China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

Work is underway on the 1st anniversary of Chinese President Xi’s visit to Pakistan.

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Projects

China-CEE cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative

Cooperation between China and countries in CEE promoted by the Belt and Road Initiative has produced good results in many fields.

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Analysis

Belt and Road Initiative brings people together

Belt and Road Initiative is essentially a peace project, which has surpassed economic benefits and is connecting people of different countries.

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Initiative sets China-CEE cooperation on fast track

Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is an essential component of China’s Belt and Road Initiative as a quarter of the countries along the route are in the region.

The momentum the initiative built up has benefitted the countries along its route, and CEE countries have emerged as among the most outstanding components of this cooperation mechanism.

By Lin Min / China Daily
In commenting on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan’s ambassador to China, Masood Khalid, says, “CPEC will help optimize China-Pakistan trade and energy cooperation and benefit 3-billion people in China, South Asia and the Middle East and will boost regional economic integration and be conducive to regional peace and stability.”

Proposed by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his visit to Pakistan in May 2013, CPEC is located where the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road meet and is a flagship and pioneering project of the China-proposed “Belt and Road” initiative.

In April 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to Pakistan injected new vitality into China-Pakistan relations. Then, on Jan 15 of this year, the Pakistani government decided to establish a steering committee, headed by their Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to oversee construction work on the corridor. The plans call for a number of routes for the corridor, with the western route to be built first and completed by July 15, 2018.

Now, China’s National Development and Reform Commission, which is responsible for the Chinese side of the corridor project, and Pakistan’s Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform have been working closely since 2015 to move ahead with corridor planning. The two countries have set up a joint committee to review progress on the corridor and this has allowed China’s government bodies, such as the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with financial institutions and enterprises, to join Pakistani authorities in implementing construction and other priority plans, thereby making substantial progress in the process.

The Qasim Port Coal-Fired Power Project can generate an annual average of 9 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, which will play a significant role in improving local power supplies as well as residents’ livelihoods.

Another project, the Zonergy Co., Ltd.’s 900MW photovoltaic power station project at the Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, is the first of its kind in Pakistan and one of the world’s largest. A 100MW solar power station was also completed in the park in 2015 and generated electricity totaling 120 million kilowatt hours by the end of last year, making clean electricity available to hundreds of thousands of households in Pakistan.

Some of the other remarkable developments include Phase I of Zonergy Co., Ltd.’s solar power plant, Phase II upgrade of the Karakoram Highway, the Karot hydropower plant project, and signing of a coal mining and power plant project at Pakistan’s Thar Coalfield.

The corridor is a strategic project, one that will benefit local people and their livelihoods. Chinese enterprises are always aware of their social responsibility to develop local livelihoods.

On November 11, 2015, a cornerstone laying ceremony was held for construction of a primary school in Gwadar, aided by the China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD), which is expected to change the fates of many local poverty-stricken children.

This year marks the first year of China’s 13th Five-year Plan and is a critical point for its ongoing structural reforms. China’s Belt and Road Initiative, whose purpose is to promote global development and cooperation, reflects the common wishes of China and countries along it and will be a driving force for regional economic integration and globalization.
CHINA-CEE COOPERATION UNDER BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

Cooperation between China and countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) promoted by the Belt and Road Initiative has produced good results in many fields.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS

- Serbia’s former president, Boris Tadić, visits China and reaches agreements on a strategic partnership.
- Poland and China form strategic partnership.
- 1st China-CEE leaders’ meeting in Warsaw, Poland, marking the start of the “16+1” cooperation approach.
- 4th China-CEE leaders’ meeting in Suzhou, China, with priority areas for cooperation in the 2015-2020 period identified.
- President Xi Jinping visits Czech Republic, and a strategic partnership is established.

RECORD-HIGH TRADE VOLUME

Two-way trade exceeds a record $60 billion.

- China is importing more farm products from CEE countries.
- Smartphones from China are gaining popularity in CEE countries.

COOPERATIVE PROJECTS

- Owing to its geographic importance, CEE marks an essential link in China’s Belt and Road Initiative, and connectivity in turn helps improve those countries’ infrastructure and boost their economic growth.

- Highways
  - February 2014: Construction work on Miskolc-Mátészalka Highway begins.
  - December 2014: Expressway project in Montenegro begins.

- Bridges
  - December 2014: Zrenjanin-Bsorry Bridge (Pupin Bridge) in Serbia is completed as the first bridge built in Europe by a Chinese company.

- Railways
  - April 2015: First direct rail freight service links Chengdu, China and Lodz, Poland.
  - December 2015: Construction work on Belgrade-Budapest Railway begins.

- Air Links
  - September 2015: Direct air link between Prague and Beijing goes into operation.

- November 2013: China signs agreement on 2nd phase of Serbia’s Kostolac thermal power plant.
- October 2014: China and Romania sign Rovinari coal-burning power plant agreement.
- November 2015: China and Romania sign MoU on construction and operation of Units 3 and 4 of Cernavoda nuclear power plant.

- Finance
  - October 2015: Bank of China launches Renminbi clearing center in Budapest, the first of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe.

- Education

- Culture & Art

- Tourism
  - March 2015: China and CEE launch Tourism Promotion Year in Hungary.

- Health Care
China to play unifier and innovator role with ‘Belt and Road’

China’s “Belt and Road” initiative reflects the Asian country as one of the world’s pioneers who will now play a role as a unifier and innovator.

In a meeting last year at the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), Chinese President Xi Jinping told me “Be sure that in the 21st century, no country can succeed solo”. The whole world has understood this message with over seventy countries now engaged in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). A community of interest has been created.

In addition, multinational investment projects are being studied in all areas including industrial, financial, agricultural, and scientific fields as ways to bolster additional multi-national investment.

Belt and Road Initiative brings people together

Chinese President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative is essentially a peace project, which has surpassed economic benefits and is connecting people of different countries.

The initiative is a solution for the world to walk out of wars and conflicts and bring about prosperity. It is not only about business but focuses on bringing people closer, leading to better communication and cooperation.

And the driving forces behind the New Silk Road are definitely the economic benefits for both continents and that increase connectivity between Asia and Europe.

Establishing Asia–Europe economic zone for common prosperity

China’s Belt and Road Initiative will establish a large Asia–Europe economic zone, providing opportunities for dozens of countries along the “Belt and Road” routes to integrate into the global economy.

The initiative is helping Europe and Asia to come together to reestablish Eurasia as the largest economic market in the world and may effect a shift away from the dollar-based global financial system.

Expanding markets and driving growth with the initiative

With more than two years of development, the Belt and Road Initiative has proved to be a practical tool for driving the growth of both Chinese and global companies.

Our company has increased exports to markets such as Indonesia, India and Thailand from plants in Shanghai and Hubei province. We also plan to ship products from these plants to European markets.

If you look at the world’s market environment, the Belt and Road Initiative is a great opportunity to enlarge our sales channels, it will not only boost the size of the automobile market in China, but also help ship more products to various destinations throughout the world.