



**CENTER FOR GLOBAL &
STRATEGIC STUDIES**

International Conference Report

**SHANGHAI COOPERATION
ORGANIZATION;
FUTURE PROSPECTS &
REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**

**12th MARCH 2019
Islamabad**



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International Conference Report

“Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Future Prospects and Regional Connectivity”



**Organized by
Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad at
Hotel Margala, Islamabad on
12th March 2019**

PARTICIPANTS

The Conference was attended by almost 500 participants including Ms. Tehmina Janjua- Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Government of Pakistan, representatives of SCO member states, eminent scholars, policymakers, and practitioners. Moreover, students and faculty members from various universities, government representatives, retired senior armed forces officers and diplomats, law enforcement officials from across the country and individuals from public and private entities also participated in this international conference.

Host Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)

Guest of Honor Ms. Tehmina Janjua- Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan.

Guest Speakers

- a. Professor Sun Zhuangzhi - Director of the Institute of Russian, Eastern European, Central Asia Studies and Secretary General of Center for Shanghai Cooperation Organization Study, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China
- b. Dr. Leonid Gusev - Expert, Center for Studies of the Problems of Central Asia and Afghanistan, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Moscow, Russia
- c. Mr. Bakhtiyor Mustafayev - Head of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- d. Mr. Seitzhan Apyshev, Adviser to Director, National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic (NISS KR), Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

e. Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, Additional Secretary, National Coordinator of Pakistan for SCO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

f. Prof. Elena Dostanko - Head, Academic Affairs Unit, Belarusian State University, Minsk, Belarus

g. Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelehbashii - Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran, Iran

h. Mr. Arman Tynabek, Deputy Head of the Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan

i. Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi HI (M), (Retd) - Former Federal Minister of Defense

j. Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed - Director, Chinese Studies Centre, School Of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad .

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Tehmina Janjua- Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan.



Ms. Janjua is a diplomat who serves as the 29th Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. Formerly, she served as Pakistan's representative to the United Nation's Geneva and as Ambassador to Italy. Ms. Janjua joined Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1984 after studying French literature at the Quaid-e-Azam University. She later received a Masters in International Affairs from the SIPA, Columbia University in 1989. She served in Pakistan's missions to New York City and United Nations before serving as the Director of Foreign Secretary's Office. She served as the Director General of Strategic Planning in the Foreign Secretary's Office and in 2011 became spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. She served as the ambassador of Pakistan to Italy 2011-15. In 2015, Ms. Janjua became Pakistan's envoy to the UN Office in Geneva. She became the first woman, and the first developing country representative, to preside over the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. In 2017, she was appointed as Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Making Janjua the first woman to hold the highest career position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Professor Sun Zhuangzhi - Director of the Institute of Russian, Eastern European, Central Asia Studies and Secretary General of Center for Shanghai Cooperation Organization Study, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China Prof Sun Zhuangzhi is Ph.D. in International Politics, from the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He has done his master's degree in History from Nankai University. He has worked as Resident Fellow of Asia Program, International Research & Exchanges Board of Washington. He remained Vice President of China Anti-Corruption Research Centre, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He has served as Deputy Director of the Institute of

Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Prof. Sun Shuangzhi has also been a Member of the Academic Council of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies of UNESCO.

Dr. Leonid Gusev - Expert, Center for Studies of the Problems of Central Asia and Afghanistan, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Moscow, Russia



Dr. Gusev has done Ph.D. in History. He is an expert of Center for Studies of the Problems of Central Asia and Afghanistan of the Institute of International Studies. He deals with issues of CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries, issues related to political and economic interaction of Russia and Central Asian, and the relations with Iran and China. He has more than 600 publications in Russia and abroad. Since 1993 till present, he has participated in number of Russian and international scientific conferences and the round tables. He is a political commentator for radio and TV channels.



Mr. Bakhtiyor Mustafayev – Head of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, UzbekistanMr. Mustafayev earned his postgraduate degree from the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He is the Deputy Director, Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He served as the Head of Department, Deputy Director in Coordination and Analysis Center for Foreign Policy Research, Republic of Uzbekistan. He has also been Member of Staff, The Office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He remained the Acting Director, Institute for Strategic and Regional

Studies. He was First secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Mr. Bakhtiyor Mustafayev has also remained research fellow, Scientific Secretary, Institute of Philosophy and Law of Science Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Seitzhan Apyshev, Adviser to Director, National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic (NISS KR), Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic



Mr. Seitzhan Apyshev has a vast experience in the field of Public Policy and Advocacy. Previously, he served in the Department of Strategic Planning and Regional Development Policy and also as the Advisor to the Minister for Investment Policy and the Development of Public-Private Partnerships. Currently, he is working as Adviser to Director, National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISS KR), Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, Additional Secretary, National Coordinator of Pakistan for SCO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad



Mr. Zahoor Ahmed is the main focal person of Pakistan for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and representative of Pakistan in the Council of National Coordinators (CNC) of the SCO. CNC is in charge of coordinating interaction within the SCO framework. Mr. Zahoor Ahmed has held various diplomatic assignments at Pakistan Mission abroad including Budapest, London, and Manila. He also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing (2010-2013) and Consul General of Pakistan at Manchester (2013-2017). He Served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad in Afghanistan, US, Personnel, Policy Planning, and UN Divisions. He wrote a book in Urdu on the Chinese Classic “Romance of Three Kingdoms” which was published by Punjab University, Lahore, in 2016.

Prof. Elena Dostanko - Head, Academic Affairs Unit, Belarusian State University, Minsk, Belarus



Prof. Elena Dostanko has received her Ph.D. from (Belarusian State University, in 1998). She is the Director, Center for International Studies, Belarusian State University, Republic of Belarus. She has also served as Director, Alferov International Foundation for Support of Education and Science. Her major international experiences include – representative of the Republic of Belarus at forums of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2012-18), 8th Committee of Council of Europe (2009), and the Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe STO observations missions (2002, 2008, 2011, and 2013).

Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelebashi - Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran, Iran



Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelebashi has received his masters from the University of Tehran, Energy Economics. Presently he is a senior research fellow, Institute of Political and International Studies. He served in Affairs Division, Department for International Economic Affairs in the ministry of foreign affairs, he remained as Councillor, Embassy of I.R. Iran in Budapest- Hungary. He served in Department for International Political Affairs. He has also worked in the Department for Western Europe; MFA. He also remained Cultural Planning Assistant, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and has also worked in Foreign relation Department, Ministry of Trade.

Mr. Arman Tynabek, Deputy Head of Missions, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan



Mr. Arman Tynabek, is the Deputy Head of Missions, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan. He is the Consular of the Embassy of Republic of Kazakhstan.

Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi HI (M), (Retd) - Former Federal Minister of Defense



Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi HI (M), (Retd), has served as the Federal Defence Secretary of Pakistan. He has served on various command, staff and instructional assignments during his career in the Army. He also remained Corps Commander in Bahawalpur. He also served as the National Security Advisor, Prime Minister Secretariat, and Government of Pakistan.

Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed - Director, Chinese Studies Centre, S3H, NUST, Islamabad



Mr. Hasan Javed is currently Director, Chinese Studies Centre, School Of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad. Belonging to Pakistan Foreign Service, he retired as Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany in 2015. He also served as Pakistan's High Commissioners in Singapore and Mauritius. During his nearly 37 years diplomatic career, he worked on two diplomatic assignments spanning over nearly ten years in the People's Republic of China. He also worked in Pakistan diplomatic mission in Zimbabwe, Belgium, and Tajikistan. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he worked on a variety of assignments and responsibilities including South Asia, the United Nations, and Policy Planning Asia-Pacific Divisions. He is also the author of 'Chinese Made Easy' and 'Chinese Soft Power Code'.

Session 1

Opening Remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) President CGSS



Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) expressed his thoughts by saying that it is a great honor for him to welcome all the speakers and guests on this International Conference on **“Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Future Prospects and Regional Connectivity”**.

He stated that last year in February, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) organized a similar conference named **“Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) –Challenges and Opportunities”**. It was concluded on a note that the SCO is an influential platform for partnerships to promote peace, to build mutual trust, and to give economic development for shared prosperity with the confidence that we would be able to change the world for the better. He expressed his hope that this spring will bring in new strength and vigor to all, and in the coming years will pave the path to secure long-term interests of regional states.

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery said that Pakistan is aspired to follow the principles of the Shanghai Spirit and endure the established traditions of the SCO for further development of the organization and to uphold the interests of all SCO member countries.

The redoubling of authority, the transcontinental nature of the Organization and exclusive equality of all member States regardless of their potential and capabilities is gratifying. SCO’s policy of non-interference and impartiality against other States and international organizations deem this arrangement a desirable model for other actors.

He further stated that the Security being the mainstay of the organization is driving the defense policies of member-states to eradicate the menace of separatism, extremism, and terrorism with the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the SCO. In addition, Pakistan's emphasis should be on elevating the life standard of three billion inhabitants of this region by strengthening practical cooperation, realizing the efficacy of this union, multilateral economic cooperation for investments and expansion of transit and communication corridors.



All SCO related actors should promote the project of regional integration and focus on opportunities of socio-cultural exchanges and intra-industry trade.

