



China Study Center

中国研究中心

Balochistan University of Information
Technology, Engineering and
Management Sciences



Annual Report

Sep 2021-June 22

WELCOME

On behalf of the China Study Center (CSC) Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), I am happy to introduce the inaugural annual report. CSC started working in Sptember 2021. It is funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad under PC-1 for “Academic Collaboration under the CPEC Consortium of Universities”. We at CSC, promote academic, research, and cultural linkages between the Pakistani and Chinese universities. We focus on multi-disciplinary research themes with a particular focus on CPEC. We also undertake the teaching of the Chinese language and cultural domain to facilitate the capacity building of the people of Pakistan in general and Balochistan in particular. This report reviews our activities for the calendar year from September 2021 to June 2022.

Dr. Abdu Sattar

Director of China Study Center, BUIITEMS

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INTRODUCTION



Pakistan and China began their relationship with the independence of both nations. This cordial relationship has flourished over the years in various fields ranging from strategic to economic ties. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the major bilateral projects focusing on regional cooperation and economic benefits for both China and Pakistan. In order to strengthen the collaboration and understanding of the Chinese history, system, culture, language, and economic/financial system, China Study Center (CSC) has been established in 2021 at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS). It is funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad under PC-1 for “Academic Collaboration under the CPEC Consortium of Universities”. BUIITEMS is a member of the CPEC Consortium of Universities which pledges to enhance cooperation in business, science, and technologies between Pakistan and China.

CSC has been mandated to promote academic, research, and cultural linkages among the Pakistani and Chinese universities. The Center deals with multi-disciplinary research themes with a particular focus on CPEC. Besides, the CSC undertakes teaching of the Chinese language and cultural domain to facilitate the capacity building of the people of Pakistan in general and Balochistan in particular. This would help them interact with the people of China, especially connected with CPEC.

To pool resources, CSC is placed under the functional and operational control of Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN), a sister think tank located within the premises of BUIITEMS and raised by the National Command Authority (NCA), Islamabad.

Our Vision

Become the leading research and teaching center on the Chinese history, system, culture, and Chinese language in Quetta for capacity building of the people of Balochistan.

Mission Statement

To produce quality academic research in collaboration with Chinese universities focusing on CPEC, assimilate Chinese culture and be a base for teaching Chinese language.

Our Core Values

Maintain a working environment based on team spirit, mutual respect, seeking unbiased truth keeping supreme the national interest. Collaborative result-oriented academic research based on integrity, creativity, and quality is the hallmark of our core values and learning Chinese culture and teaching of Chinese language with passion.

Our Objectives

- ◆ To facilitate capacity building of the people of Balochistan by teaching Chinese history, culture, art and language.
- ◆ To conduct academic research under different themes in collaboration with Chinese universities/institutions of interest to both countries.
- ◆ To promote research-culture and initiate bilateral academic exchanges by creating linkages with Chinese universities / institutes.
- ◆ To strengthen cooperation between the two countries by producing and disseminating academic knowledge of interest to both China and Pakistan.



CHINA STUDY CENTER TEAM



Brig (R) Agha Ahmad Gul
Chairman CSC (CEO/Consultant) BTTN



Dr. Zafar Khan
Executive Director BTTN



Dr. Abdul Sattar
Director of China Study Center
BUIEMS



Dr. Raja Asif Wagan
Additional Director of China Study
Center BUIEMS



Dr. Zamir Abro
Deputy Director of China Study
Center BUIEMS



Syed Ghulam Mujtaba Shah
Research Assistant
China Study Center BUIEMS



Rukhsana Abdul Haq
Research Assistant
China Study Center BUIEMS



Sher Ali
Assistant Librarian
China Study Center BUIEMS



China Study Center Team Meeting

The China Study Center core team consisting of the Director, Additional Director, and Deputy Director, welcomed the newly recruited staff in the meeting held on February 17, 2022. The newly recruited Research Assistants and the Assistant Librarian were informed about China Study Center and its activities. The Director and Additional Director (CSC) shared the key performance indicators (KPIs), vision and mission, and future three years road map. The Director emphasized teamwork and collective actions for the achievement of the designated objectives of the center.



Promotional and Outreach Activities

Since its inception, CSC BUIEMS has organized several promotional and outreach activities to convey the vision and mission of the Center to the students and staff. During these activities, the respondents were told about the importance of learning the Chinese system, art and culture, and especially the Chinese language.

