, Balochistan is the epitome of global economic prosperity.

The province is having five percent of Pakistan's population and is rich in natural resources. With 750 km of the coastline, Gwadar and Pasni are the two major seaports with significant industrial, economic, blue economy, trade, and business hubs.

The trends of global integration made both China and Pakistan progress together towards building a shared future. Balochistan with its immense treasures has remained at the forefront of development and progress.

CPEC offered much-needed impetus to the revolution of development happening not only across Pakistan but in Balochistan as well.

Over the years, Balochistan faced the threats of terrorism and the battleground of the proxy wars, creating challenges for the region to build its strength, development, and progress.

After the advent of the CPEC, Balochistan saw the light of the day. CPEC has made tremendous progress in the province where the communications linkages have been developed, and Chinese companies are investing to offer employment opportunities to the locals.

CPEC is following a hybrid approach, a mix of high-end development projects with regional impacts and low-end projects with localized impacts to ensure equitable growth and development in the province.



Some major projects for Balochistan are 1300 MW Hub Coal Power Plant, 300 MW Power plant at Gwadar, East Bay Express Way, Makran Coastal, Gwadar international airport, Gwadar-Nawa-bash LNG terminal, Gwadar Smart port city, expansion multipurpose terminal including water treatment plant, Gwadar East Bay Expressway, Gwadar hospital up-gradation, Gwadar primary school, and Zhob Quetta highways.

The core of the CPEC projects across Pakistan is energy projects which are also spread in Balochistan.

In the first phase of the CPEC, the focus was on energy projects. As a result of the crisis of energy for Pakistan, these projects on CPEC were considered a lifeline for the industry.

The projects of energy in Balochistan are expected to generate 1620 MW of energy through coal power. Hub Power Plant is its kind power generation plant jointly developed by Hub Power Company Ltd and China Power International Holdings.

This is one of the initial coal-powered plants in Balochistan which has gone operational and provides electricity to multiple regions of Balochistan on a commercial scale.

It is worth mentioning here it has been developed in record time and was part of Early Harvest Projects under CPEC.

This project has added 9 billion kWh energy to the national grid fulfilling the needs of the people of Balochistan. There is another unit of the same power plant developed in the follow-up a year later enabling energy independence in the area.

It is also pertinent to report that Hub power company keeps high standards of Health, Safety, and Environment graph and offers quality services for the people of Balochistan

CPEC is making it possible to help the authorities to offer power distribution to far-flung areas in the region.

As a result of these joint projects, the companies working have also offered their Corporate Social Responsibility and helped the local communities. They are undertaking social welfare projects for the community in Hub and Lasbela.

These projects include a school in Gadani, a floating jetty in Abbas Village, skill development, and vocational training at the local level.

Hub Power Company is operating four power plants in Pakistan and further plans to expand its welfare footprint in entire Pakistan, a single larger company registered with CPEC.

There are multiple other companies that are working for the energy needs of Balochistan.

Apart from energy projects, there are six mega road and connectivity projects in Balochistan, including the 305-km Zhob-Quetta (Kuchlak, N-50), 1, 235-km DI Khan (Yarik) – Zhob, N-50 Phase-I, 106-km Khuzdar-Basima Road (N-30), 46-km Hoshab-Awaran Road Section (M-8) and 168-km Awaran-Khuz.

The major goal of CPEC is to connect Balochistan to international trade channels in order to strengthen the province's economy. The development of the Chaman, Quetta, and Karachi Motorways, the Gawadar Eastbay Expressway, a six-lane urban highway, and the Quetta DI Khan motorway among others, speaks volumes of the strong Pakistan-China bond.

Gwadar region of Baluchistan has been central to development under CPEC. The initial phase of development in Gwadar is completed which covers four major projects including Port Development and Free Zone, Gwadar Smart Port City, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute, and Gwadar East Bay expressway.

There are multiple other projects which are very close to completion covering International Airport, water desalination, Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Coal Power Plant, 1.2 MGD, and 5 MGD water desalination plants.

It is worth mentioning here that there are multiple projects in the pipeline such as the Smart Environment Sanitation System, Fish landing Jetty, Fish boat making, dredging of berthing areas, and channels at the port.

Over the years, China has developed a deep interest in Gwadar port in Pakistan and has been considering Gwadar a crucial component of the Belt and Road Initiative.

These Chinese interests are driven by economic factors and prospects of regional integration because China seeks connectivity with Europe, Central Asia, and South Asia.

Gwadar port is a gateway to Central Asia, and West Asia, and a passage to Turkey via Iran, a route that can be stretching up to Europe.

The enhancement of the fishing industry, boat making, livestock, mining projects, agriculture, and halal food cover the micro-industry for the local people.

Due to the CPEC, the least developed and less populated regions of Balochistan such as Panjgur and Turbat are central to development being on the heads of the Western route of CPEC.

These areas will not only be connected with major urban centers but also go through the infrastructure development covering schools, hospitals, and local small-to-medium size industry.

To boost the local blue economy, and fish industry and facilitate the local fishermen, Pakistan and China are jointly working on creating a blue economy, the economic activity across the coastal areas.



Balochistan contributes to the 35% of total fish caught at the local level. Gwadar Livelihood project is helping to upgrade and maintain the local population, especially fishermen to carry out their live hoods and build their lives.

Pakistan is the 6th largest area for mangroves with the potential \$4 billion export potential, which along with fishing, can help the local populace.

