



## Ten Years of BRI: Lessons Learnt & Charting a Way Forward for Green Development

### *High-level Policy Dialogue*

In the past decade, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has marked a transformative phase in global cooperation and development, aiming to establish connectivity with over [148 countries](#) and [32 international organisations](#) across Asia, Europe, and Africa. The primary objective of the BRI has been infrastructure investments and economic development. With cumulative investments surpassing [USD 1 trillion](#) over these years, approximately USD 596 billion has been directed towards construction contracts and another [USD 418 billion](#) to non-financial investments.

A paramount project under the BRI banner is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Serving as a comprehensive framework, CPEC encompasses various sectors such as energy, transportation, agriculture, infrastructure, and industrial development, with a keen emphasis on Special Economic Zones (SEZs). These SEZs reflect the shared vision of China and Pakistan to stimulate economic growth while upholding environmental sustainability.

CPEC, in its essence, has not only been a magnet for investments but has also facilitated technology transfer, knowledge exchange, capacity enhancement, and skills development. It's been a bridge, enabling Pakistan to glean and learn from China's best practices. To date, Pakistan has secured [about USD 23.1 billion in energy investments and USD 17.1 billion in transport investments](#) under CPEC. In total, [USD 62 billion](#) in investment has been pledged, including long-term plans and projects in the pipeline. Of this, nearly USD 30 billion has been actualised. (IBIB)

Furthermore, CPEC has been a beacon of employment, spawning roughly [75,000 jobs](#) to date. This momentum is projected to yield [2.3 million jobs by 2030](#). As a flagship BRI project, CPEC stands as a testament to China's 'Global Development Initiative' (GDI), emphasising the attainment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment to global growth and sustainability was further amplified by [China's President Xi Jinping's announcement of a coal moratorium on overseas investments](#).

As China and Pakistan commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BRI, it is an opportune moment to introspect and cherish the myriad experiences and insights accrued, especially from significant undertakings like CPEC. These insights, encompassing sustainable practices, job creation, and eco-friendly initiatives, will shape the roadmap for the coming years. The lessons from the past decade under BRI reiterate the need for a harmonious balance between environmental stewardship and economic progression. As both nations embark on the next chapter, the global community under BRI remains committed to a brighter, more sustainable future.

### **Scope and Objectives**

Against the backdrop of the benefits achieved and potential opportunities available under BRI for development of the green economy, this *High-Level Policy Dialogue* aims to bring together key experts from both China and Pakistan with the following objectives:

- **Successful Green Development Practices:** Identify and highlight successful green development practices and initiatives implemented in BRI over the past decade.



- **Diplomatic Policies:** Analyse existing diplomatic policies and frameworks related to green development projects and identify areas for improvement and potential barriers to collaboration.
- **Socioeconomic Benefits of CPEC:** Examine the socioeconomic benefits of CPEC for local communities in terms of job creation, capacity building, and skills development, while exploring opportunities for further employment and growth in the green sector.
- **Technology Transfer:** Explore the opportunities of technology transfer and knowledge sharing between China and Pakistan through CPEC projects, and how such collaborations can be strengthened to promote sustainable development.
- **Integrating Green Development in Future CPEC Projects:** Provide recommendations and strategies for integrating green development principles into future CPEC projects, aligning with China's 'Global Development Initiative'.
- **Innovative Financing:** Discuss innovative financing and investment mechanisms that can support green projects within CPEC, encouraging private sector participation and aligning with international green funding benchmarks.
- **Policy Frameworks:** Discuss policy frameworks, regulatory mechanisms, and institutional arrangements required to facilitate an effective green development plan between China and Pakistan under CPEC while considering the specific needs and priorities of both countries.

### Panel Organisers

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