He illustrated that Pakistan has always recognized the geo-economic significance of the Central Asian Republics and integration projects such as Belt and Road Initiative, Greater Silk Route and Eurasian Integration. The region has abundant natural resources and offers unexplored markets to international goods. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers a great opportunity for the Eurasian region to reach the Middle East and Africa. Pakistan is an ideally positioned country on the globe being at the crossroads of Central Asia, South West Asia, and South Asia. The Central Asian nations, along with Pakistan should capitalize on the spiritual and ethnic commonalities which entwine the interests of all the parties at play. Together, we can re-establish the significance of Asia in the global world order.

Pakistan has a portfolio of over 46 billion dollars that will be invested in Pakistan's energy sector to make itself self-reliant in energy, investment in transport infrastructure between Pakistan and China, in Gwadar port that is the future hub of maritime trade and also a connecting point of BRI and maritime silk route through Indian Ocean.

Concluding his remarks, he mentioned that we live in an age of connectivity, collaboration, and networked economy and that as the world becomes a global village, fractures within its systems deepen, creating tension between the world orders. This century is deemed as Asian Century and by the year 2050 Asia will contribute 52% to world GDP, making it the continent of the future and billions of people will walk out of poverty and will create opportunities, not only for us but also for global economic growth.

As new Secretary-General of SCO, Mr. Valadimir Norov said, cultural and humanitarian ties should be promoted by all member states and there should be a distinctive focus on education, health, and tourism, including on the "Great Silk Road". He expressed his sincere wishes to all those present in the conference for their happiness, health, prosperity, and joy, and to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for further development and new heights.

Ms. Tehmina Janjua- Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan



Ms. Tehmina Janjua commenced her speech by thanking the management of CGSS and, especially those who have traveled from abroad to Pakistan for this conference.

Ms. Tehmina Janjua stated that she applauds the efforts of the Center for Global and Strategic Studies for organizing the conference entitled “***Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Future Prospects and Regional Connectivity***”. She also commended the Center for Global and Strategic Studies for bringing together such a distinguished group of scholars from Pakistan and the SCO member countries to deliberate on the future trajectory of the organization and to reflect Pakistan’s place in the emergence of regional forums.

She acknowledged the fact that the world around us is changing and the region we are inhabiting is transforming. Being shaped finding inexorable forces of change, , four aspects of this generational shift are noteworthy:

- a. The world is transitioning from a unipolar world to multi-polarity. There is still a superpower that remains on the scene and that is the United States but there are very strong powers in our region that are coming up and that they are there to stay, China and Russia. Competition and cooperation between great powers of our time are determining the global, particularly, the Asian geopolitical landscape.
- b. The economic epicenter of the world is shifting eastwards with the growing economies of the developing world and their burgeoning population set to play perhaps a pivotal role in driving demand and growth.
- c. Transformative and disruptive technologies are changing and are set to permeate our lives even further in fundamental ways both positively and even negatively. These changes invariably impact politics amongst nations, a case in point is a social media space where perceptions are created and changed and sometimes even destroyed and have the dangerous power of crafting and speaking to their own realities. This is a challenge that we are confronted with on a daily basis and a challenge that we need to know how to deal with, or sometimes even ignore.
- d. Finally, the international norms that have been put in place since World War-II are perhaps under greater stress than any other time since 1945...many times under siege from the very architects of this framework. A sense of uncertainty has supplanted the predictability of yesteryears. We are living it, seems, in a moment



of history when an older order is breaking down and evolving into something different and something new which has yet to take place and to take shape.

She stressed that this is time for the great opportunity but also one of great peril. Pakistan has been described by many serious observers of international affairs as a global pivotal state. A state whose policies and positions resonate far beyond its frontiers and whose fortunes impact the international community in profound ways. This is not just because of our location at the confluence of South and Central Asia and the Middle East in China, this is not just because of our own inherent strengths and potentials, the fact that we are a nation of 200 million and a leading member of the non-aligned world, as well as the Islamic bloc. This is not just because Pakistan affords the vast Eurasian landmass overland connectivity and most economical access to warm waters. She believed it is all these factors combined the whole is more than the sum of its parts.

As a pivotal state, Pakistan has a key role to play in regional peace and prosperity in scripting the blueprint for more hopeful tomorrow and we are committed to doing so. At the cost of blood and treasure, Pakistan is perhaps the only country to have successfully pushed back the tide of terrorism and extremism and continues to do so. Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Rad-ul-Fasad have achieved measurable successes in breaking the backbone of terrorists. Even as a national action plan (NAP), the consensual blueprint for eliminating terrorism and extremism is in full swing. She added that peace and security have largely returned to our towns and villages under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan is well poised to assume a greater role as a responsible and responsive member of the international community.

Pondering on the recent Pakistan and India tensions, Ms. Tehmina said that they are illustrative. The Pulwama attack of 14 February, perpetrated Kashmiri young person abused repeatedly at the hands of Indian occupation forces and maltreated and disillusioned by the incessant high-handed repression. Unfortunately, without any investigations, in the middle of an election campaign, the finger was pointed at Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan immediately took control of the narrative and offered cooperation if actionable intelligence was made available. Perhaps under



domestic political compulsions; India reacted by blaming Pakistan without much evidence ignoring our offers of assistance and ratcheting up war hysteria.

The penetration of our airspace and subsequent bombing of sovereign Pakistani territory on 26 February was a blatant violation of the UN Charter, norms of interstate State conduct and international law. Feeding Indian public false narratives about death, destruction, and casualties where there have been none and seeking to establish a new norm of trampling our sovereignty whenever it felt it wanted to do so, this happened and of course this is where we saw the social media playing a very important role. A very important negative role in many ways as well.

In the face of unacceptable aggression, Pakistan reacted with reason, restraint and resolve. On 27 February, our Air Force while remaining in its own airspace targeted non-military installations in Indian Occupied Kashmir deliberately avoiding human loss and collateral damage. The reason was that message had to be sent that we cannot accept aggression; there has to be some response. Two Indian military jets were shot down when they violated Pakistan air space, a second time in as many days and one of the pilots downed of the Indian Air Force.

Addressing the nation for the second time, Prime Minister Imran Khan demonstrated statesmanship when he reiterated his offer of cooperation investigating the Pulwama Attack and resolving issues through dialogue the Indian pilot who was captured was returned as a gesture of peace and to deescalate the tensions. Throughout this period, Pakistan remained actively engaged with all our friends and partners the P-5 countries and the United Nations to apprise them of the evolving situation. Our objective was to demonstrate that Pakistan was only interested in peace and Pakistan wanted to move on the peace agenda that the government had very clearly illustrated.

We also are grateful to the international community for playing a positive role in averting a possible, difficult, somewhat catastrophic situation. Any confrontation between two nuclear-armed states that also happened to be neighbors is not really unthinkable, it is completely unacceptable. In recognition of this reality, the Prime Minister has repeatedly called for dialogue assuring India that Pakistan will take two steps towards peace if India took one, in fact, Pakistan has taken all the steps and many steps to prove its point.

We have taken confidence-building measures including the opening of the Kartarpur corridor for yatrees and since the flare-up of tensions we have taken steps to de-escalate, including besides the prompt return of the captured pilot, the return of our High Commissioner to the New Delhi after consultations in Islamabad, reestablishment of weekly military contacts, reinitiating consultations on the Kartarpur Corridor and resumption of train service between our two countries.

We believe that it is only moving the front of a peaceful path that the two countries like Pakistan and India can coexist in peace.

Elections in India cannot determine the future of this region. It is people of Pakistan and India who have to decide how peace has to be retained and how the people of this region can benefit from the economic prosperity and development. The international community must weld soberly and with all seriousness on the causes of this escalation and what it entails.

In South Asia, of the festering Kashmir dispute, the continued occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and the brutal repression of Kashmiris have right to self-determination

granted to them by the UN Security Council remains the biggest obstacle to enduring peace. Today as the escalation goes down, the repression in yet occupied Jammu and Kashmir increases in many forms where there were 700,000 troops and the objective is to crush completely the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their peaceful demonstration of getting their right to self-determination.

The UN High Commission on Human Rights and the UK parliamentary reports have exposed the true nature of Indian brutalities and the suffering of the Kashmiri. These reports are a clear indication of oppression and stands. Only recently at the opening of the Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights again reiterated and expressed deep concern on how the rights of the Kashmiri people were being suppressed and the people of Kashmir work under grave inhumanities and brutalities of a level that perhaps were not seen before.

She also stated that on our eastern border, Afghanistan has been in throes of conflict for the past 40 years. She believed that Pakistan's Eastern neighbor will have the same good sense to avoid mutually assured destruction and will engage in a result-oriented dialogue for resolution of the dispute in line with UN Security Council resolutions and the just aspirations of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan stands for peace and will work for peace because peace is our need and peace, is the need of the people of Pakistan and the people of South Asia and the people all over.

On our eastern neighbor and the context of working for peace, we have also been working with Afghanistan. Afghanistan, unfortunately, has been in the throes of conflict for the past 40 years, first as the final frontier of the Cold War and subsequently as a theater of what has been called the war on terror. Besides Afghanistan, this geopolitical war trick has ensnared any other country it is Pakistan. We have suffered because refugees, radicalization, drugs, gun culture, and lawlessness has been accompaniments of the Afghan war economy.