Although the Gwadar port also falls under the category of blue economy, it is being taken into the context of the traditional economy due to immense commercial activity. Pakistan and China had declared the year 2022 as the year of the blue economy.

Special Economic Zones are other critical components of CPEC which are destined to be the manufacturing hub in Pakistan.

The proposed sites for economic zones in Balochistan are Dera Murad Jamali, Uthal, Hub, Quetta, and the largest one in Gwadar.

Out of 8 economic zones, Bostan Economic Zone is situated in Baluchistan which will house important industries. Bostan Economic Zone is located in Pishin.

One thousand acres of land had been allocated for the SEZ and is adjacent to Qila Saifullah, Qila Abdullah, Ziarat, and Quetta. Development progress on this important economic zone is ongoing and has been announced to be completed.

Quetta houses skilled labor in plenty while Qila Saifullah is known for fruits, vegetables, and livestock. Ziarat has its own recognition in grapes, dry fruit, and apple whereby Qila Abdullah has a suitable climate for fruits.

This landscape is very conducive to the industry of juices, packaged meat, fruits, and vegetables. The SEZ will also house the manufacturing units of motorbikes, pharmaceutical companies, chromite, ceramic industry, ice and cold storage industry, food processing industry, and agriculture machinery.

Gwadar international airport is an important project for Balochistan and this entire region which is connected with Airport in Quetta and Gwadar while the land route is connected with Gwadar Seaport.

This Airport is a 246 \$M greenfield airport with an area of 4300 acres. This airport will be jointly owned by Pakistan and China and will be managed by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Quetta Airport is 23 km away, dry port

Quetta 32 km, and Gwadar 976 km away from Bostan Economic Zone. It has also been announced recently that Gwadar international airport will be inaugurated next year in March.

The governments of Pakistan and China are working closely to enhance Balochistan's national and international air connectivity.

The incumbent government is also directed for the opening of the new Gwadar airport next year as a gift to the people of Balochistan.

It is important to note that there are also directions from the ministry of planning development and reform that the international flights from Quetta airport may be started by August 14 this year.



This will connect the province with the Middle East and facilitate the large number of Pakistanis living outside in the Gulf countries. There are also intentions to start the Hajj flights from Quetta Airport to Jeddah Airport.

The logistical arrangements are currently ongoing. Through this enhanced connectivity, the people of Balochistan will have larger openings from the outside world.

From the CPEC authorities, there are certain industry recommendations to be established covering Agriculture machinery, Food processing, Pharmaceuticals, Chromite, Ceramic Industries, Ice and Cold Storage, Electric Appliances, and the Halal Food Industry.

It is important to highlight that Phase 1

of the plot's allotment for the industry has begun.

Given the centrality of Gwadar port to the CPEC, its development is the core socio-economic interest of China and Pakistan.

Gwadar is connecting BRI to Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan, Russia, and China by linking the states with international maritime routes. It not only elevates the global profile of Pakistan but also earns significant revenue for Pakistan and China at the same time.

One of the world's largest deep-sea ports, Gwadar is not developing in isolation. As a result of the progress in Gwadar, entire communities are developing facilitating

the local people with opportunities for health, education, clean drinking water, special economic zones, and employment.

A bitter historic past suggests that Baluchistan had been the least developed region in Pakistan but CPEC has offered a new life focusing on socio-economic development in Balochistan.

It has always been an important region in Pakistan due to its vast reserves of natural resources, but recently it has been intertwined with the fate of China being a major stakeholder in Balochistan.

There has been a rise in terrorist and extremist incidents and factions that remained active in the region as a result of the generous support from those enemies of the CPEC and Pakistan-China friendship and trust.

For instance, the attack on Karachi University where innocent Chinese teachers were killed and another attack on Quetta hotel, all originated from Balochistan. To address these issues, the solution lies in the development and more development of the region.

China and Pakistan are collaborating in Baluchistan and assisting with multiple development projects along with evolving Gwadar into an economic hub in Balochistan.

The government of Balochistan, with the help of the federation and Chinese support, has initiated 200 different projects under human resource development programs covering vocational training skills development institutions.

There are plans to open nursing schools. Gwadar has 150 beds hospital offering health services.

Recently Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif visited Gwadar after assuming office and announced to give Solar Panels for free electricity and boat engines to fishermen for fishing purposes along with projects of water desalination plants for a clean delivery of water.

The real-time fruits of socio-economic development are not only transforming and helping youth to receive skills for the future.

The youth in Baluchistan can act as a counter-extremism catalyst and infuse peace and stability in the region with effective opportunities from the ongoing progress on CPEC.

With progress on projects, soon Baluchistan's destiny will be changed into a progressive and developed region. Baluchistan is truly the heart of CPEC creating waves of development and progress across.

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The article has been published on The Diplomatic Insight.

Seminar: Gwadar Port: Latest Developments and Prospects for Shared Prosperity

Organised by the Centre for Belt and Road Initiative and China Studies Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, in collaboration with Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University



Speakers on Wednesday noted that development of Gwadar port and progress on various associated projects will bring peace, prosperity, and connectivity to the region.

Expressing views at a seminar on “Gwadar Port: Latest Developments and Prospects of Shared Prosperity” organised by the Centre for Belt and Road Initiative and China Studies – Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, in collaboration with Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, they said although there were strategic challenges, China and Pakistan had a strong commitment to continue moving forward.

In his keynote address, Yang Nuo, Minister Counselor, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, highlighted the significance of Gwadar Port and the progress made jointly by Pakistan and China on CPEC.

