

## China Study Centres-Aims and Objectives

There are contrasting differences between the beliefs, cultures and habits of China and Pakistan, yet the historic relations between the two countries linked through the Silk Routes over centuries, enabled both the nations to respect each other and become supporters in thick and thin. GB being a gateway to CPEC and Karakoram International University, being a pioneer seat of higher learning has been connected to China physically, historically and traditionally. The flow of services and goods across the two regions under regional trade arrangements, provide unmatched opportunities to the people on both sides of the boarder. KIU established its Confucius Centre, years back to impart Chinese Language literacy to the students and youth. All graduates of KIU are bound to learn the two level of Chinese literacy (HSKI&II). Every year more than 1000 students are taught Chinese language by native Chinese teachers. A good number of the faculty of KIU also graduated from Chinese top Universities, who have brought, their rich experience to the region for quality education and research to more than 7000 students at KIU. The faculty and students of Pakistani Universities and general and KIU in particular would need to abreast for harnessing the opportunities provided under CPEC Knowledge and Research Corridor. Drew Faust President Harvard University quoted: *“Higher Education is the strongest, sturdiest ladder for socioeconomic mobility”*. CPEC knowledge and Research opportunities will enhance the intellectual capacity of the faculty and staff of

Pakistani Higher Education Institutes and KIU, which will turn the youth force of Pakistan, as growth engine as envisaged by HEC.

Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) has been signed with some universities of China for faculty/ student exchange, research collaboration and outreach and technology transfer. In this direction, currently KIU MoU signed with the following Chinese universities:

1. KIU and Qilu University of Technology, Jinan China
  2. KIU and Kunming University of Science and Technology, China
  3. KIU and Xinjiang Agriculture University
- KIU is actively engaged in forging collaborations and partnerships with various universities in China and more collaborations will be developed in near future.

Different levels of collaborations have been functional between KIU and many universities of China in various domains of research and academics, for instance, for testing of samples for biological properties, material engineering, natural product isolation, Food and nutraceutical analysis, geosciences, plant systematic studies, etc. Some of the high impact articles of collaborative work have already been published in renowned journals. Some notable collaborations are given in Table.

The South and Southeast Asian University Network, also known as SSE ASIAN UN, was established on Dec 10, 2018, at Yunnan University in Kunming, Yunnan's provincial capital. It has 103 universities from South and Southeast Asia. KIU is its member and actively involved in various and research activities since its inception:

- The South and Southeast Asian University Network (S&SE ASIAN UN) Sub-committee of Emerging Engineering Education was established on May 12 at Yunnan University (YNU), with an inaugural meeting and the first computer science education forum held on the same day.

- KIU actively participated in the short video competition on My Story of Fighting against COVID-19 and got second prize

The Faculty members who have earned their doctoral degrees from China (27 faculty members) have studied one year Chinese language or at least studied one or two Chinese spoken courses in China. Some of them have passed Chinese proficiency test of HSK-4. In addition, the Confucius Set at Institute of Professional Development (IPD), KIU has already initiated Chinese language courses. KIU in collaboration with the Confucius Institute aims to further bolster the mutually benefiting ties between China and Pakistan through promotion of the Chinese language and culture.

KIU is one of few universities in Pakistan, where 3 credit hours, a semester long Chinese language course is compulsory part of BS degree curriculum. Each under-grad student is required to complete the Chinese language requirement to complete the degree for HSK-I&II levels. Every year about 1000 graduates and youth of the GB are trained for Chinese language by native Chinese teachers.

KIU has a well-established research center known as Center for Research on CPEC (CRC) at the Faculty of Social Sciences. A number of projects have been undertaken under the umbrella of this dedicated research center. The CRC has arranged the following seminars / workshop related to CPEC:

- i. The Center for Research on CPEC in collaboration with Centre of Excellence on CPEC, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform organized a one-day National Conference on “CPEC: Opportunities and Challenges for Gilgit-Baltistan” at KIU, Gilgit on November 3, 2017. Speakers from different sectors of the society presented their viewpoint on the opportunities and challenges that will accompany CPEC-related investments. Prominent among the speakers were Dr. Shahid Rashid Executive Director Center for Excellence on CPEC, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, Islamabad.