After long years of fighting, we are gratified that an international consensus is emerging over a long-held view that there is no military solution to the Afghan

problem and that only an intra-Afghan reconciliation can pave the way for lasting peace in the country.

In the shape of US Afghan talks, we are happy to see a nascent peace process finally taking shape, we want the intra-Afghan dialogue to be inclusive, to be comprehensive and we work towards the center. For this process to be durable, it is important that it be eventually owned and led but they have danced themselves. It is the Afghan people who have to decide for themselves, the future they want for their country, for their people and together for the region. It can be accomplished if all Afghanistan neighbors and stakeholders including China, US, and Russia are on board and of course, we need to keep the spoilers at bay.

Pakistan has played a facilitative role in bringing the Taliban to the table; that is the best we could do. We have been and will continue to lend all possible assistance in facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of reconciliation. We will continue to be a part of any and every peace process that seeks to aim to advance the aim of stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.



On our part besides several development projects, we've imparted education to some 50,000 Afghans in our universities and professional colleges. In collaboration with China, an elaborate program of for Afghan capacity building has been devised under the rubric of the Afghanistan-Pakistan-China practical dialogue.

Given the long porous nature of the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Pakistan has taken the initiative to improve border management, fencing large portions of the border, this we hope will not only provide security to both sides of the border but will also be an important CTE action.

Peace and stability in Afghanistan would make the dream of regional connectivity and consequent prosperity, a reality. In Pakistan the China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is fast reaching its fruition, by slashing distances and cutting costs and catalyzing region-wide connectivity, the corridor will help translate Pakistan strategic location into geo-economic dividends. In the next phase a series of special economic zones are being poised to establish along the length of Pakistan. The size of our domestic market and prospects of enhanced connectivity is already attracting interest from third world countries.

I take this opportunity to thank China for its time-tested friendship. We thank China for always standing by Pakistan, as Pakistan stands by China in its moments of need. Together we make as they say one is one but two ones are eleven. With China, we do a lot of work at peace for development and we appreciate the work that the Belt and Road initiative has done for the developing world in the context of development.

She also stressed that Pakistan is poised to play a pivotal role in regional peace and prosperity and the elements of this are:

- a. Pakistan wants peace and stability and has to be treated as a factor of stability within the region
- b. Pakistan has many strengths that are recognized globally and that the government is focused on building upon so that this becomes a pivot of strength for the entire region and globally as well
- c. Our economic and trade potential is immense and has been further underscored by CPEC and it offers opportunities to its neighbors, opportunities for connectivity and opportunities for growth and development.

For trade, cultural connectivity is an important aspect of what we want to do within the region as well and in this context, the government has started this important project. There has been announcements of greater visa flexibility and tourism opportunities being offered to the rest of the world.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also launched an important initiative called the Gandhara forum which would help the world come and see for itself the treasures we

have as Gandhara art and especially Buddhist heritage. We've also launched within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs an important initiative on Science Diplomacy which is an important area for connectivity to take place and where we can learn from each other especially in the context of south-south cooperation and also with developed countries as well.

Of course, Pakistan is an important entrant to the SCO and we thank all those supported it and this opportunity was given to us by all our friends and partners in the Central Asian Republics, Russia and China. We feel ourselves to be part of a very important group which has the potential to look at issues of peace and security, of trade, of addressing issues of terrorism comprehensively.

Through organizations such as SCO, which affords regional States, large and small platform to share the dividends of prosperity on the basis of equality, mutual respect, and mutual interest. We are destined to be invested completely into a more connected and secure future embedded firmly in the rich tapestry of the Eurasian community of nations.

She thanked CGSS for organizing this wonderful event and she expressed her optimism for the success of this seminar.

Professor Sun Zhuangzhi - Director of the Institute of Russian, Eastern European, Central Asia Studies and Secretary General of Center for Shanghai Cooperation Organization Study, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China



Professor Sun Zhuangzhi addressed his speech entitled **“Addressing Regional Challenges for the Enhancement of Regional Integration”**. He illustrated that the Qingdao Summit witnessed the official launch of the “Eight-State-Cooperation Model” of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The leaders of member States and observer States reached a series of consensus on the arrangements and future development of multilateral

cooperation, which demonstrated the strong solidarity and self-confidence within the organization. The joining of Pakistan and India has injected new vitality into the SCO, enabling it to play a greater role in the international arena.

First, he elaborated that new issues brought about by changes in the international situation. The major adjustment and changes in the international structure are both opportunities and challenges for the SCO. Under the background of globalization being confronted with rising trade protectionism and unilateralism, the SCO represents a new force. It is a platform for cooperation between emerging economies and developing countries, creating a new model of regional cooperation, advocating the facilitation and liberalization of trade and investment and proposing a series of new collaboration concepts represented by the “Shanghai Spirit”.

The second aspect mentioned by Professor Sun Zhuangzhi was that the geopolitical and geo-economic competition between big powers has been escalating, the SCO inevitably has a special role to play. The role of China, Russia, and other countries has been increasingly prominent in multilateral cooperation. The Coordination of interest in international affairs, the interaction with big giants such as the US and EU states and the development of bilateral relations will have a direct impact on the internal construction of the SCO.

Third, he stated that the increasingly serious regional security situation has brought new topics to the SCO, ranging from the cooperation in the fight against the “three forces” of extremism, terrorism, and separatism as well as transnational crimes such as drug smuggling to the focus on extensive security challenges and from the resolution of hot issues in Afghanistan, Syria and other regions to the advocating of a cooperative, comprehensive and sustainable new security concept, making SCO an important force for maintaining regional stability.

Fourth, the significant initiative of “One Belt, One Road” on cooperation has transported new impetus to the multilateral cooperation of the SCO. Central Asian Countries, Russia, Pakistan and observer countries have taken an active attitude towards the construction of “Belt and Road”. The connection between the Eurasian Economic Union and “Silk Road”

economic and cultural cooperation within the framework of SCO. The implementation of multilateral projects can bring about positive interaction between members.

Fifth, the socio-economic development of member States requires a good neighboring and regional environment. The social economy of China and other member States have generally entered a relatively critical period. On the one hand, the pressure of sustained growth and structural transformation has increased, on the other hand, various issues on people's livelihood are urgent and problems encountered in domestic development need to be solved through deepened opening up to the outside world.



While talking about the new tasks faced by the SCO, Prof. Sun Zhuangzhi demonstrated that under the new situation, the role of the SCO is further felt not only as a consultation and coordination mechanism for achieving regional stability and development but also a platform for closer exchange and

interaction but there are several issues to be addressed:

First, he pointed out that it is necessary to position the SCO as a new type of regional cooperation organization at the international level. The SCO is a new type of regional cooperation mechanism.

Second, the expanded SCO should not change its current way and focus of work. The SCO has gained valuable experience in its 18 years of cooperative practice and has become an important force in maintaining regional stability and promoting the common development of its member states.

After India and Pakistan joined in SCO, there will be gradual changes in both the geographic scope of cooperation and the pressing issues under discussion, however, the priorities shall remain unchanged.

Third, how can the specific cooperation of the SCO remain comprehensive and long-term? The current multilateral cooperation is more on paper than in deed and more in form than in content. Fourth, the SCO is an observer of the UN General assembly and has signed cooperation agreements with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, etc.



Discussing the future direction of multilateral cooperation he stressed upon the need to pay more attention to its internal construction, rationalize various relationships and ensure the unity among member States. Firstly he argued the adjustments and changes in the

existing multilateral mechanism. Secondly, adjustments and changes in the focus of cooperation. Thirdly, the adjustments in foreign exchanges. And finally the adjustments in the way of work with the two major powers of China and Russia playing a leading role in multilateral cooperation, regional powers such as India and Pakistan becoming official members and Kazakhstan and the other Central Asian States increasing their sense of autonomy, the SCO will also enter a stage featuring diversified working mode.

Mature multilateral organizations such as the European Union and ASEAN are also facing unavoidable crises, ranging from the Brexit to the strong impact of US unilateralism on the Eurasian states and the era calls for a new concept, a new path and a new model for regional cooperation.

He concluded his speech by the point that in the face of both internal and external pressures, member states have made major strategic policy arrangements, emphasizing that while entering into a new era the expanded SCO is now being provided with new development opportunities. SCO also needs to address the Shanghai Spirit from the

perspective of the time and make a series of adjustments so as to bring the pragmatic cooperation to its depth. SCO is building itself into an example of countries from a certain region promoting reforms in global governance system and joining hands in building a community of shared future for all mankind.

Dr. Leonid Gusev - Expert, Center for Studies of the Problems of Central Asia and Afghanistan, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Moscow, Russia



Dr. Leonid Gusev started his speech by acknowledging the efforts of the Center for Global and Strategic Studies for organizing the conference. He started his speech regarding the topic **“The fight against the terrorist organization in various countries of Central Asia, members of SCO. Connection with a terrorist organization in the Middle East”** that since the very beginning of independence, the Central Asian republics have faced such a problem as ensuring regional and ethnic-

confessional security.

The geopolitical situation in Central Asia is influenced by the political instability and conflict zones such as the Caucasus, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China, Afghanistan, the Near and Middle East.

Dr. Gusev illustrated that the government of Tajikistan over the past 8 years has strengthened the fight against extremist groups. So at the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 local security officials carried out a major operation to destroy militants in the Rasht valley.