He said the progress on the airport, connectivity, and energy projects is ongoing. Apart from these projects, a significant impact is on the lives of the locals through the clean drinking water plants, hospital, and vocational training institute. Progress on these projects will comprehensively impact people’s lives and bring them prosperity. China and Pakistan are fully committed to building CPEC and progressing for a shared future.

Dr Liaquat Ali Shah, Head of Policy (CPEC) at Ministry of Planning and Development, offered comprehensive information on the latest progress on Gwadar.

He mentioned the completed, under-construction, and future planned projects.

Dr. Liaquat also highlighted that Gwadar has all the potential to be the smart port city of the world, and there are proposals and action plans in the pipeline to make the vision into reality.

Senator Sitara Ayaz, Secretary General, Congress, former special assistant to CM

Balochistan, highlighted her optimism toward peace and progress on Gwadar.

She said that Gwadar is progressing despite the challenges from the region and those who are naysayers to the long-standing Pakistan-China friendship.

Despite these challenges causing a delay in the progress, both Pakistan and China are committed to making development happen.

Gwadar is the linchpin for the peace and progress in the region. She said that China and Pakistan are also effectively working to promote the climate effect of Gwadar through massive tree plantations across the region.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director of the Riphah Institute of Public Policy, said the Institute of public policy supports the policy makers in developing informed policies. He said that he has also recently visited Gwadar and witnessed the progress.

In addition, Dr. Inayat Kalim, Associate Professor IR Department at Comsats

University Islamabad, said that four core elements are needed for the development and progress of the country to make the projects like Gwadar a reality.

These are vision, clear goals, strategy, and finally, determination. He highlighted that Gwadar is unique from all perspectives and has all the potential to be one of the region’s most developed ports with its natural resources.

All we have to do is to make our focus on achieving our goals through vision, effective strategy, and determination. Finally, a book on “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Paradigm Shift Growth Model” was published by the Riphah Institute of Public Policy. A large number of students, faculty members, and diplomats participated in the event.



5th Global Ambassador Awards 2022



Diplomatic Insight Group organized the 5th Global Ambassadors Award Ceremony to acknowledge the services of Ambassadors and diplomats, heads of an international organization, and businessmen for the promotion of people to people contact, business, trade and constructive bilateral relations with their respective states. Apart from Ambassadors, Heads of the UN organizations and different business groups were also given awards. These Awards are given annually on behalf of the people of Pakistan to acknowledge the services of outstanding Foreign Ambassadors, Diplomats served in Pakistan and Pakistani businessmen for their contribution in furthering Pakistan's trade and economic relations a global scale. The awards are meant to encourage the momentous and tireless work of awardees for promoting the political, economic, cultural, education, people-to-people contacts, and development works. The awards recognize nominees for outstanding achievements in furthering the softer image of Pakistan and vice versa. The winners of this exclusive award have been selected by a committee of distinguished experts from various backgrounds.

Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Federal Minister for State and Frontier Regions graced the occasion as Chief Guest and presented Awards to the Award Winner. While speaking on the occasion, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood said that Pakistan is seeking friendly ties with all the countries of the world. Pakistan is a growing economy and a land of opportunities for the world to invest and collaborate for a peaceful and better world. Farhat Asif, Chairperson of Diplomatic Insight Group, made welcome remarks while memorizing her journey as the founder of Diplomatic Insight Group spanning more than a decade and efforts go on in close coordination with foreign

diplomatic missions. Meanwhile, she thanked participating global ambassadors for accepting appreciatory awards from the people of Pakistan. During the Awards, Diplomatic Insight Group launched the Global Business Alliance (GBA).

The list of the awardees of the Global Ambassador Awards includes Adam Mulawarman Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Andreas Ferrarese Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, Ibrahim Almadani Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador, Republic of Kazakhstan, Al Sheikh Mohammed Omar Ahmed Al Marhoon Ambassador of Oman, General (Retd) "Ahmed Jawad" A. A. Rabei, Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani, Ambassador of Qatar, Yuki Takemoto, Representative of UNAIDS in Pakistan, Chris Kaye, Representative, and Country Director, WFP Pakistan, Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to EU and China, Kanwar Muhammad Tariq, Consular General of Paraguay, and Yasin Joyia, Honorary Consul General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Punjab, Pakistan. Additionally, the receivers of the awards also included the representatives of business entities Hatim Yaqoob Tabani, the Director of Tabani Group of Companies, Zeeshan Ahmed Siddiqui, the introducer of the "safe city" concept to Private Residential Schemes focusing on a healthy ecosystem, and Kabuljon K. Sabirov, Director of the Centre for Public Diplomacy of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan. Many Ambassadors, diplomats, and other important civil society leaders and personalities attended the ceremony.

H. E Mr. Adam Mulawarman Tugio

Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan



Adam Mulawarman Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, received an award at the 'Global Ambassador Awards' Ceremony organized by Diplomatic Insight Group. The award was conferred for his outstanding contribution toward building strong partnerships and awareness in Pakistan, on behalf of the people of Pakistan. Adam Mulawarman Tugio is an experienced Indonesian diplomat with a career of nearly three decades. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in 1991 and is currently serving as Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan.

Since his appointment, Ambassador Tugio has played a remarkable role in strengthening bilateral relations, cultural exchange, and promoting business and trade between Pakistan and Indonesia. Due to his massive input, Indonesian universities recorded the highest number of Pakistani students on scholarships.

Ambassador Tugio has worked extensively on strengthening bilateral trade and enhancing B2B opportunities for people of

both countries by organizing various events in the country including dialogues Shared Future and the Way Forward and Indonesia-Pakistan B2B Hybrid Road Show in Lahore.