Promotional Stall at ICE Cube 2021

With the commitment to becoming a hub of Chinese studies and the capacity-building of the people of Balochistan, the Center kicked off its activities by placing a promotional stall on 26-27 October 2021 at the biennial conference, ICECube2021.



The stall was visited by different dignitaries, faculty, staff, and students. The staff at China Study Center briefed the visitors about the activities of the center such as the offers of Chinese language courses, research on CPEC, and the promotion of Chinese culture and arts.



Help Desk and Registration



China Study Center placed help desk and registration points at different locations in the university including the main library, main academic block, and the City campus. These desks helped students in registration for the Chinese language and other activities.



Chinese Language Classes

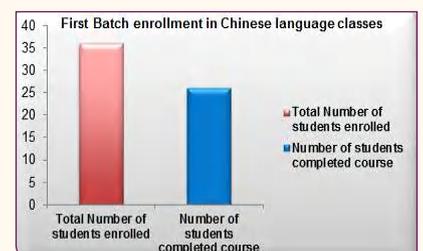
China Study Center BUISTEMS started Chinese language course (Hànyǔ shuǐpíng kǎoshì HSK-I) in November 2021. HSK1 is a three-month basic introductory course on the Chinese language.



In the orientation session of the Chinese Classes,

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan, the then Pro-Vice-Chancellor BUISTEMS, in his opening remarks, welcomed all the students and delivered a brief speech on the importance of the Chinese language. After that, Dr. Abdul Sattar, Director of China Study Center, provided a brief introduction to China Study Center, its objectives, and activities.

A total of 36 students enrolled in the first batch out of which 26 completed the HSK-1 course. In the course, they were taught this Mandarin Chinese, in which, the reading, writing, and speaking aspects of the language were covered. At the end of the session, a written exam was also conducted.



Chinese Language Certificate distribution and New Year Celebration

Upon the completion of the first batch, a certificate distribution ceremony was arranged by CSC BUIITEMS. The ceremony was held in the Pink Hall at Takatu Campus BUIITEMS. Brig (R) Agha Ahmad Gul, CEO/Consultant Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Dr. Abdul Sattar, Director of the China Study Center, welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries. In his short welcome note, he briefly mentioned the role of CSC in the capacity building of the people of Balochistan. He further highlighted the growing



impact of China on the world economy and politics. He ended his note with the inspiration to continue Chinese language courses and extend the reach of CSC activities.

After the welcome note, the host of the program requested the chief guest Brig (R) Agha Ahmad Gul to distribute the course completion certificates among the students. After the distribution of certificates, the chief guest expressed his views about learning the Chinese language.

He urged the students to keep learning the Chinese language as the upcoming era would belong to China. He also expounded that the socio-economic uplift of Balochistan depends upon the capacity-building of the residents. He appreciated the efforts of the CSC team and urged that CSC under the functional control of BTTN would achieve its objectives. In the end, CSC, BUIITEMS honored their guests by presenting them the souvenirs. Director CSC also requested the Chief Guest to cut the cake for the celebration of Chinese New Year (新年快乐 Xīnnián kuàilè), which could not be done earlier due to winter vacations. The CSC also has announced the admissions for the second batch for HSK 1 and HSK 2. The Class would start in June 2022.





Chief Guest, Brig (R) Agha Ahmad Gul distributing HSK-1 completion certificates to students



A group photo of HSK-1 students with Chief Guest and China Study Center Staff

Meetings and Connectivity

CSC BUIITEMS was represented by its director in several meetings held since last September 2021. The record of some meetings is presented here.

Progress Review Meeting with Higher Education Commission

On December 6, 2021, an online meeting was held between the Directors of all China Study Centers across Pakistan. The main agenda item of the meeting was to share the progress of the respective centers and welcome suggestions and new proposals.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Safdar Ali Shah, Director General - China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Higher Education Commission. China Study Center, BUIITEMS was



represented by Director, Dr. Abdul Sattar.

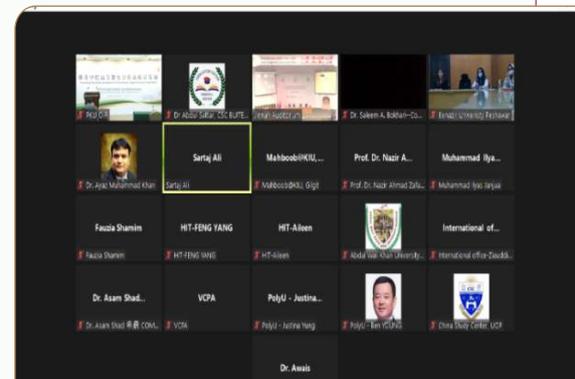
The attendees agreed on sharing ideas and working in collaboration among Centers. In the meeting, BUIITEMS' proposal for reallocation/recomposing of budget for China Study Centers were also discussed. All the members showed their consent to the proposed reallocation and some additions were also proposed.