He discussed that at the end of November of 2014, Tajikistan detained 20 terrorists who were preparing sabotage acts in the north of the country. According to Ramadan Rahimzoda, the head of the Interior Ministry of the republic, the criminals were trained in special camps in one of the foreign states and planned to blow up a number of strategically important industrial facilities.

He mentioned that a very significant event that took place in May of 2018. Then there was



the signing of a joint plan of comprehensive measures for 2018–2019 to counteract the activities of extremist and terrorist structures on the Internet under the conditional name “Clean Network” between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

In order to minimize terrorism impact on the inhabitants of the republic, Kazakhstan's leadership has taken a number of measures to strengthen the work aimed at increasing religious education, as well as the spiritual development of Kazakhstan's society. For this purpose, he shared that a specialized agency was created in the republic, the Agency for Religious Affairs.

Moreover, concluding his speech Dr. Leonid Gusev mention that it is necessary to improve the organizational structure to counter terrorist threats. In this regard, it is essential to further strengthen cooperation between the structures of the SCO and the CSTO, which has been going on for several years.

Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed - Director, Chinese Studies Centre, S3H, NUST, Islamabad



Syed Hassan Javed began his speech by thanking President of Center for Global and Strategic Studies and the Excellencies, Scholars, and Experts present in the conference.

Title of his speech was “SCO Future Discourse and Opportunities for the Region”

He said that it is a privilege and pleasure to speak on an important thing of SCO future discourse and opportunities for the region. He continued his speech by saying that in my humble view the world is only waking up to the tectonic shift in Asia and Europe with the emergence of SCO. Given the resources and other advantages, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has the potential to become the most effective regional corporation body with global impact, enhancing the welfare of 3 billion or the majority of the global population. It holds the promise of becoming the combined improved version of security cooperation and regional economic collaboration, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), European Union (EU), ASEAN or NAFTA. It has the potential to become actually the sum of all but the route to our future goes through undertaking small incremental steps so far they are not as visible. Regional or global organizations are not built by high-sounding statements, speeches or resolutions, their success is actually the courtesy of bringing change in the life of population by launching new policy initiatives and breaking new ground. For 60 years Pakistan was a member of Western alliances and splendid thinking was achieved through this partnership.

The SCO is a young organization founded on the lofty principles of positivism underlying the Shanghai Spirit. Furthermore he stressed that before we talk of an SCO we must talk of Shanghai spirit, which is the win-win spirit is also called a double win cultural template. The SCO is encompassing three distinct cultural zones and civilizational spheres of influence, named as Chinese, Russian and now South Asian. This merger of civilizations opens up enormous possibilities in the 21st centuries.

The Central Asian region is where the three civilizations meet together, he added, that for us Central Asia has been a romance and SCO is an alliance of romance of civilizations. This produces the hybrid beauty, romance and love reminiscent of the glories of ancient Silk Road which is a part of folklore in Pakistan.

He highlighted that the peaceful economic rise of People's Republic of China and its



advocacy of a positive win-win paradigm of peace and development has provided a historic opportunity to all the states in the extended region of Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Asia, West Asia, etc. for building up upon their own achievements in nation building but the

SCO has a long way ahead of it. The West wants SCO to be entangled and hostage to the template that they designed two decades ago in order to not realize this potential. So there has to be there is a need for thinking differently if we really want to see an SCO's potential go ahead.

Moreover, he was of the view that SCO is a long way ahead of it in order for its impact to be felt by the population in the extended region. It is not an ordinary regional organization, as it provides an ideal platform for the member states with the variety of historical experience, geographical location, cultural heritage, political ideology, economic interests, strategic outlook, diplomatic worldview, roles aspirations and dreams to come together to build what President Xi Jinping calls a community of shared destiny.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin is the greatest statement, foreign policies of states have to be dynamic in nature. They have to keep evolving in response to opportunities and

transform within and outside their borders. There is no last word in diplomacy. The world is witnessing transformation on a scale and magnitude beyond the comprehension of any previous generation of humanity. Not only in the field of technology but also in social, will economic and political arena and time not wait for anybody.

He emphasized that the SCO corresponds to the need for a new wave of globalization powered by new geo-economic realities with the rise of China and the revival of Russia. By giving his recommendation he said that the SCO needs to work out a visionary set of goals and targets with methodology and deadlines to be followed by member states in order to achieve them. Looking into the future the SCO will need to undertake several initiatives and that will contribute value to itself learning from the global best practices, success, and failures of other regional and global organizations.

He was of the view that these ideas are SCO development plan for the future:

- a. First of all, SCO should have a citizen-centered organization with regional offices in all Member States
- b. There should be an eminent person's advisory group with three representatives each from all Member States, having knowledge of each other's languages, histories, cultures, economy and foreign relations of member states
- c. There is a dire need to establish an SCO think-tank with ideas and innovation bank, launching annual awards for research in sciences, humanities, medicines, digital technology, and fine arts
- d. He recommended that an establishment of SCO civil society, youth, women and children forums which should offer 100 scholarships to each member state provided by other under the emblem of SCO to promote goodwill exchanges and prepare the future generation
- e. Promotion of Agriculture, industrial and scientific cooperation the transfer of technology and best practices within SCO
- f. Establishment of SCO Bank of trade development technology transfer and concessional finance for the member states

- g. Establishment of north-south and east-west trade corridors for multi-model and fast-track railways transportation
- h. Signing a preferential Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with trouble-free access to markets of member states and removal of trade and non-trade barriers
- i. Gradually easing Visa policy regimes or provision of free visa for diplomats, officials, business persons, tourists and if possible for the citizens
- j. Establishment of closer cooperation for counter-terrorism, counter-drugs, woman trafficking, and entry state elements
- k. Cooperation to undertake regional connectivity and collaboration projects jointly in the Eurasian region by pulling the human, economic and technical resources of member-states.
- l. Joint incent initiatives to counter climate change, environmental degradation, energy, and water scarcity challenges
- m. There should be joint efforts to promote and then there have to be joint efforts to promote soft power, cultural diversity, and tolerance through educational exchanges, youth programs, sports, women, films and scholarships
- n. A mechanism of the annual meeting of military and intelligence chiefs should take place. Joint Commission of defense ministers for collaboration on projects under bilateral and trilateral cooperation in member states



- o. Establishment of SCO alliance of universities think tanks, chambers of commerce, civil society organizations, and promotion of Chinese, Russian and English languages and cultures of the member states. There must be a mutually funded and collaborated framework in order to make the future generation grow with an SCO identity and a global personality

The world is watching SCO because nothing like an SCO has been there. It is a new model of relationship, networking, and thought. SCO cannot be held hostage to the previous template which was made by the West. The Euro-Asia is the future region, a century ago all the Western philosophers have said this.

He stressed that we must learn from each other's experiences, mutual assistance in the fields of security and intelligence, in case of external threats based on common minimum agenda of mutuality of concerns and interests of the member states.

SCO is a unique platform which can resolve a lot of issues left over by history. The member states should also not avoid discussing issues that are considered taboos such as human rights violations, border disputes, and ethnic conflicts in closed-door sessions of experts. In order to put an end to media propaganda of hostile States and member states against each other as per the Shanghai Spirit.

An establishment of an SCO dispute resolution framework or mechanism, which identifies the root causes of conflicts and disputes among member states and suggests innovative and mutually acceptable solutions without any pressure or question. All member states to respect each other's sovereignty territorial integrity and should refrain from any interference and intervention or use of force against each other.

SCO is a natural platform for Pakistan and country provides positive energy so far it hasn't been utilized. With the help of SCO Pakistan is returning to its cultural roots dating centuries ago, like China, Russia and other member states of SCO. Pakistan believes that dialogue is the only way to resolving disputes on the basis of well-recognized principles of international law, justice, equality, non-interference, co-existence and sovereign independence guiding interstate relations.

He added that a Russian strategist *Andrew Korybko* has called Pakistan as zipper state of Eurasia which means in order to get access to the entire region and extended region, Pakistan is the key. SCO is the strategic project which at the moment hasn't utilized more than 2% of its potential so 98% is around there to achieve. This is the new trajectory and a new way of handling international relations but the difficulty is the Chinese language which is not spoken or understood by the majority of the population. With Pakistan's accession to SCO, the possibilities of building north-south-east-west transport and trade corridors in Asia become a reality. Russia-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Central-Asia Pakistan Economic corridor and all Economic Corridors with each member state of SCO. Building trust is key to a bright future, it can essentially decide, make or unmake SCO. It is therefore important that our all friends in SCO should adopt a well-considered policy plan of action. Recruiting talented human resources and experts to implement the dreams and visions of the member states will be critical to the success of SCO. Contemporary history testifies that most regional and global organizations have failed, either to take-off or aborted, due to an absence of quality manpower to run those organizations. Pakistan will share with fellow SCO member states its own experiences and strengths in nation-building and economic revival for the achievement of the goals and principles of SCO charter. It is in the long-term interest of all member states to overcome their contradictions and work straight on what is called positive positivism.



The success of SCO is born to attract to for its fold other influential members in the neighborhood and beyond, becoming in due course the world's most powerful regional grouping. It is hence necessary that the member-states utilized their best minds and

resources in the services of goals and ideals of SCO which must establish this permanent headquarters and country liaison offices and headquarters.