Apart from this, cultural exchanges included Indonesia Corner in the University of Peshawar, conversations with Bahria University Islamabad and Punjab University Lahore for the ASEAN Study Center, Online Internship Program, Indonesia-Pakistan Young Intellectual Forum, Indonesian Cultural Exhibition, Wastra Exhibition, and the launch of a book titled "Cultural Beauty & Nature's Wonders: Captivating Images of Indonesia-Pakistan Similarities." The book of cultural connections was published in September 2021 to highlight shared beliefs and the confluence of civilization between the two brotherly nations.

H. E Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini

Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan



The Diplomatic Insight Group conferred an award to Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan during a ceremony for the 5th Global Ambassadors Awards. The award was conferred on behalf of the people of Pakistan, as a result of his outstanding contribution toward building a strong partnership between Iran and Pakistan.

Ambassador Hosseini is one of the most accomplished and well-achieved Iranian diplomats, with over three decades of experience. He has led various Missions to the Middle East.

In addition, he has also served as Secretary to the Council of Ministers, Spokesperson, and Superintendent for the Department of Asia and Pacific in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.

It is worth mentioning that the relations between Pakistan and Iran have immensely deepened during his tenure. Along these lines, Ambassador Hosseini has made enormous efforts to enhance bilateral trade ties between Iran and Pakistan.

Likewise, because of his contributions, the trade relations

between Iran and Pakistan have increased by 24%. Ambassador Hosseini also fostered tourism, tourism exchanges, and trade routes facilitation.

In this context, three new borders have been opened and equipped to facilitate bilateral ties between the two countries and six border markets have been established.

Due to his prodigious efforts, nearly 30 political, military, security, cultural-religious, economic, and parliamentary delegates have been exchanged between the two countries in the last two years. His remarkable efforts culminated in the increase in exports of goods and electricity, the signing of MoU on trade exhibitions and barter trade mechanisms, and the electronic exchange of customs information between the countries.

His vision of joint border management for elevated defense and security relations has increased collaboration between Iran and Pakistan with international organizations, including the UN, ECO, and OIC, which are commendable. His contributions to conducting bilateral meetings in politics, defense, security, police, and counter-narcotics are meritorious.

H. E Mr. Andreas Ferrarese

Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan



The Diplomatic Insight Group conferred an award to Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Pakistan during a ceremony for the 5th Global Ambassadors Awards. The award was conferred on behalf of the people of Pakistan, as a result of his outstanding contribution toward building a strong partnership between Italy and Pakistan.

Having a diplomatic career over almost 3 decades, the Ambassador of Italy is one of the well-schooled diplomats promoting peace and harmony in the global society. Ambassador Ferrarese has served as Directorate-General for Economic Affairs, Deputy Head of Crisis Unit, and Ambassador to various countries.

Moreover, he has been serving as the Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan since February 2020. During his tenure as Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, he managed the construction of the new Italian Embassy within six months.

Likewise, he has made tremendous contributions to enacting archeological mission in District Swat and collaborated with UNDP for the climate protection program “Glaciers & Students.” This program is a Scientific Based Approach to Monitor Climate and Glaciers in Pakistani Mountain Regions to Support Hydro-geological Risk Prevention.

Aside from that, Ambassador Ferrarese helped Pakistan maintain GSP plus status in the European Parliament. His immaculate diplomacy helped Pakistan in boosting the leather and textile sector.

Last but not the least, the incumbent Italian Ambassador laid the foundation of the Textile Centre for research and manufacturing in Faisalabad. Also, his outstanding contributions and collaboration for defense have helped Pakistan fight terrorism in the country. Ambassador Ferrarese has worked incredibly to enhance Italy-Pakistan cooperation in bilateral trade, economic, cultural, environmental, and other fields.

H.E. Ibrahim Almadani (Maj. Gen. Ret.)

Ambassador of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan



The Diplomatic Insight Group bestowed an award to Ibrahim Almadani (Major General Retired), Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan, during a ceremony for the 5th Global Ambassadors Awards.

The award was conferred on behalf of the people of Pakistan, as a result of his outstanding contribution toward building a strong partnership between Jordan and Pakistan.

Ambassador Ibrahim Almadani began serving his country in 1980 and served as Director of the intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance.

Following his remarkable strategic vision, flawless, the Government of Jordan appointed him as an Ambassador to Pakistan in 2018.

During his tenure in Pakistan, Ambassador Almadani has been promoting bilateral relations between Jordan and Pakistan in all sectors on multiple levels.

His massive contributions have increased trade volume despite COVID-19 pandemic restrictions to restore tourism, solve pending issues, match the business community, and explore mutual opportunities.

The Jordanian Ambassador also intensified cooperation in different sectors, training, joint exercises, information exchange, and joint exercises between the two brotherly countries.

Along these lines, his enormous contributions resulted in the visit of various royal and military delegates from Jordan to Pakistan.

He also pursued the convening of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) and the bilateral Political Consultations BPC along with propagating the importance of the digitalization of embassy consular services via online visa facilitation for Pakistani nationals.

Moreover, he enabled cultural ties between Jordan and Pakistan by maintaining and increasing the number of undergraduate scholarships for Jordanian students in Pakistan.

His immense contributions increased cultural collaboration between Jordan and leading Pakistani universities. Lastly, the Ambassador's services in evacuating stranded Jordanians and Pakistani nationals during Covid-19 airport closures are considerable.