Budget Proposal of BUIITEMS

- 1 Study Material (Books and Magazines)
 - 2 Audio Video Material/ Software
 - 3 Multimedia/ Projector
 - 4 Office requisites
 - 5 Communication Materials and Research Publication
 - 6 Conference/ symposium/seminar/workshop/exhibitions
 - 7 Miscellaneous expenditures/Contingency
- Total

4th Exchange Mechanism Conference of CPEC Consortium of Universities

Director of China Study Center, Dr. Abdul Sattar participated in the 4th Exchange Mechanism Conference of China Pakistan Economic (CPEC) Consortium of Universities Corridor via Zoom on 15 October 2021. The hybrid conference was held at Peking University China and the National University of Science Technology (NUST) Pakistan. The conference was also attended by Pakistan's then-Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Shafqat Mehmood. From China, Du Yubo, President of the China Association of Higher Education, delivered a keynote speech on the friendship between China and Pakistan including diplomatic ties and education collaborations.



The meeting was attended by the representatives of 82 member universities of the CPEC Consortium of Universities from China and Pakistan. The conference also witnessed the establishment of the China-Pakistan Higher Education Research Institute to further facilitate high-end higher education research in various fields in both countries. The annual development report for 2019-2020 of the CPEC Consortium of Universities was also presented.

In the later part of the conference, experts from both Chinese and Pakistani universities presented reports/studies on the promotion of quality development of higher education cooperation and post-pandemic opportunities and challenges faced by both countries.

Professional Training / Capacity Building
Professional training is an important theme that PolyU provides to B&R partners.
Belt and Road Advanced Professional Development Programme in Power and Energy
(University-Industrial Collaboration with State Grid of China, HK Electric)

- 2018 cohort (field-trip & workshop) : One NUST representative joined 2 weeks field-trip/workshop
- 2020-2021 cohort (online workshops): 60 Pakistan researchers from 11 universities join the training

Pakistan Universities	2020	2021
COMSATS University	10	9
Falme Jinnah Women University	3	-
Foundation University Islamabad	4	2
National University of Sciences & Technology	7	3
NED University of Engineering and Technology	3	2
University of Engineering & Technology, Peshawar	1	-
Bahria University	-	2
BUIITEMS	-	10
Mehran University of Engineering and Technology	-	2
PAF-IAST	-	2
Total	28	32

Collaboration meeting with Dalian Polytechnic University, China

A meeting between China study center BUIITEMS and the Dalian Polytechnic University (DPU) was held on March 9, 2022, for possible collaboration in different academic activities such as student exchange and scholarship programs. From China Study Center BUIITEMS, Director, Dr. Abdul Sattar chaired the meeting. Alongside him, Dr. Raja Asif, Additional Director of CSC, Dr. Zamir Abro, and Dr. Rehan Abbasi, Associate Dean Faculty of Engineering were also present. Dalian Polytechnic University was represented by the Vice-Dean Miss. Yan Yu, Vice Dean, School of International Education (DPU), and Mr. Sheng Wang, Dean, School of International Education (DPU). Both universities agreed on a common interest in academic activities, and the document of understanding between the two institutions would be signed later.



Dialogue between Sichuan Universities China and Pakistani Universities

Background

In 2017, in collaboration with the China Association of Higher Education, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan launched the “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Consortium of Universities” which vows to enhance cooperation in the fields of science, technology, and business studies for the benefit of the societies of the two countries.

As many as 80 plus distinguished universities from both China and Pakistan have become members of the Consortium. Of the 22 universities in China, most are from the eastern part and none of them are from Sichuan, a very important province in the west of China. Sichuan province is the biggest economy in the western part of China with rich educational and scientific resources. It takes lead in the world in such areas as material science, chemistry, geology, electronic communication, transportation, crop breeding, and petroleum engineering which match the major goals set in the Vision 2025 of Higher Education in Pakistan which established the development model of tertiary universities, strengthened the construction of teaching staff, attached importance to the training of engineering and technical personnel, focused on improving university popularity and other major goals. The universities in Sichuan are enthusiastic about collaborating with the universities in the countries along One Belt and One Road, especially with the universities of Pakistan. They have set up various links with some universities in Pakistan over the past decade. To conceive the intent of mutual collaboration, a dialogue between Sichuan Universities and Pakistani Universities was arranged by China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRCES) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan for the facilitation purpose.