The new global realities are in making with China's rise, Russia's revival, Central Asia's consolidation, Eastern and Central Europe's economic restructuring, the new Middle East and West Asia, Pakistan and ASEAN lining up. There are nations who want to confuse the world with the old template old cold war template and they want to keep their one leg with SCO and other with the BRICS to confuse others.

The flow of history is very clearly moving towards Asia-Pacific, the epicenter of global power is moving to the Asia Pacific and Eurasian Zone. Pakistan is well prepared to make it's a contribution to SCO, he congratulated the CGSS for undertaking it.

He concluded by saying that we, the member states of SCO need to build this romance of similar three civilizations. Let's talk on the potential, let's utilize and harness the energy that SCO depicts as an organization in line with the Shanghai Spirits.

Mr. Bakhtiyor Mustafayev – Head of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



He started his speech by thanking the organizers of this conference and for their traditional hospitality. His topic of the speech was security issues in Central Asia and multilateral cooperation as the way forward. He stated that all Central Asian states fully support the fundamental principles of the United Nation and are aimed at ensuring regional and extra-regional security and peace. He added that it is the most difficult period of modern history for our region, where we are managing to maintain peace and stability and avoid escalation of local conflicts into a major interstate confrontation. It should be noted that positive experience has been achieved in intra-regional security problems in various fields. History has been made by Central Asian states when all regional states took this initiative to make the Central Asian region as Nuclear Weapon Free Zone under the umbrella of the United Nations.

He emphasized that Central Asia is the first region where comprehensive integration and balanced strategies of United Nations Anti-terrorism was launched successfully. After the elections, His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev became President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, security and sustainable development issues in Central Asia achieved new dynamics. He credited this achievement to the transparent, pragmatic and mutually beneficial diplomatic regional policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Past two years had become historical and breakthrough, mutually beneficial solutions have been achieved on the basis of reasonable compromises on a number of critical issues related to water use, demarcation of borders, expansion of transport links and mutual electricity supply.

He added that contours of the region are showing enormous potential in developing constructive cooperation in all areas. An example of this was the first consultative meeting of heads of central Asian republics held in March 2018 in Astana. Purpose of this meeting was to discuss the mutual security and key issues of Central Asian republics. Agreements

have been reached to jointly counter the activities of terrorist and their organizations. In wake of these agreements, Uzbekistan versus Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan signed a plan of complex measures for 2018-19 on this issue. He also highlighted the joint anti-terrorism exercises conducted last year in July by Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Bukhtiyor was of the view that rapid changes are occurring in the modern world, especially in the context of globalization and eruption of tensions between nation-states in a different part of the world could be resolved through multilateral cooperation from the states of the region. He accentuated that in this debate, security and cooperation should be prioritized in the agenda of multilateral and global forums.

- a. It is necessary to further strengthen and increase the cooperation in the field of security and to identify and curb the cross-border terrorist activities in the region. In addition, cooperation to ensure the cybersecurity and protection of information space from terrorist and extremists require particular relevance.
- b. There is a need to put an end to the ideology of radicalism which is often nourished in intolerant and uneducated societies. So there is a need to induce harmony and tolerance in the society while education plays an imperative role.
- c. The insurance of peace and stability of Afghanistan is a prerequisite for the peaceful region. This is a fundamental objective of the Central Asian Republics because it will also open up strategic opportunities of trade and economic cooperation
- d. It is necessary to intensify cooperation and development and implementation of specific joint practical security measures to protect the population from terrorists and to protect territories from transnational threats.

He highlighted that in order to solve the above-mentioned problems, Central Asian States are committed and actively involved in activities of regional and international organizations. He also added that security and stability of Central Asian States are principally important and countries of the region should be considered as independent actors in International relations. United Nations

Structure carry out their activities in Central Asian states in various fields such as social, economic and political development of states of the region. Also taking into account the

international role of UN as a platform of implementation of initiatives and proposals in addressing the issues of the region.



SCO has significant potential in resolving the issues of regional security. During the activities carried out through the last decade, SCO has shown itself as a capable and effective framework in countering contemporary challenges of regional security. The priority of

security issues in SCO by a format and legal base of security and in particular 642 documents were adopted in this area which is 45 percent of regulatory acts of this organization. An effective component of the regional security system is SCO regional anti-terrorist structure which makes a significant contribution to counter drug trafficking, terrorism, extremism, and separatism.

In particular, last year the security structure of SCO member states stopped the activities of more than 50 organization and detained 150 terrorists.

SCO has a huge potential, in a summit last year, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan said that SCO should focus on fighting against terrorism, step-up business cooperation, promote innovation and work to simplify customs rules. Collective data banks have been formed and exchange of training courses, seminars, conferences, and joint anti-terrorism exercises was organized.

Central Asian states are also working to reduce the risk of ecological consequences in territories of the region within the framework of the European Union. In 2018 EU allocated 60 million Euros to erase the problems associated to Uranium drillings and at the same time EU believes that it's necessary to invest an additional 70 million euros for storage of the uranium waste in Central Asia. According to the EU, there is an abundance

of radioactive materials in densely populated and disaster-prone areas of Central Asian States. States of the region are also cooperating with EU on management and countering illicit drug trafficking as part and parcel of various programs.

Nevertheless, the interdependence of key processes in the region with global trends dictates the need of close coordination among Central Asian countries as well as developing mutually agreed positions in regional and international organizations and partner countries.

He stressed that it is important that all countries of the region pursue their foreign policy without prejudice of common interests. For building beneficial relations with regional and international organizations it is necessary to exclude the occurrence of negative consequences for prospects of regional cooperation as well as conditions and prerequisites for increased competition between extra-regional forces in Central Asia. Building political, diplomatic, economic, military and technical with one organization should not be carried out to detriment of relations with others without creating a region for appropriate opposition that could upset the current balance of forces in the region.

Mr. Arman Tynabek, Deputy Head of Missions, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan



Mr. Arman Tynabek commenced his speech by saying that Kazakhstan is one of the founding states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has always been a strong and consistent advocate of a so-called Shanghai spirit, which is about close cooperation among the organization member states. The president of Kazakhstan Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev in his statement at SCO summit in China particularly stressed the need for closer economic ties within the SCO region. He added that this approach is fully backed up by Kazakhstan's foreign policy which is strongly committed to paying a particular tribute to trade and economic bonds enhancing. However, the strategic priority of SCO should remain to augment political dialogue, trust, as well as ensuring security and sustainable development of our organization. Kazakhstan fully stands for consistent implementation of the treaty of good neighborliness, friendship, and cooperation among the SCO member states. This is indeed a cornerstone document to ensure partnership with no fulfillment of which we're unlikely to reach our shared goals.

Moreover, an aggregate strength of enormously sizeable population of the SCO countries should be exercised for enhancing economic collaboration among them, said by Mr. Arman. It is of particular importance to shift in our cooperation to implement trade and investment projects. This shift is to be done from bilateral to a multilateral level which is our extreme importance. In this regard, Kazakhstan is for setting up within the SCO joint and workable mechanisms for funding projects and mobilizing technological resources. Here we are to exploit in a most befitting and effective way potential of the SCO Business Council.

First, under the so-called fourth industrial revolution which is underway, digitalization is the economies leads us to new horizons and new technological realities. Therefore it is essential to share our experiences among SCO member states in this domain and this is extremely significant.

On its own part, Kazakhstan is trying to do its best to contribute to enhancing economic



and financial ties between the SCO member states. One of the brightest manifestations of this endeavor is launching of the Astana financial center which aims to turn into the original financial hub in the years to come. The center and its activities are to follow best international practices of other widely known financial centers alike. The center is expected

to provide not only a major impetus to the development of Kazakhstan's economy but also to have a positive impact upon financial systems of all SCO member states. This is all about to say that Kazakhstan urges financial Institute's business community of the SCO member states to join activities of the Astana Financial Center.

He stressed that Kazakhstan is fully committed to the SCO Charter and a strong advocate of Trans-friendship and good neighborliness in the relationship among the member states of our organization. Through all these years, since SCO came into existence, the Shanghai spirit has been a unique source of the SCO productive activities and we in Kazakhstan are certain that this spirit will stay safe in years to come and in the future.

Mr. Seitzhan Apyshev, Adviser to Director, National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic (NISS KR), Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic



Dear organizers and participants on behalf of the National Institute for strategic studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, I welcome all participants and Express my gratitude to the organizers the Center for Global and Strategic Studies of Pakistan for the invitation and providing me an opportunity to participate in this conference. In the light of the upcoming SCO summit which will be held this summer, discussion of a new paradigm for regional connectivity integration of economic prosperity and countering non-traditional threats, in addition, it will also strengthen mutual cooperation between partners through multilateral initiatives to promote cultural exchange.

Without doubt cooperation in the field of culture is one of the important activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and it allows us to strengthen long-term good neighborliness friendship and cooperation between our traditionally close friends, not only geographically but also in the spirit of the peoples and countries. The fundamental basis for the preservation and coexistence of different national cultures is the development of international cultural exchanges. Conducting joint events on a regular basis with the participation of the SCO member States such as festivals and days of culture, cinema, art exhibitions, theater and music evenings, tours of creative collectives of artists, cooperation in the field of protection of monuments, Museums and libraries, cinematography, television and radio broadcasting, publishing and sports encourages and promote our values and principles that unite our countries and helps in the fight against extremism and intolerance, in particular it will be helpful for the younger generation.