H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin

Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan



The Diplomatic Insight Group honored Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan with an award, during a ceremony for the 5th Global Ambassadors Awards. The award was conferred on behalf of the people of Pakistan, as a result of his outstanding contribution toward building a strong partnership between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerhan Kistafin, is a career diplomat with a background in International Relations, Strategic Studies, and Law. He has served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and represented his country in critical global positions. His last assignment was Counselor Minister at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the US.

Due to his extensive experience and immaculate diplomacy, Ambassador Kistafin is one of the most incredible and accomplished diplomats Kazakhstan ever had. After providing momentous services in Belgium and the US, he was appointed as the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of

Pakistan in 2021. During his tenure as Ambassador to Pakistan, he made significant contributions to strengthening the bilateral relations, political, trade, and economic, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation between Kazakhstan. His tremendous efforts resulted in the signing of a MoU between the logistics industry with the participation of manufacturers of surgical instruments, sports goods, and agricultural and pharmaceutical products. Ambassador Kistafin has contributed to enhancing and promoting tourism and trade routes between Pakistan and Kazakhstan by facilitating negotiations between PTDA and Kazakh Tourism JSC. The Kazakh Ambassador has played a significant role in enhancing cooperation through cultural exchange via photo exhibitions at PNCA, and education, which resulted in the signing of five MoUs between the two countries. His efforts in promoting peace and harmony through trade, business, and cultural exchange is commendable. Under his outstanding leadership, the Al-Farabi-Iqbal Forum at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) in Almaty, Kazakhstan was held from 26-27th May 2022.

H.E. Al Sheikh Mohammed Omar Ahmed Al Marhoon Ambassador of Oman to Pakistan



The Diplomatic Insight Group honored Al Sheikh Mohammed Omar Ahmed Al Marhoon, the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in Pakistan with an award, during a ceremony for the 5th Global Ambassadors Awards.

The award was conferred on behalf of the people of Pakistan, as a result of his outstanding contribution toward building a strong partnership between Oman and Pakistan.

Ambassador Al Marhoon completed his post-graduation in Quality Management and joined the Foreign Ministry of Oman in 1993. He served in the European Union (EU), the Middle East, Paris, and Islamabad during his diplomatic career.

Earlier in 2003, the Omani Ambassador also served as the Deputy Head of Mission to Islamabad. In 2017, he was appointed as the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan.

Al Sheikh Mohammed Omar Ahmed Al Marhoon has made extraordinary efforts to strengthen the bilateral relations

between the two brotherly countries during his entire tenure. Along these lines, Ambassador, Al Marhoon efficiently facilitated the diplomatic process to achieve an agreement between both countries in the energy sector.

He developed an affluent atmosphere to schedule successful visits of Omani delegates and dignitaries to Pakistan from different fields.

In addition, the Ambassador is a participant in Pak-Oman Joint Parliamentary Friendship Committee sessions and worked effectively for its further development.

Aside from that, to further enhance trade volume between both countries, Ambassador Al Marhoon hosted high-level trade delegations from the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry to exchange trade ideas and explore new avenues of cooperation with Pakistani entrepreneurs and the business community.

General (Retd) “Ahmed Jawad” A. A. Rabei Ambassador of State of Palestine to Pakistan



The Diplomatic Insight Group honored General (Retd) Ahmed Jawad A. A. Rabei, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan with an award, during a ceremony for the 5th Global Ambassadors Awards.

The award was conferred on behalf of the people of Pakistan, as a result of his outstanding contribution toward building a strong partnership between Palestine and Pakistan.

Ambassador Ahmed Jawad is one of the most well-schooled, well-educated, and accomplished diplomats in the history of Palestinian diplomacy. With a law and political sciences background, he is a Ph.D. in Law and Political Sciences.

Before being appointed as Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Ambassador Rabei served in prestigious positions in the Department of Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Arab Ministers' Council.

His inexhaustible efforts in developing Human Rights in Palestine for the development of the Human Rights Council are commendable.

He has also served in important positions in the Government of Palestine. His last assignment was the Presidency of Meeting and Conferences held within the Secretariat General of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC).

During his tenure in Pakistan, Ambassador Rabei made efforts to strengthen ties between Pakistan and Palestine. He has the vision to “Transform Pakistan into Palestine and Palestine into Pakistan” via cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, and educational sectors.

Ambassador Rabei's effective planning and implementation strategies and his strategic vision have maneuvered the opening of the first Economic Corridor between Palestine and Pakistan.

Currently, both countries are willing to invest in various fields, including food, textile, and wooden goods. The Palestinian Ambassador is currently encouraging stakeholders to invest in the tourism industry and cultural, teacher, and student exchange programs to promote peace and harmony.

H.E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani Ambassador of State of Qatar to Pakistan



As a result of his outstanding contribution towards building a strong partnership with Qatar, on behalf of the people of Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani, Ambassador of State of Qatar has been conferred the “Global Ambassador Awards.”

Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Al-Thani served in Qatar Armed Forces and Qatar Emiri Air Force. He has a background in Business Administration and International Strategic Studies.

During his tenure in Pakistan, Qatar Petroleum entered into a long-term Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) for the supply of 3 million tons per annum (MTPA) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Pakistan

This agreement further extends Qatar’s long-standing LNG supply relationship with Pakistan and highlights Qatar’s commitment to meeting Pakistan’s LNG requirements.

The noteworthy contributions of the Qatari Ambassador increased military cooperation between Qatar and Pakistan. Qatar also gifted 10 Sea King Helicopters to Pakistan Navy and conducted joint military exercises and ventures.