Dialogue proceedings

Dialogue on academic and educational cooperation between Sichuan and Pakistani universities was a hybrid one, which was held on 11 May 2022. Eight universities from Pakistan including the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Quaid e Azam University Islamabad, International University Gilgit Baltistan, University of Peshawar, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, University Engineering Technology Lahore, Institute of Business Administration

Karachi, and Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) participated in the dialogue through Voov online platform. From Sichuan province, China, the representatives of the following universities were present: Sichuan University, Southwest Jiaotong University, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Sichuan Agricultural University, Chengdu University of Technology, Southwest Petroleum University, Sichuan Normal University, Xihua Normal University.





The meeting started with the opening remarks of dignitaries from both China and Pakistan. From China, Professor CHEN Xuehua, Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Technology, Sichuan University, expressed deep interest in enhancing collaboration in Science, Technology, and Innovation. He highlighted the importance of technology transfer and research collaboration under a joint platform/organization. He expressed his support for industrial institutions and universities and hoped to enhance mutual understanding between Chinese and Pakistani universities that would benefit China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Prof. Jiang Enlai, Vice President and Secretary-General of China Association of Higher Education, expressed that the China Association of Higher Education Commission joined hands with Higher Education Commission Pakistan to establish the 'CPEC Consortium of Universities' for mutual exchange and interaction between universities in Pakistan and China. He urged that the support from the China Association of Higher Education would also continue in future collaborations. Representing the Department of Education Sichuan, Prof. Yang Jianguo, Secondary Council Department of Education, Sichuan, expressed that Sichuan is already engaged in education exchanges and cooperation with many countries and regions. He expressed his desire to continue supporting educational and scientific cooperation with HEC Pakistan and universities in Pakistan through CPJRC. From Pakistan, Lt General Muhammad Asghar, member of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and former Rector National University of Sciences and Technology, also addressed the participants of the dialogue. He said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. Pakistan is the third largest source of students studying in China. He hoped that with this dialogue, a new chapter of growing academic cooperation with Chinese universities would open and the bilateral ties between the higher education institutes of China and Pakistan would deepen. After the opening ceremony, Dr. Safdar Ali Shah, Director General of China Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC office of HEC briefed the participants about the background of the CPEC Consortium of universities.

After that, the participating universities introduced their universities and discussed the prioritized disciplines for academic collaboration. BUIITEMS was represented by Dr. Abdul Sattar, Director of the China Study Center. In his presentation, he highlighted that BUIITEMS has shown impressive growth in a short period of time. It has become the leading university in the region with its commitment to providing quality education and facilitation research activities.

Dr. Sattar expressed that BUIITEMS is a general university with 6 faculties and 33 different departments, which provide leverage to collaborate with Sichuan Universities in any field. However, based on the needs of the people of Balochistan, BUIITEMS would prioritize cooperation in the technical and vocational sectors. At the end of the dialogue, the organizers summed up the proceedings in a summary and agreed to share a detailed report on the dialogue between Sichuan Universities and Pakistani Universities.

One-Day Seminar on “Learning from China”

China Study Center (CSC) BUIITEMS organized a One-Day Seminar under the theme 'Learning from China' on 19 May 2022. The purpose of the seminar was to engage the audience by providing information about Chinese scholarship opportunities, Chinese culture, the importance of the Chinese language, and enlightening them about the China-Pakistan ties under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The seminar was a hybrid one. Professor Lin Li from Wuhan Textile University, China joined the event via Zoom while the rest of the speakers were physically present in the Pink Hall at Takatu Campus.

In the welcome note, Brig (R) Agha Ahmad Gul, the Guest of Honor and the Consultant/CEO of Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) welcomed the speakers and thanked the CSC team for organizing such an informative event. He highlighted the growing power of China in the world economy and politics. He urged that we should learn from Chinese experiences and benefit from the CPEC projects.

After the welcome note, Professor Lin Li shared her thoughts about China-Pakistan ties under CPEC via Zoom link. She highlighted different ongoing projects under CPEC and expressed that China and Pakistan both can benefit from the Built and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC. She also acknowledged the contribution of Pakistani students who are studying in China and hoped to enhance collaborations with China Study Center BUIITEMS in the future.

After Professor Lin Li, Dr. Tayyaba Akram, Associate Professor in the Department of Management Sciences, BUIITEMS talked about scholarship opportunities available for studying in China. She encouraged the students to apply for different China-based scholarships because not only the process for the application is easy but the success rate is also high.