He was of the view that social and cultural organizations of all countries are contributing to the development of cultural relations and exchanges. These organizations enrich the people's diplomacy of the countries acting as an important independent link for the expansion of cultural ties and strengthening mutual understanding of the peoples of the SCO Member States.



The joint statement of the SCO member states by Ministers of culture on April 12, 2002, that Beijing was of great importance for the legal support of cultural cooperation of the members of the organization. The importance of cultural component in the development of multilateral relation among partner states is

also mentioned in the Qingdao declaration signed by the Council of Head of States of the SCO.

Member states relying on the agreement between the members of SCO states in the field of culture signed in Bishkek 2012 will continue to promote the development of cultural ties within the SCO framework. Spirit of this agreement was to strengthen mutual understanding between nations, respect for cultural traditions and customs of the Member States and to preserve and promote cultural diversity.

As a result of 15 meeting of Ministers of culture of the SCO member States signed in Sanya on May 2018, an agreement was reached to organize a regular meeting of Ministers of culture of the SCO member States in 2019 in the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, under the chairmanship of the Kyrgyz Republic of SCO is following cultural and humanitarian events organized in our country.

Women SCO forum, SCO Media Summit, growing ties with Silk Road, SCO international marathon, art exhibition, and others events are a significant contributor to increasing confidence in the establishment of professional relations and building mutually beneficial long-term cooperation of the SCO countries.

In addition to the Shanghai cooperation organization, priority areas are the development of education and tourism. The legal basis of cooperation in the field of education was founded in 2006 by signing the agreement between the governments of member States seam in education.

In order to promote cooperation in education between the SCO member countries during their summit organized 2008 at Bishkek, it was decided to establish the education network among universities of the member states since 2010. The University started to function as a network of already existing universities in SCO member States. The education without border is organized according to the format of international conferences and round tables of rectors of leading universities, as well as the meeting of Ministers of education of the participating countries, also took place.

He also stressed that tourism plays an important role in the development of the economy and deepening the dialogue of cultures of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In order to expand and develop equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of tourism, a program for the SCO member states to have a common tourist space was signed in 2016 which will endorse existing cultural, historical and economic ties.

In February 2019, Youth forum for the development of tourism in SCO member states was held in Bishkek as part of Kyrgyz republic Chairmanship. It is expected as this event will become a dialogue platform for experts and delegates from different countries representatives of tourism operators and relevant government agencies.

In general, it can be stated that cultural exchange visit framework of SCO created the legal base for cooperation in the field of humanitarian cooperation and the form of implementation of cultural programs in the framework of multilateral and bilateral format. At this stage, it is seen as important and beneficial for deepening the multilateral cultural and humanitarian interaction.

He said that recent developments in international politics have clearly shown that purely material pragmatic interests cannot serve as a sufficient basis to build trusting long-term relationships between countries and people. The presence of a favorable social and cultural environment is a prerequisite for development in modern conditions.

He also highlighted the fact that at present many countries of the world in general, and Eurasia in particular, are finding solutions to several fundamental issues such as:

- a. The provision of inter-civilizational dialogue between the various countries peoples and cultures

- b. The balance between modernity and traditions, including matters of religion
- c. A new format of human relations with nature
- d. Ensuring equal opportunities in development

In recent years, Kyrgyz Republic has implemented a number of major initiatives whose common goal is to strengthen the inter-civilizational communication and to form a dialogue between the traditions and modernity to increase the level of environmental protection and to aware them about unique fauna of the region of Central Asia. An example of this is the recognized World Nomad Games and forum for the conservation of the snow leopard.

In October 2018, the national sustainable development of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018 to 2040 was adopted. The distinctive feature of this strategy was that in the first place this strategy is aimed at the development of human potential. Geographically and



historically, Kyrgyz Republic has always been at the center of all processes in Eurasia, representing a synthesis of nomadic and sedentary with multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. Although the Kyrgyz Republic has always stood for good-neighborly equal relations based on mutual respect for mutual interests and mutual benefit.

In order to strengthen and expand humanitarian cooperation in the region SCO seems to be an important factor which can strengthen cooperation between our countries in the following areas:

- a. In the process of nation building of our countries, we must not lose our region, our business, our historical community along with a national programme for the development of the spiritual, historical, and material culture in the framework of the

SCO. He added that it is necessary to adopt long-term programs for the systematic development and to study of our common past and heritage of the great silk road, on the mystic and nomadic cultures of monuments of spiritual and material culture, joint research and study of historical sources can help to fill the historical and cultural omissions and enrich the common cultural heritage.

- b. Civilizational diversity as the basis for the development, the countries and the people of the region can and should develop together the conditions of friendship and good neighborliness.

It should be noted that one of the reasons for the stereotypical (distorted) perception of each other, which, unfortunately, also has a place to be, is ignorance, lack of awareness of the real picture. In this regard, it seems effective to study the potential of establishing mutual cultural centers, which will not only help to improve mutual understanding and friendship between nations and, in general, develop cooperation between the SCO member states in the cultural and humanitarian sphere, but will also be an excellent tool for promoting language and history of Eurasian countries. Joint television projects telling about the enormous cultural potential of the region, friendship and unity of the peoples living in this territory, series of educational television and radio programs on the history of our peoples; joint music and folklore festivals, sports competitions within the framework of the SCO member countries will play an important role in preserving and strengthening the spirit of friendship; joint resistance to radicalization through the development of education, exchange of practices for the prevention of three “evils” (terrorism, separatism, extremism) at the level of not only law enforcement agencies, but also religious leaders, civil society of the SCO region, “Belt and Road” initiative (BRI) and EAEU.

Session 2

Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, Additional Secretary, National Coordinator of Pakistan for SCO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad



Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, Additional Secretary, National Coordinator of Pakistan for SCO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, presented a speech on "Pakistan's Contribution in SCO".

Before starting his speech he appreciated the initiative of the Center for Global and Strategic Studies and expressed and acknowledged his pleasure a privilege to spoke on the Contribution of Pakistan in Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Mr. Zahoor Ahmed illustrated that basically Pakistan is quite a new member of SCO and been here since 2017 and SCO is a very significant aspect of Pakistan's diplomacy. The contemporary and ever-changing globalize world, the multilateral forums like SCO are essential to share experiences and coordinate policies and actions to promote peace, stability, development, and prosperity.

Since its establishment, nearly two decades ago the SCO has matured into a pivotal organization in dealing with the issues of regional peace and development. SCO significance can be a gauge for the fact that it caters for 42% of the world population and approximately 3.2 billion people and the region has the GDP of \$ 6.2 trillion which is about the 25% of the global GDP. And it has a total trade of \$ 5130 billion. Since SCO inception about 1400 documents have been adopted and these have covered various areas including political, diplomatic spheres, security and stability, trade and economics, investment, development of culture, humanitarian connections, science and technology, food security and all sorts of areas have been covered in SCO.

Mr. Zahoor Ahmed argued that SCO has about 24 ministerial forums and more than a hundred expert working groups which discuss cooperation in these various areas every year. In the last summit, 23 documents were adopted by the heads of State which set the

future direction for cooperation among member states in the wide ranged areas. The cardinal principles of SCO are mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, and respect for cultural diversity and to pursue the common goals of development. This is termed as the Shanghai spirit which is the main sort of Spirit of SCO which made it a unique organization. While the other organizations have the one dominant player and some of them don't treat their members equally.

He further elaborated that SCO is not directed against any other state, it neither has a standing army nor the countering principles. There is cooperation in military and other spheres among the states but not imposed a threat towards any other state. The potential offered by SCO is now being widely recognized by the international community and this is evident by the fact that there are a number of countries which are applying for the observer status, membership and the dialogue partners.

He further holds the point of view that SCO has 8 member states, four observer states, and 8 dialogue partners. Pakistan has realized the importance of SCOP earlier and Pakistan is the first country who applied for the full membership of this worthy organization. Since 2005 Pakistan is an observer in SCO and in 2017 Pakistan become a member of SCO.

Mr. Zahoor Ahmed mentioned that Pakistan has participated in two heads of government meeting and one state of heads meeting, Pakistan has participated in Sochi, Russia, the council of heads of government, Qingdao Summit, the council of heads of state and Dushanbe council of heads of government meeting.



Mr. Zahoor further discussed that the new government of Pakistan is focused on the utility of foreign policy initiatives for the development of the country which is interlink with the ideals of SCO. SCO has the greatest potential for being a catalyst for regional development. Pakistan can

contribute a lot for the SCO standing and realization of its motives. Pakistan rich experience in multilateral diplomacy, UN peacekeeping, in an anti-colonial movement that puts Pakistan in a unique position to contribute towards the role of SCO. Our multilateral experience can be helpful in developing SCO's linkages with other regional and international organizations.

Pakistan's strategic location makes it a bridge between regions, South Asia, Central, and West Asia and a way to achieve the SCO goal of shared prosperity to greater connectivity and integration. In the last council of heads of government meeting, Pakistan proposed the idea of Pakistan-SCO corridor and proposed that SCO can connect to the warm water to the global trade through Pakistan and this idea is welcomed by the other SCO states. SCO countries are located in the old Silk Road and supportive to the belt and road initiative of China and also the part of this initiative.