Moreover, because of the Ambassador’s contribution and extensive work, Qatar extended its maximum support to Pakistan for combating Covid-19.

Likewise, the Pakistani Army received several health supplies, including 50 oxygen machines and medicines for Covid-19 patients, in August 2021.

In addition, the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Islamabad extended its support to various hospitals, medical centers, and Afghan refugees in Pakistan to combat the pandemic.

It is pertinent to note that Ambassador Al-Thani takes a keen interest in improving socio-economic opportunities for the people of Pakistan.

The “Educate a Child” program to enroll children across Pakistan is commendable. The program aims to enroll 960,000 out-of-school children across Pakistan over four years starting from 2022.

Lastly, it is of paramount importance to mention that the diligent input of his excellency has also increased job opportunities in Qatar for the people of Pakistan.

Yuki Takemoto

Representative of UNAIDS in Pakistan



Yuki Takemoto, the UNAIDS Country Director to Pakistan received an Award at the ‘Global Ambassador Awards’ ceremony. The award was conferred for her outstanding contribution toward building strong partnerships and awareness in Pakistan, on behalf of the people of Pakistan.

About Yuki Takemoto:

Takemoto is a seasoned and active public policy expert. She has a track record of devising and executing evidence-based policies and programs, creating custom advocacy campaigns, and forging coalitions with a variety of stakeholders for healthy and sustainable communities.

She holds twenty-five years of experience in development cooperation and leading policy.

Moreover, she has remained part of various UN interagency coordination mechanisms in Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Europe.

Before becoming the UNAIDS Country Director for Pakistan and Afghanistan, she worked for the Japanese Foreign Service and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

In addition, Takemoto has led concerted efforts with the federal

and provincial government and international and national stakeholders to devise effective strategic measures to combat HIV and the inequalities that drive epidemics in Pakistan.

Furthermore, her colossal contributions to helping Pakistan achieve Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals are worth mentioning. She advocates for the effective implementation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) in collaboration with the government, UN, and community partners.

In 2021, her significant contributions resulted in leading a joint effort to prevent the stock of pediatric and adult antiretroviral treatment (ART) in Afghanistan with the help of the National AIDS Programme (NACP) of Pakistan, the Afghanistan National Program for Control of HIV, STI, and Hepatitis in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Her prodigious efforts also enhanced coordination between federal and provincial health authorities responsible for HIV management in Pakistan through Inter-Provincial Coordination Mechanism.

Throughout her career, she has endorsed HIV-affected populations in implementing HIV-related programs. Pakistan is thankful for her remarkable services in improving the health-care sector.

Chris Kaye

Representative and Country Director, WFP Pakistan



Chris Kaye, Representative and Country Director of WFP (World Food Program) to Pakistan, received Global Ambassador Award.

Chris Kaye assumed his duties as WFP's Representative & Country Director for Pakistan in March 2020. Before this appointment, he served Italy, Myanmar, Rwanda, the Philippines, and Afghanistan while working with UNV/UNDP.

Kaye began his career at UN in 1992. After performing various services as Office of Resident Coordinator, coordinating and managing resources for the humanitarian crisis, Head of Policy and Programme, leading short term missions, Head of Programmes, and Country Director and Representative of multiple countries, he is now performing his duties as a Country Director in Pakistan.

Before this appointment, he served as the Director of the Government Partnerships Division for WFP HQ in Rome. Kaye has performed outstanding contributions during his tenure as Country Director of WFP, Pakistan. Chiefly, his valuable contributions and endowment helped in efficient and immediate measures for controlling the Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan.

Moreover, his invaluable experience and exceptional vision led to the development of a comprehensive strategy in conjunction with the UN system and WFP's Headquarters to maintain operability and deliver WFP support to the people of Pakistan.

In addition, he has provided support for developing a comprehensive Food Security Analysis to contribute to the Socio-economic Response Framework by WFP and FAO. Under his lead, WFP planned and implemented the COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Framework of the Government of Pakistan. His most significant contribution is to support the development of GOP's Health Response COVID-19 (Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan-SPRP).

Throughout his tenure in Pakistan, Kaye has focused on planning and implementing a robust strategy for addressing food security and nutrition issues, livelihoods, and climate change adaptation plans for the social and economic prosperity of the country. He also extended his full support for innovation within WFP to help Pakistan's government tackle socio-economic challenges by augmenting assistance for the Benazir Income Support Program. Kaye has extended his full support to marginalized women and children and played a significant role in formulating the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027.

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi

Former Ambassador of Pakistan to EU and China



N Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to EU and China.

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the EU and China, received Global Ambassador Award. The award was conferred for her outstanding contribution toward building strong partnerships and awareness in Pakistan, on behalf of the people of Pakistan. Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi has had the honor of representing Pakistan at innumerable international forums over the last four decades. Her determination, dedication, enthusiasm, tactfulness, and positive attitude have enabled cooperation for the development of Pakistan with its core partners, including China, The USA, and the European Union. Ambassador Hashmi served at several prestigious positions at the foreign office in Pakistan, including additional foreign Secretary for America, Director of General Policy Planning, Director of General Public Diplomacy, Director-General OIC, Director of United Nations, Director of International Conferences and Commonwealth, Director of Economic Coordination, Director Personnel, Director South East Asia and Deputy Director Foreign Secretary's Office. She

has also served at Deputy Head of Mission to Indonesia, China, and Denmark. She also served as Ambassador to Ireland, Belgium, and Luxembourg and presented a positive image of Pakistan to the international community. Moreover, her contributions also include negotiating agreements with the Irish Government to ensure employment for Pakistani Doctors, Chartered Accountants, and IT Professionals, Organizing and conducting multiple State & high-level visits, various trade fairs and exhibitions, and organizing festivals to introduce Pakistani cuisine and promoting the export of rice and mangoes in Ireland. Her instrumental input ensured the continuation of GSP plus the status of Pakistan.