The third speaker of the seminar was Dr. Anwar Khan, Director of Research from Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN). He had spent a few years in China in the pursuit of his Ph.D. degree.



Brig (R) Agha Ahmad Gul, Consultant/CEO
Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN)



Professor Lin Li from Wuhan Textile University

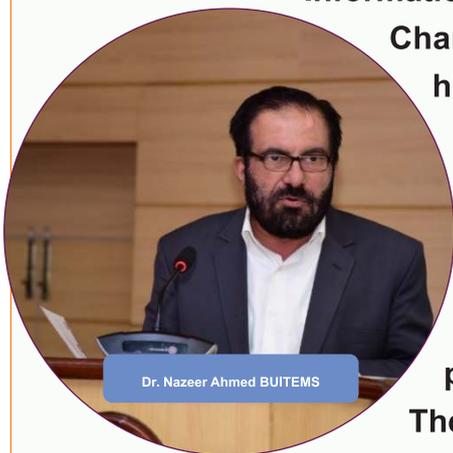


Dr. Tayyaba Akram, Associate Professor BUIITEMS

He shared his experiences with Chinese culture and living style. He highlighted some interesting facts about Chinese culture. For example, you should not gift a clock or watch to anyone because it denotes death.

Dr. Manzoor Ali Brohi, Chairperson Department of Public Administration was the final speaker of the event. He spoke about the importance of the Chinese language and literature and shared his experience of learning Chinese while he was doing Ph.D. in China. He also shared some tips with the audience about an easy way of learning the Chinese language.

Finally, at the end of the seminar, the Chief Guest, Dr. Nazeer Ahmed, Dean of Faculty of Life Sciences and Informatics and acting Pro-Vice Chancellor BUIITEMS gave his concluding remarks.



Dr. Nazeer Ahmed BUIITEMS

He appreciated the teamwork of CSC in organizing the seminar. He emphasized that we must get ourselves ready to meet the upcoming challenges and make the most of the opportunities associated with BRI and CPEC. He also hoped that such events and other capacity-building activities would continue under the platform of the China Study Center in the future as well.

The seminar ended with the souvenirs distribution by the Chief Guest to the speakers.



Dr. Manzoor Ali Brohi, BUIITEMS



Dr. Anwar Khan, Director Research BTTN



Audience at One-Day Seminar on Learning from China



Research Activities

China Study Center is also involved in research activities focusing particularly on CPEC. In this respect, CSC announced its first Call for Book Chapters under the theme 'The Story of Geopolitics and Socio-economic Realms- CPEC'. This book will target academicians, researchers, and professionals working in different national and international settings. The book will cover two major themes including the socio-economic impact of CPEC projects and geo-strategic/geo-political aspects of CPEC with the objective to provide updated research and scholarly debate on CPEC. This book will help the readers increase their understanding of the nature of CPEC projects, their socio-economic impact on the lives of the people of Pakistan, and the depth of the geo-strategic and geo-political position of both China and Pakistan.

Call for Book Chapters

Call for Book Chapters
China Study Center, BUITEMS invites call for book chapters on

THE STORY OF GEOPOLITICS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALMS- CPEC

Recommended chapter themes but are not limited to them

2 Socio-economic perspective of CPEC

- Infrastructure Development under CPEC
- Regional Connectivity
- Business Development
- Socio-economic Development
- Industrial Zones and Trade Agreements
- Fiscal Benefits
- Employment and Labor Market
- Sustainable Development
- Entrepreneurship
- Energy Solutions and Technologies

1 Geo-strategic/Geo-politics aspect of CPEC

- Political Economy of CPEC
- Regional Security and Peace
- Conflicts and their Arbitration
- Perception and Narrative Building

Submission of chapter proposal not later than: 31 July 2022
Submission Email: raja.asif@buitms.edu.pk

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Chinese Corner

The establishment of a Chinese corner at the central library BUITEMS is underway. This corner would serve as a source of information on Chinese history, culture, art, and language. At the corner, a wall has been designed that contains information about Chinese civilization, symbols of the culture, and information related to Chinese scholarship opportunities.

Chinese Corner 中文角
China Study Center
中国研究中心

Chinese Civilization 中华文明
巴 基 斯 坦

Confucius 孔子 (551-479 BC)
中国

Great Wall of China 万里长城

Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) 汉语水平考试

China With World's Largest Education System

Chinese Calligraphy 中国书法





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