- ii. The Center for Research on CPEC in collaboration with the Department of Youth Affairs, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and GB Pride Association---a local NGO organized a three days' workshop entitled "CPEC and Youth: Opportunities for Entrepreneurship on April 10, 2019. Mr. Asim Tiwana, Secretary for Youth Affairs and Human Rights was the chief guest of the opening ceremony while Dr. Kazim Niaz Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan honored the closing ceremony as the chief guest. Around 70 senior students from various departments of KIU participated in the workshop. They students presented their business ideas, which were appreciated by the audience.
- iii. More recently KIU organized 3-day online research colloquium in collaboration with Shandong Academy of Sciences, Jinan China and the researchers from the institute delivered their keynotes, besides more than 50 integrational and national speakers.

1. The following KIU Squad had participated in the "South and Southeast Asia College Students Cultural and Sports Week, 2019" held in Kunming University of Science and Technology, China.

- i. Mr. Irfan Ali (Faculty Business Management) - Contingent Leader
  - ii. Khalid Ansari (Student, Department of IR) - Cultural Performer/Drummer
  - iii. Kashif Shamsher (Student, Department of Environmental Sciences) Cultural Performer/Singer.
  - iv. Sheraz Karim (Student, Department of Computer Sciences) Cultural Performer/Rubab Artist
2. Prof.Engr. Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah Vice Chancellor KIU, as part of the leadership visit of CPEC Consortium

Universities to Hangzhou and Ningbo China in China Association for Higher Education (CAHE)

3. A delegation of six students from KIU including two females were sponsored by the Embassy of People's Republic of China in Pakistan to visit Beijing for a week. The students visited several universities in Beijing and interacted with students and faculty.
4. Under the Confucius set at Institute of Professional Development, KIU a group of students who successfully completed HSK 1 & 2, availed a cultural exposure visit to Beijing China.

A number of national and international delegates visited KIU to explore possibilities for collaboration. Details of some of the visits of are given as follows:

- i. A team of researchers from Lanzhou University visited KIU and held meetings to explore possibilities for joint ventures. The Department of Environmental Science has initiated collaborative projects with Lanzhou University.
- ii. A delegation from University of Kashghar visited KIU and had meeting with VC and Director China Study/CPEC Centre. The various areas of joint collaboration were discussed. The delegation from KIU will visit Kashghar University soon.
- iii. A delegation of five doctoral students under the supervision of Professor Hou Yangfang of the Institute of Historical Geography, Fudan University visited KIU in liaison with the Department of International Relations to conduct research on the History of Silk Route.
- iv. A delegation comprising of Vice Chancellor KIU, Dean Faculty of Life Science and Senior Faculty member from Chemistry department will visit Shandong Academy of Sciences) Jinan, China in April/May 2021 soon after the COVID-19 lockdown is relaxed.

- v. Senior Faculty Dr. Manzoor Ali and Registrar Dr. Abdul Hameed Lone visited China on exchange visit.

For the first time in the history of KIU, faculty and student exchange program is set for capacity building, research outreach and technology transfer. In this direction, two PhD students enrolled for PhD program in Biological Sciences at KIU have been selected for Laboratory trainings and research at Qilu University of Technology Jinan. KIU endeavors to create more opportunities to students and faculty exchange to partner universities in China.

- i. The Department of Food Technology and Agriculture is in the process initiating a joint venture with the Chinese counterparts on Development of Bio-pesticides and Intelligent Sprayer to Optimize its Applications in Fruits Orchards of GB.
- ii. The department of Earth Science also undertook research work and held study on Geo-Hazard in collaboration with University of Sichuan China

KIU has a fully functional Confucius Set at the Institute of Professional Development (IPD) that imparts Chinese language trainings to students and professionals from various walks of life. The teaching faculty is the native Chinese faculty from the Confucius Institute. KIU intends to further augment the program by creating linkages with external stakeholders and building partnerships with Chinese and Pakistani counterparts.

In addition, KIU is offering the following courses closely related to CPEC and China:

- i. Department of International Relations (I.R.) teaches two courses: 1) BRI and Regional Integration 2) Area Studies on China.
- ii. Department of Economics offer one course: 1) Globalization and Regional Integration.

Moreover, as referred earlier that the Chinese language is also taught as a compulsory course to students of undergraduate (B.S.). Chinese native speakers from Confucius Institute teaches this course.