Furthermore, Ambassador Hashmi has successfully finalized multiple investment proposals by Chinese Enterprises in Pakistan. She has proactively led the Pakistan Mission in China during the Covid-19 pandemic and ensured the safety and security of the Pakistani students and nationals in China during a pandemic. After a distinguished career spanning over 37 years, she retired from the Foreign Service of Pakistan.

Mr. Yasin Joyia

Honorary Consul General of Sri Lanka in Punjab



Mr. Yasin Joyia, Honorary Consul General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Punjab, was awarded the Global Ambassador Award for his outstanding services during the challenging times in the history of Pakistan diplomatic relations.

A diplomat's mettle is tested in challenging and difficult times and tested in challenging times. Mr. Yasin Joyia had to face one mammoth challenge due to the devastating incident of the brutal killing of Sri Lankan Citizen Priyantha Kumara in an unfortunate mob lynching event in Sialkot, on a false accusation of blasphemy. The incident could create a rift in the relations between the countries, including the tarnished image of Pakistan.

However, Mr. Joyia acted promptly. By using diplomatic means, Mr. Joyia received the dead body of the deceased from District Administration Sialkot and, after completing all the legal and medical requirements, timely managed to send it to Sri Lanka within 72 hours of the incident. The efforts of

Mr. Joyia were highly appreciated by the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, the Government of Pakistan, and the Government of Sri Lanka on the highest level. While recognizing his efforts, the High Commission of Sri Lanka wrote a letter of appreciation to him, acknowledging his indefatigable efforts.

Mr. Joyia also met the acting Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, and requested him to announce financial compensation for the departed soul. The Speaker of the Punjab Assembly invited Mr. Yasin Joyia to the session of the Punjab Assembly, where the resolution of condemnation of the incident was passed. Mr. Joyia also coordinated with the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and the Rajco Company for financial compensation for the family of deceased Priyantha Kumara. Due to Mr. Yasin Joyia, another person from Sri Lanka has filled the vacancy with the late Priyantha Kumara. It has helped to mollify the situation caused by this horrific incident in totality and in regaining and repairing our mutual relations with Sri Lanka.

Zeeshan Ahmed Siddiqui CEO, eSoft Pvt. Ltd.

Businessman and CEO of eSoft Pvt. Ltd, Zeeshan Ahmed Siddiqui, received an award at the 'Global Ambassador Awards' ceremony. As an outstanding businessman with a background in Information Technology, Management Accounting, and Project Management, Zeeshan Ahmed Siddiqui has provided consultative services for SMART Urban Development and IT-related projects in an entrepreneurial capacity. In addition, his priceless contributions include the successful automation and digitalization of Cantonment Boards in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar in 2003. He aims to digitalize the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).



Hatim Yaqoob Tabani Director of Tabani Group of Companies

Businessman and Director of Tabani Group of Companies, Hatim Yaqoob Tabani, received an award at the 'Global Ambassador Awards'. Hatim is the Director of Tabani Group of Companies that deals in oil and Gas, Defense, Railways, Aviation, IT Industry, and construction. He took charge of the Islamabad office of Tabani Group of Companies in 2012 to look after the Group's Oil & Gas Division. Hatim Tabani has successfully led the completion of the KPD-TAY Integrated Gas Processing Facility outside Hyderabad, in the Sindh Province, with the capacity to treat 250 MMscfd Raw Gas and produce 225.2 MMscfd Sales Gas, 5058 bbls/day/ Condensate, and 413 MT/day LPG. In addition, he also facilitated project procurement in Pakistan Oil Companies & Refineries in collaboration with M/S Shandong Kerui Petroleum, China.





Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

INSTITUTE OF PEACE AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

Building Bridges through Informed Dialogue

June 2022



Russia Foreign Minister attends Caspian Littoral States Meeting

28-06-2022: The seventh meeting of the ministers of the Foreign Affairs of the Caspian States discussed issues of the convention of the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea for economics, transport, anti-poaching, and maritime safety. <https://thediplomaticinsight.com/russian-foreign-minister-attends-caspian-littoral-states-meeting/>

Uzbekistan to establish International Transport and Logistics Hub

27-06-2022: The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has announced the establishment of an International Multifunctional Transport and Logistics Hub for humanitarian assistance. The continuing grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is of particular concern. <https://thediplomaticinsight.com/uzbekistan-to-establish-international-transport-and-logistics-hub/>

China and Pakistan sign Loan Agreement

23-06-2022: China and Pakistan sign the agreement on a 15 billion Yuan loan to Pakistan. The loan has been approved to support Pakistan at the times of economic crisis and high inflation. These developments will pave the way for Pakistan to receive loans from other countries and organizations. <https://thediplomaticinsight.com/china-and-pakistan-sign-loan-agreement/>

China imports record breaking crude oil from Russia

23-06-2022: The level of crude oil import of China increased by 55% which is a record breaking level of oil import between China and Russia. Chinese refiners took advantage of cashing in more imports at a discounted rate. <https://thediplomaticinsight.com/china-imports-record-breaking-crude-oil-from-russia/>