Pakistan and China are open to extending its relations and connectivity to other neighboring countries and SCO provides a platform to launch the network and to provide economic growth of the region and broaden the global economy.

Mr. Zahoor Ahmed argued that Pakistan is well aware of the threats posed by the terrorism and extremism to regional and global peace and economic development and Pakistan with the immense sacrifices by their people and armed forces have a unique record of successfully revive through the serious situation.

Concluding his speech Mr. Zahoor Ahmed elaborated that SCO's focus on social, cultural and science and technology concerned areas and Pakistan is looking forward to collaborating with these vital areas with a special focus. Pakistan has some affiliated bodies like youth council which basically brings the youth together to play their role against terrorism. SCO has the forum for the think tanks to exchange their views within the SCO mechanism. With these forums, SCO has a vital role to play for future global economic prosperity. SCO has matured as a trans-regional organization and Pakistan is looking forward to playing its role in a broader context.

Prof. Elena Dostanko - Head, Academic Affairs Unit, Belarusian State University, Minsk, Belarus



Professor Elena Dostanko delivered her speech entitled as ***“The prospects of European Dimension of the SCO in the 21st century”***, she argued that over the short period of time that since Belarus joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an observer it closely follows the processes that are unfolding in the SCO today. Being on the ‘western frontier’ of the SCO, Belarus can make a real contribution as a donor of regional stability and security to the fulfillment of the goals of the organization taking into account the importance of ultimate security. We admit that SCO has provided a favorable environment for the growth of multilateral cooperation of Belarus on the international arena since the country was granted observer status in 2015.

Professor Elena Dostanko illustrated that the increase in the number of countries supporting the Shanghai spirit of equal, mutually beneficial and peaceful co-existence of nations is a testimony to the growing authority of the SCO. Many experts underline that the accession of India and Pakistan and possibly Iran in some time later is changing the nature of the SCO. It could become a platform offering a Eurasian alternative to Western Europe, the non-Western center of gravity in Eurasia.

While addressing the contribution of Belarus she demonstrated that Belarus as the initiator of the “integration of integrations” idea tries to identify new points of interaction between the Eurasian Economic Union, European Union and the Eurasian eight (SCO).

In Belarus, an industrial park “*The Great Stone*” is the most important element of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). There are around 40 residents registered in it, including companies from China, Russia, the United States, and Germany. In 2017, by the decree of the President of Belarus, the Park was granted tax privileges that cannot be found in other countries: 10 years without taxes, another 10 years only half of taxes are to be paid. Such



a regime will be valid until 2062. It seems that interested parties will be able to join the project to implement effective economic strategies in the EAEU, the European Union and SCO countries.

At the same time, she argued that Belarus has the observer status in the so-called initiative “16+1” – expanded cooperation between BRI and a block of 16 states in Central and Eastern Europe, 11 out of them are the members of the EU.

The European Union is the second trade partner for Belarus after the Russian Federation. Belarus is the only nation among Eastern Partnership countries without conflicts. That enhances our capacity of being a good and reliable partner that can create a bridge between Europe and Asia.

She mentioned that Belarus supports the initiative concerning the need to ensure food security on the continent. In Tsingtao Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko suggested using our national capacities to strengthen food security of the SCO. Belarus has a traditionally strong and efficient agricultural sector, high-technology manufacturing and agricultural machinery industry. Belarus consistently advocates for the elimination of artificial barriers in this field. She said that in June 2019 Minsk will host the international agricultural expo “Belagro” which will run an Agro-SCO platform.

Another sphere of mutual interest in her view could be the development of a common electronic platform, as President Alexander Lukashenko says “IT ecosystem” that will

incorporate the possibilities of electronic mass media, social networks, e-trade. In Belarus, first, on the CIS space, the crypto-exchange stock was opened.

The EU, Eurasian Economic Union, and SCO are nuclear countries club. In this concern, the strengthening of nuclear safety, the peaceful use of nuclear facilities is of great importance to Belarus. Deepening scientific cooperation in nuclear safety between the institutions of the EU, EAEU and SCO countries could be a prominent dimension of cooperation.

Considering the huge potential of the SCO countries in various areas, Professor Elena Dostanko was of the view that we should consider the implementation of specific projects that will drive economic development forward. It is often said that in many cases the economic dimension of the SCO is replaced by bilateral relations, that there is no such dimension in the SCO at all. It is true to some extent that big economic projects could not be real without functioning of common finance and banking system. The tactics of the mutually beneficial project and sectorial cooperation can booster real economic interaction on the SCO level.

Addressing the Cooperation in security sphere she illustrated that in 2018 a delegation of high-ranked military and law enforcement officials attended different events held in the framework of SCO. She said that Belarus traditionally has formed good and respectful relations between different nations and cultures without any religious, national or other types of persecution. At the same time, the location of Belarus at the transit traffic junction of illegal migrants has predetermined certain threats. Belarus is actively involved in the European regional antiterrorism policy including combating illegal trafficking of firearms and explosives. For now, great attention is paid by law enforcement agencies to the citizens who act as combatants outside their states.

Combating terrorism and extremism, Prof, Dostanko explained that in Belarus the criminal liability for the creation of extremist formation and financing of its activity was introduced. Along with recruitment that assumes material compensation as an obligatory element of the law provides the participation itself of citizens and stateless persons in armed conflict or military actions abroad is recognized as a crime in our country.

Further, she revealed that Radicalism, search and conversion of new persons among immature youth, their involvement in the forbidden organizations and the fulfillment of terrorist actions are just a part of modern threats. Only effective international cooperation, internal work of law enforcement bodies of the states are the key factors in counteraction of promotion of radical doctrines and the prevention of terrorist actions.

Concluding her speech she mentioned that the Changing architecture of new world order makes SCO set up new standards and new horizons. It requires closer cooperation between its international institutions, SCO members, observer and dialogue partners.



Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelehbashi - Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran, Iran



Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelehbashi started his speech with thanking President of Center for Global & Strategic Studies, General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery. He greeted the participants and distinguished guests present in the hall. He also expressed his gratitude and appreciation on behalf of Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran, Iran to Center for Global & Strategic Studies for providing this opportunity to share our views about SCO.

He stated that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is becoming one of the most important multilateral organizations, not only at the regional level but also at a global level. After two decades now the organization could promote itself vertically to consider a variety of many important issues for this member state and also horizontally by developing itself from Eurasia to Southwest Asia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, from the beginning of the shaping Shanghai mechanism concept Shanghai Spirit, closely considers the process. Fortunately, in 2005, Iran invited to SCO and was designated the status of observer member, said by Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelehbashi.

He added that the great value that Iran attached to Shanghai Cooperation Organization is for a variety of reason. First multilateralism and regionalism are important in Iranian foreign policy. In the world, after the collapse of the bipolar system, the old mechanism cannot meet challenges opportunities and fundamental changes in the global and regional arena. Accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always had active and supportive participation in regional multilateral institutions and organization, like the Organisation for Economic Cooperation (ECO), the Organization for corporations of the eight Islamic development countries (D-8), an Asian cooperation dialogue (ACD) which Pakistan also is the active member. The other elements of Iran's foreign policy are neighborhood policy. Iran with 15 countries has a common land or sea borders cooperation with the

neighboring regional organization is one of the tools for advancing neighborhood policy in Iran. Besides the geographic point of view having a common border with some SCO members, Iran enjoys a long and deep historical, cultural, political, and economic relationship with all SCO member states. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that it is in line with the common interest with all of the member states of the organization that has established constructive cooperation with SCO.

He was of the view that generally the main missions of the organization could be represented in two pillars maintaining regional sustainable security in all aspects and the same time regional economic development which both lead to peace stability prosperity and welfare of the people of the whole region. Iran also shares the views of the organization about triangle concept or three evil which are the main security threat of the region named as Terrorism, Extremism, and Separatism. The Islamic Republic of Iran has suffered a lot from terrorism from its early establishment and even recently is facing terrorism inside its territory and in the immediate border area in East and West. In contrast, Iran has gained many experiences in order to combat terrorism during the emerging ISIS in Iraq and Syria. The mutual cooperation based on consent and invitation of the governments of Iraq and Syria has been developed among Iran and the Federation of Russia which led to the collapse of the ISIS dimension in these two countries. Such an experience could be shared among the member in SCO.

In addition, he claimed that one of the causes of terrorism in our region is extremism and drastically these two phenomena are closely linked together. Combating extremism is more complicated and sensitive. SCO organization may facilitate by organizing seminars and conferences for consideration of this delicate phenomenon. It appears that extremism is not exclusive to the region and during the last decades appear as the global concerns and threats.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also shares itself with the concerns of SCO regarding



separatism due to income link among these three Evils and most importantly disturbing consequences for stability in the region. Preventing separatism and maintains the sovereignty of all countries in the region is the main and principal policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Due to the significance of the

stability in the whole region, Iran would like to contribute to any initiatives which may arise in the organization.

The tension between the countries of the region is one of the sources of instability in the region, SCO may build a mechanism and take initiatives for prevention and resolution of tensions between the countries concerns. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to contribute to these initiatives and process.