Based on extensive involvement of KIU with Chinese counterparts in the areas of higher education and research, HEC approved "*Establishment of China Study Centre (CSC) at KIU*" as part of 6 study centers being established across the country, under PSDP project "*Academic Collaboration under CPEC Consortium Universities*". The China Study Centers are being established as mini think tanks to promote academic and research linkages among the Chinese and Pakistani universities. The primary function of these Centers will be to drive collaborative activities to enhance understanding of Chinese system, culture and economic miracle. Details Terms of Reference of CSC, as per HEC guidelines are given as follows:

- a. The Centers will be funded by HEC under the PC-1 for "*Academic Collaboration under CPEC Consortium of Universities*" for three years. The Universities will plan ahead for their gradual shifting to recurring budget after the conclusion of the project
- b. The Universities will get approval of the academic, administrative and financial mechanism of the Centers from their respective governing bodies and provide suitable furnished accommodation for the Centers, with internet connectivity
- c. Open and maintain separate project accounts.
- d. Organize Chinese language classes for the faculty and students
- e. Organize activities to promote understanding of Chinese system and culture
- f. Undertake translation of Chinese literary pieces to promote understanding of Chinese cultural traditions
- g. Act as a thinks tank / area study centre on China

- h. Promote / coordinate CPEC-focused research
- i. Act as regional hub for planned China Pakistan Higher Education Research Institute
- j. Organize conferences, seminars and workshops in collaboration with Chinese universities

The following targets will be achieved on completion of the project (after three years) to promote better understanding of Chinese history, culture and economic development. Each Center will:

- a. Publish minimum 3 books on China / CPEC
- b. Undertake at least 3 impact studies related to CPEC in collaboration with Chinese Universities
- c. Train not less than 100 staff /students in Chinese language
- d. Translate minimum 100 pages of Chinese literary pieces
- e. Organize exhibitions of Chinese advancements in science and art
- f. Organize cultural activities to showcase Chinese culture

The following human resource will be provided to the Centers and funded by HEC for three years:

- a. Associate Prof. (Director) –Salary: Not exceeding Rs 0.309m per month
- b. 1 x Asst. Prof. (proficient in Chinese language) – Salary: Not exceeding Rs0.184m per month
- c, 1 x Lecturer / Research Associate (Chinese language teacher) –Salary: Not exceeding Rs0.081m per month
- d, 1 x Asst. Librarian –Salary: Not exceeding Rs0.034m per month

***Purchase of Library/ Study Material:*** The following one-time funding will be provided for purchase of library / study material:



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a. Study Material (Books and Magazine)	2.000 m
b. Audio Video Material / Software	0.500 m
c. Multi Media / Projector	1.500 m
d. Office Requisites	<u>2.000 m</u>
Total:	6.000 m

Universities will be eligible for funding through other initiatives under the PC-1, such as joint research projects, training and talent cultivation, and joint conferences/seminars/workshops—through competitive selection process. The Centers will submit annual reports of their activities by 30<sup>th</sup> June every year.

KIU has been actively involved with the various Chinese Higher Education and Research Institutes for last one decade, mainly due to close proximity of the Gilgit Baltistan to China, large number of faculty having graduated from China and importance of the region as gateway to CPEC. For strengthening cultural, educational, research and trade relations with China, CSC can play a pivotal role. An advisory committee has been constituted, headed by the Vice Chancellor KIU and the positions of the project have been advertised. The functioning of the CSC will start soon. This book may be part of the book publication objectives of CSC.

CSC plans to arrange diverse activities during the project period and onwards, which may include Research collaboration, joint research publication, joint authorship of books, issuing of monthly magazine of center, strengthening of faculty, staff and students exchange programs between the two countries. For successful implementation of CPEC projects and transfer its dividends to the masses, it is very important to develop better understanding between the two nations. CSC, as a focal point at KIU, can achieve this goals and the KIU team and leadership have to develop a pragmatic plan realize rather surpass the expectations of the project.

In the changing geostrategic circumstances and regional dynamics after the withdrawal of US troops and accession of

Taliban to powers in Afghanistan, the regional stability and peace in south Asia become more challenging. For achieving the long terms objectives of China for creating economic prosperity for all countries of the region and achievement of Pakistan's vision to become one the Asian Economic Tigers, would need sustainable peace in the region. The adversary response and attitude of Indian Government and Media after the recent developments in Afghanistan, threats to regional peace are increasing. The strong pledge of China to support Afghanistan for its rebuilding and rehabilitation, is though a positive symbol towards developing diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and China, yet the combined propaganda of US and India to restrict China and create more uncertainties about credibility of the Taliban Government, through media war, is becoming a challenge for the region and both China and Pakistan. In this context, close collaboration between China and Pakistan is imperative.

In this part of the book, the China's approach for creating technology based excellence in the emerging new technologies and subsequent 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, the future direction of Pak China relations in the above cited challenges and details of my visits to China.