SCO HIGHLIGHTS

28-06-2022: Russia Foreign Minister attends Caspian Littoral States Meeting

27-06-2022: Uzbekistan to establish International Transport and Logistics Hub

23-06-2022: China and Pakistan sign Loan Agreement

23-06-2022: China imports record breaking crude oil from Russia

21-06-2022: EU-Kazakhstan cooperation Council 2022

20-06-2022: Kabuljon K. Sabirov: director of SCO Centre for Public Diplomacy

18-06-2022: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan receives Global Ambassador Award

17-06-2022: Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting

04-06-2022: 20 Years of Kyrgyzstan-Vietnam Relations

04-06-2022: Secretary General of SCO visits Kazakhstan

SCO HIGHLIGHTS

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20-06-2022: Kabuljon K. Sabirov: director of SCO Centre for Public Diplomacy
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/kabuljon-k-sabirov-director-of-sco-centre-for-public-diplomacy/>

18-06-2022: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan receives Global Ambassador Award
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/kazakh-ambassador-honored-with-global-ambassador-award/>

04-06-2022: Secretary General of SCO visits Kazakhstan
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/secretary-general-sco-visits-kazakhstan/>

EU-Kazakhstan cooperation Council 2022

21-06-2022: The Cooperation Council between EU and Kazakhstan focused on the agenda of mutual commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations and review progress made in implementation of EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ECPA).
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/eu-kazakhstan-cooperation-council-2022/>

Kabuljon K. Sabirov: director of SCO Centre for Public Diplomacy

20-06-2022: Kabuljon K. Sabirov is the Director of the Public Diplomacy under SCO Uzbekistan. The Director has been working on combining sustainable development and social issues.
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/kabuljon-k-sabirov-director-of-sco-centre-for-public-diplomacy/>

Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan receives Global Ambassador Award

18-06-2022: The Diplomatic Insight Group honored Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan with an award, in recognition of his outstanding contribution towards building a strong partnership between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/kazakh-ambassador-honored-with-global-ambassador-award/>

Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting

17-06-2022: The special ASEAN-India foreign meeting focused on health, trade, commerce, physical and digital connectivity, education, capacity building in the post Covid-19 world. Parties also discussed the implementation of the ASEAN-India joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/special-asean-india-foreign-ministers-meeting/>

20 Years of Kyrgyzstan-Vietnam Relations

04-06-2022: Kyrgyzstan and Vietnam has friendly ties based on mutual respect and mutually beneficial collaboration. Both countries aim to deepen and preserve historic relations and use all possibilities to strengthen them in bilateral and multilateral forums.
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/30-years-of-kyrgyzstan-vietnam-relations/>

Secretary General of SCO visits Kazakhstan

04-06-2022: The meetings between Secretary General SCO and Kazakhstan's First Deputy Foreign Minister focused on enhancing multidimensional and mutually beneficial collaboration and promote political, commercial, economic, cultural, and humanitarian relations.
<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/secretary-general-sco-visits-kazakhstan/>

IPD Proceedings

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18-06-2022: 5th Global Ambassador Awards conferred to Diplomats and business community



CPEC, BRI and China Bulletin

INSTITUTE OF PEACE AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

Building Bridges through an Informed Dialogue

June 2022



CPEC Development in Baluchistan

20-06-2022: CPEC offered much need impetus to the revolution of development happening not only across Pakistan but in Baluchistan as well. Baluchistan has been the heart of CPEC where the jewel of BRI Gwadar is building.

<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/cpec-development-in-balochistan/>

CPEC and Baluchistan options for regional connectivity

19-06-2022: CPEC is a true game changer for the economy of Pakistan which has been under attack by anti Pakistan fractions. According to the recent anti-Pakistan agenda, CPEC has nothing to do with the development of Baluchistan meanwhile, 70 percent of the development projects in Baluchistan have been completed.

<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/cpec-and-balochistan-options-for-regional-connectivity/>

CPEC and Karachi blast

14-06-2022: The suicide blast in Karachi University claimed lives of three Chinese teachers along with their Pakistani driver. The main objective of this politically motivated act of terrorism was to create chasm in the impregnable China-Pakistan partnership.

<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/cpec-and-karachi-blast/>

7th CPEC Media Forum held in Islamabad.

03-06-2022: 7th CPEC Media Forum was jointly hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. While CPEC plays an integral role in transforming geo-strategic, geo-political and geo-economic dynamics; the spread of propaganda is alluding.

<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/7th-cpec-media-forum-held-in-islamabad/>

CPEC HIGHLIGHTS

20-06-2022: CPEC Development in Baluchistan

19-06-2022: CPEC and Baluchistan options for regional connectivity

14-06-2022: CPEC and Karachi blast

03-06-2022: 7th CPEC Media Forum held in Islamabad

03-06-2022: Asif Noor conferred with CPEC communications Award

BRI, CPEC & CHINA BULLETIN

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BRI HIGHLIGHTS

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<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/asif-noor-conferred-with-cpec-communications-award/>

Asif Noor conferred with CPEC communications

02-06-2022: M. Asif Noor, Editor in Chief of the Diplomatic Insight Group has been conferred with “CPEC Communications Award” during the 7th CPEC Media Forum. Noor has been recognized for his outstanding contribution towards promoting CPEC and its important insight and building a strong relationship between Pakistan and China.

<https://thediplomaticinsight.com/asif-noor-conferred-with-cpec-communications-award/>





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5th Global Ambassador Awards Ceremony

