

Foreword

It is, indeed, heartening to see the book titled “Pakistan-China Relations: Reflection of 70 Years of Diplomatic History” authored by Professor Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit Baltistan. As 2021 marks the 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries, China Study Centre of KIU publishes the book that is a timely tribute to this great partnership. The book encompasses the evolution of seven decades of Pakistan-China relations, China’s successful transformation and its remarkable feat of poverty alleviation. While Pakistan-China friendship thrived in the hearts of the people of two countries often referred to as “Iron brothers”, their friendship is also emanated from mutual trust and respect. The relations between the two countries are not mere diplomatic rhetoric but have over a period of time, evolved into all-time cooperative strategic partnership between the two countries.

It is an undeniable fact that the transformation of China from a world’s poorest nation into one of the world most prosperous country is a marvel that has never been witnessed in the human history. A completely new model of poverty alleviation and economic prosperity set forth and driven by Chinese through Communist Party of China (CPC) is a model for other struggling economies across the world to take lesson from. Dr. Attaullah Shah has correctly referred the “China miracle” in terms of human progress and development. Pakistan being a great friend of China can learn many lessons from Chinese experience especially in the sphere of economy, technology, poverty alleviation and more importantly from Chinese wisdom. There is a room to undertake

immense work on Chinese experience and development model. This gap can only be bridged by undertaking an in-depth research on the accomplishment of China in the last seven decades and how can Pakistan learn to pace up with China.

In my assessment, this book is a great contribution in the literature focusing on China. The first part addresses the 100 years of journey of CPC which is a primary driver of China's rise. The achievements of the party in the past few decades have been manifold. The four major achievements of CPC are: winning the battles for revolution in China, leading people of China to build a stronger China with the principle of self-reliance, pursuing path of reforms and socialist modernization and leading Chinese people to pursue great struggle realizing their dream of greater China. A major takeaway from the second part of the book is that China's development and prosperity would not only be confined to China but in accordance with the vision of Chinese leadership, the dividends would be shared with the region and beyond. President Xi's visionary initiative Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is aimed at promoting high quality development through collective efforts.

The third part essentially focuses on China's progress in the field of Education and Research. In this part one realizes that how advanced quality research and well-planned education system transforms a nation's destiny. This part has an important lesson for Pakistan to develop its research capabilities and bring reforms to its education system in line with the latest trends and requirement of the day and age. The fourth part of the book covers a very important and dynamic subject and that is future of Pakistan-China relations. China has been rapidly progressing in the field of emerging technologies and future relation of Pakistan and China would be important in the context of enhanced technological cooperation.

Dr. Attaullah Shah's book is a fair reflection of the opportunities both the countries have in all-encompassing future cooperation and what challenges lie ahead for the two countries. The book is a "must read" piece of work for academicians, practitioners, scholars, policymakers, students of Pakistan-China

relations and those who are critically watching regional and global politics.

I sincerely wish Dr. Attaullah Shah for success in his future work which would help raise awareness and develop understanding on issues central to future of Pakistan.

Dr. Talat Shabbir
January 10, 2022