**A China-Pakistan knowledge corridor**

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March 10, 2021

The academic and research collaboration between China and Pakistan has witnessed impressive growth in the last few decades. With huge investment by the Chinese government in research and development, more than 100 Chinese Universities are today placed in the global best 500 universities of the world, according to Times Higher Education Ranking (2021), Shanghai Jiao Thong Universities ranking (2020) and US News and World Report (2020).

While looking at the significance of intellectual and knowledge connectivity, alongside the physical routes, HEC has established a CPEC centre at its headquarters. Under this initiative, a consortium of CPEC universities has been created, which now comprises more than 50 universities. HEC also approved a project to establish a Knowledge and Research Corridor between the two countries. The main aim of the project is to create collaboration amongst the Chinese and consortium universities of Pakistan for strengthening the Chinese Belt-and-Road Intuitive (BRI), to exploit the opportunities of China’s appetite for global talent, and support the universities of Pakistan for human resource development.

[Govt to start vaccination of senior citizens from today](https://nation.com.pk/10-Mar-2021/govt-to-start-vaccination-of-senior-citizens-from-today)

The components of the project are, joint research: For implementation of these strategies, HEC has proposed some ways forward like joint research on selected themes of joint interest, which can include climate adaptation, sustainable mountain development, food security, urban planning, water resource management, supply chain management, IT entrepreneurship, medicinal plants, gemstones and mineral resource management, among others.

Talent cultivation and training: This component mainly focuses on the capacity building of faculty to strengthen the academic and intellectual relations. About 400 faculty members will be trained under this component both in Pakistan and China. Post-doctoral research: Post-doctoral research and training provide ample opportunities to faculty for exchange of latest knowledge, research and technologies. Short term training: Due to shortage of qualified PhD faculty in the newly established universities in Pakistan, it may not be affordable for them to place most of the faculty on PhD studies or Post Doc research. Hence a window of short-term placement of 150 faculty and staff for short term trainings of 2-3 weeks will be provided

[Russia, China to sign agreement on joint moon base project within one year](https://nation.com.pk/10-Mar-2021/russia-china-to-sign-agreement-on-joint-moon-base-project-within-one-year)

Dual degree programmes between Chinese and Pakistani universities: Under the proposed project, 10 BS and 20 MS students will be provided with this opportunity to complete their degrees under dual degree programmes of Chinese and Pakistani universities. Establishment of China study centres: At least 6 China study centres will be established across Pakistan, one each in the five provinces including Gilgit Baltistan and AJK.

China and Pakistan are time-tested friends with shared boundaries, culture and history dating back to the ancient silk route. The two countries have always stood for inclusivity, peaceful co-existence and sustainable growth in the region. While inaugurating the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, President Xi-Jinping said: “Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on trust and mutual support, and we have been devoted friends through both good and hard times. Our friendship is a pacesetter for amicable relations.” The unwavering support of China to Pakistan’s stance on the issue of Kashmir, China’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the enormous allocation of resources to China Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of One Belt and One Road Initiative are some of the major dividends of this friendship. To restrain the hegemonic and expansionist designs of India and the Modi-led BJP government, the need for this partnership has further intensified in the last few years.

[Iran set to unveil domestically manufactured military hovercraft](https://nation.com.pk/09-Mar-2021/iran-set-to-unveil-domestically-manufactured-military-hovercraft)

Gilgit Baltistan is a region blessed with unique opportunities by nature. The region has a distinction of being the converging point of three of the mightiest mountain ranges in the world, namely: Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindu Kush. GB, as the gateway to CPEC and Karakoram International University, being a pioneer seat of higher learning has been connected to China both 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 border. 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 levels of Chinese literacy (HESI&II). Every year, more than 1000 students are taught Chinese language by native Chinese teachers.