

Leveraging New Economic Geography for Shared Prosperity, Stability and Resilience

China and its partner countries have recently celebrated ten years of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Officially launched in 2013, BRI is the largest infrastructure development and regional connectivity initiatives of recent times that aims to boost connectivity, trade, and cultural exchange along routes loosely inspired by the ancient Silk Road. BRI now extends to over 120 countries and is increasingly folding European countries among others, under its infrastructure investment umbrella bringing development and investments.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the key corridors under BRI. Under CPEC, with over [USD 30 billion](#) in financing over the past decade, Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan has been transformed, several power plants have been built, and Pakistan has been connected by road to Kashgar in western China. In addition, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established to attract regional investors. The next ten years of BRI will be crucial to see how countries manage to attract private investments to leverage the new connectivity infrastructure.

Currently, there is a massive economic transition taking place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the Gulf states. '[Saudi Vision 2030](#)' is driving KSA's efforts to open its markets, diversify its economy, and strengthen regional economic partnerships. This is a timely opportunity for Saudi Arabia to take a leadership role in shaping the future of emerging markets across the Middle East, South Asia, and West Asia, positioning the region as a key player in the Asian Economic Century.

The above regional transitions should be viewed as an opportunity to enhance the overall quality of life in these territories, fostering greater stability and resilience against external shocks such as climate change. This session will focus on three key aspects of leveraging the emerging economic landscape to achieve these goals:

1. Turning evolving regional dynamics into multi-country investment opportunities.
2. Promoting economic diplomacy to support private sector transactions.
3. Aligning blended financing from regional development banks and local financial institutions.
4. Investing in knowledge partnerships to enhance regional understanding, risk management, and institutional harmonisation.

Plenary Organisers

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