He added that regarding the second pillar of the SCO, the member states of the organization have taken important steps over the past decades for economic development in the region which can pave the way for sustainable and sort and secure regional stability and security. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed this process as an important factor in its neighboring area, the Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) is initiated by the Government of the Peoples Republic of China along with its infrastructures projects not only is be able to promote economic cooperation between the countries of the region but also increase the employment, incomes and prosperity of the people of the Member States in the region. The idea of Belt and Road is not just an economic idea but it has cultural, social and political dimensions that highlight the terms of strategic and security aspects.

The geostrategic position of Iran and its immediate closeness to a strategic area of the periphery including depression Gulf, Middle East, Caucuses, Central Asia and Southwest Asia is a special advantage that can be exploited in this idea. During the past years, Iran

and China have launched several major projects in Iran that could be used to reshaping the new Silk Road. Due to its domestic and regional capacities, Iran welcomed the idea of building a road and is ready to participate in the complementary initiatives of the regional initiatives with the participation of all member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The Islamic the Islamic Republic of Iran is pleased that the neighboring country of Pakistan which has long historical culture and friendly ties with Iran is one of the pillars of realizing this idea in South West Asia. The economic corridor of China and Pakistan (CPEC) is considered very important by the Islamic Republic of Iran because it can contribute to strengthening economic and regional development in Pakistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes to expand stability and security in their region through the regional development and domestic development of the parameters of this corridor and the welfare and livelihood of local people which may indirectly be rooted the economic and social background which may misuse by some tourist and extremist groups. Therefore the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced its willingness to participate in its three party's plan with China and Pakistan.

Mr. Seyed Majid accentuated that in this regard many Iranian scholars believes that the opportunities in both Iran and Pakistan, including the advantages and capacities of interconnections in two countries, should be considered complementary rather than competitively in line with the interest of the collective benefits of the region. Last week another piece of the railway from south to north of Iran was completed which may be linked from Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea and within two years by connecting the rail-link, bordering area of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The one branch of the north-south corridor will extend from south of Iran in the Persian Gulf to Russian and Northern Europe. This corridor in combination with the Eastern Western corridors that cross Iran and other countries can be used by other countries in the region as well as a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to complete the connectivity Network and having access to the huge markets and beyond.

He also drew attention towards energy security Asia and some of the organization member state will be rising as the main consuming market in the current century. There



are significant capacities for cooperation between producers and consumers of energy in SCO countries, which are sometimes also considered and used. The Islamic Republic of Iran as a country possessing oil

and gas reservoirs can play a major role in increasing security energy in Asia from the security of supply aspect.

Regarding cooperation with Pakistan, the natural gas pipeline is still valid and Iran almost completed its part. Implementation these projects with the projection to extend to other SCO member state can contribute to economic development and prosperity of the people of Southwest Asia. Iran also has national potential in the field of renewable energy.

Iran, in order to diversify its internal energy basket or energy mix and to reduce the pollution caused by the fossil fuels, is ready to cooperate with other member countries in the field of technology exchange, investment, and development of the consumer market of this type of environmentally friendly energy carriers.

While highlighting the environmental concerns including the consequences of climate change, like water security, he said that these issues are deemed as global concerns that could have security implications. The area covered by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is no exceptions to this phenomenon and its consequences. What was considered an intangible challenges previously has now become a real intangible one and raised a security threat to our people in much of the region.

He believes that environmental issues before getting the crisis need to be addressed and managed by an area actors before regional and global dimensions of the crisis cause the intervention of outside powers. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also activated water diplomacy in its foreign policy with neighboring countries, the member of the state of the organization may establish a consultation mechanism in order to exchange and share information and experiences among themselves.

While concluding his speech, Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelehbashi stated that member countries can share their experiences regarding aforementioned issues as they are a segment of other regional organization as well, like ECO, D-8 and Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Fortunately, there is MOU's use between SCO and some of these regional organization which some SCO members states already members of them. This area of exchange and sharing information knowledge and experience would be in favor of all member states and a strengthened multilateralism for tackling the challenges that we are facing today.

In the end, he again expressed his gratitude for Pakistani host, The Center for Global & Strategic Studies for all arrangement and hospitality.

Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi HI (M), (Retd) - Former Federal Minister of Defense



Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi, presented a speech on "Pakistan's Role in Regional Peace and Stability". He expressed his gratitude for CGSS for organizing the SCO conference and made sure the participation from each and every state which matters in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi argued that SCO is a platform which represents half of the world's population. Therefore it is incumbent to understand the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. To balance among the spheres of geo-economic, geostrategic and geopolitical is a difficult task to be addressed. The resources like human resources and material resources are significant but one cannot underestimate the power of knowledge.

While talking about the contribution of Pakistan in the security of the region General Naeem Khalid Lodhi illustrated that Pakistan has made itself self-sufficient. Pakistan has defended itself well whenever it is required. Pakistan is fulfilling the basic need of its citizens. Pakistan has fought the war against terrorism in the region. Pakistan has eliminated ETIM to stabilize the security of the region. We have sheltered the largest number approximately 2.5 million people refugees of the world who were facing a huge turmoil across their country.

Further, he mentioned the ongoing peacekeeping talks between US and Afghan Taliban and contribution and facilitation that was provided by Pakistan. Embracing BRI and becoming a part of CPEC for ensuring the regional connectivity and economic prosperity is also the contribution of Pakistan for regional supremacy.

While concluding his speech Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi mentioned that Pakistan is part of SAARC, SCO, and various regional and international organizations. Pakistan is fighting against the contagious disease like Polio. He elaborated that we did all this with the help of our friendly states and we appreciate all the efforts of our friends for the achievement of regional prosperity and stability.

Question and Answer Session

Question: 1

Mr. Zahid- A Pakistani Journalist

Question was directed towards Majid Ghalfbahsi, a representative from Iran to elaborate Iran's stance over Kashmir Issue.



Mr. Majid responded to the question by emphasizing over the basic human rights of all



the Muslims resides in any state, and he added that Kashmir is no exception to it. He is of the view that this issue should be peacefully resolved by both countries with the involvement of third-party countries like SCO member states and he stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is itself ready to settle down this dispute in accordance with the will of the people of Kashmir.

Question: 2

Mr. Osama Ashraf - Student from Quaid-e-Azam University



Osama Ashraf from Quaid-e-Azam University asked a question from Dr. Elena that western scholars are labelling **SCO as NATO of East and a new Warsaw Pact**. What should be the strategy of SCO to eliminate the misperception about its formation?

Dr. Elena expressed a comprehensive stance over the concerned statement and



explained that that both the organizations are diverse in its structural formations, Warsaw Pact was a military organization which engaged the states belonging to Socialist bloc whereas SCO is an organization which remained focused at economic, political and humanitarian dynamics. Military component is not the idea of the cooperation framework of SCO. There are a lot of possibilities to engage western countries by providing them economic, humanitarian and cultural opportunities for future cooperation.

Question 3:

Lt. General Asad Durrani (Retd.)

Lt. General Asad Durrani (Retd.) raised a question about the efficacy of SCO organization and the Shanghai Spirit and security cooperation as the foundation of SCO. He asked the panelists to highlight the role of SCO to resolve the Kashmir issue has as a mediator between the two concerned states.



Maj. General Khalid Amir Jaffery (Retd) answered that Pakistan and India are quite new members to this organization and their dispute dates back 70 years ago, and SCO is solely an economic based organization focusing on the better economic ties between the south Asian and Eurasian states but SCO has done a tremendous role to develop the closer ties between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. And in future he is hopeful that SCO would give its share to resolve the issues between the member states.



Question 4:

Mr. Shazil Khan- Representative from Pakistan Disaster Management Authority

Shazil Khan, representative from Pakistan Disaster Management Authority asked, Why Mongolia is not part of SCO as it is right in between Russia and China and could act as a strategic transportation route?



Mr. Zahoor answered that Mongolia is an observer state of SCO and there is a strong desire in Mongolia to become a full member of SCO. Since the mechanism of acquiring the SCO membership needs a long range of time to process, that's why Mongolia is not the full member state at this stage.

Closing Remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M) Retd. President, CGSS



Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M) (Retd) articulated his closing remarks by thanking distinguished guests worthy panelists, all the speakers and participants who made the conference successful. He demonstrated that Pakistan has always recognized the geo-economic significance of the Central Asian Republics and integration projects such as Belt and Road Initiative, Greater Silk Route and Eurasian Integration.

The region has abundant natural resources and offers unexplored markets to international goods. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers a great opportunity for the Eurasian region to reach the Middle East and Africa.

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery illustrated that Pakistan is an ideally situated country on the globe being at the crossroads of Central Asia, South West Asia, and South Asia. The Central Asian nations, along with Pakistan should capitalize on the spiritual and ethnic commonalities which tangle the interests of all the parties at play. Together, we can re-establish the significance of Asia in the global world order.

He was of the view that Pakistan has a portfolio of over 46 billion dollars that will be invested in Pakistan's energy sector to make itself self-reliant in energy, investment in transport infrastructure between Pakistan and China, in Gwadar port that is the future hub of maritime trade and also a connecting point of BRI initiative and maritime silk route through Indian Ocean. At last, he thanked all the guest for their thought-provoking concepts for framing the future role of SCO in the globalized world.



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