



# INSTITUTE OF PEACE AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH AN INFORMED DIALOGUE

## BRI-CPEC & PSCOFF NEWSLETTER

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### BRI & CPEC Highlights

**01-02-2018:** Second cargo train route links Yiwu with Russia

**01-02-2018:** Chinese apps gain traction in Belt and Road region

**02-02-2018:** Chinese, British banks sign deal on Belt and Road cooperation

**03-02-2018:** HBL sets up a branch in Gwadar Free Zone

**05-02-2018:** First China, Laos co-produced movie debuts in Laos

**07-02-2018:** Pakistan, China sign agreement to enhance cultural cooperation

**12-02-2018:** CPEC Cultural Caravan Grand Exhibition to be held in Islamabad

### Announcements

**06-02-2018:** China to start direct trading between yuan, Thai baht

**04-02-2018:** PNCA To Organize CPEC Youth Contest 2018

**09-02-2018:** PTDC to establish info centers on exit and entry points of CPEC route

**14-02-2018:** Motels to be constructed along CPEC route

### IPD Proceedings

**02-02-2018:** Pakistan Shanghai Cooperation organization Friendship Forum in collaboration with NUML organized seminar on "SCO after Sochi Meeting"

### SCO Highlights

**02-02-2018:** SCO attend International Cyber Security in Vienna

**02-02-2018:** The fifth of nine magic notes played at SCO Headquarters

**06-02-2018:** SCO Secretary-General met with prime Minister of Pakistan

**06-02-2018:** SCO Secretary-General met with Pakistani Foreign Minister

**06-02-2018:** SCO Secretary-General met with Pakistani planning and transportation officials

**08-02-2018:** SCO headquarters host Day of Afghan

**09-02-2018:** Beijing host Spring Festival reception at SCO headquarters

**25-02-2018:** SCO Ambassador Club Visit to Chongqing, Chart Cooperation Prospect

## Second cargo train route links Yiwu with Russia

01-02-2018: A freight train left Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, and headed for Moscow, marking the second cargo train route linking the east China city with Russia. Loaded with 50 carriages of small

commodities such as bags, socks, and radios, the train will travel 10,150 km via Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and reach Moscow in about 13 days. This route is following one to Chelyabinsk, a logistics and

transit hub in the Ural Mountains. It is expected to run two to three times per week by the end of this year. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/31/c\\_136938990.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/31/c_136938990.htm)

## Chinese apps gain traction in Belt and Road region

01-02-2018: Chinese apps have gained traction in the Belt and Road region as more app developers ventured into the growing mobile app market, a report showed. About 55 percent of the downloads of Chinese apps last year were in

the Belt and Road region, compared with 47 percent in 2015. Web browser app UC Browser stood out as the most downloaded Chinese app on iOS and Google Play in the BRI region, followed by cross-platform file transfer tool

SHAREit and smart phone speed optimizer Clean Master. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201802/01/WS5a72d9aca3106e7dcc13a3eb.html>

## Chinese, British banks sign deal on Belt and Road cooperation

02-02-2018: One of China's leading state-run banks signed a USD 1.6 billion deal with a British bank to facilitate projects under the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of President Xi Jinping. China Development Bank and Standard Chartered Bank

signed the memorandum of understanding as British Prime Minister Theresa May is on a three-day visit to China. Under the deal, CDB will make available up to 10 billion yuan in the next five years to Standard Chartered to facilitate Belt and Road projects.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2018/feb/01/chinese-british-banks-sign-usd16-billion-deal-for-belt-and-road-initiative-projects-1766841.html>

## HBL sets up a branch in Gwadar Free Zone

03-02-2018: HBL opened its first branch in the Gwadar free trade zone, making it the only bank to have a branch in the port city as well as in China. With this launch, HBL has achieved the monumental milestone of becoming the first bank to be opened in the new

new business centre in the Gwadar Free Zone. Last year, HBL had become the first Pakistani bank to open a branch in China. The branch was opened in Urumqi – a city with enormous potential. HBL is also the pioneer bank to offer a CNY account in

Pakistan to facilitate business and continue playing its instrumental role in CPEC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1623329/2-corporate-corner-hbl-opens-branch-gwadar/>

## First China, Laos co-produced movie debuts in Laos

05-02-2018: The first movie jointly produced by China and Laos debuted here on Saturday, depicting stories of beautiful love between Lao and Chinese nationals as well as the friendly

relations between the two countries. The production of the movie, Champa blossoms, started in 2016 on the occasion China and Laos celebrated the 55th anniversary of the

establishment of diplomatic relations.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-02/04/c\\_136947044.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-02/04/c_136947044.htm)

## Pakistan, China sign agreement to enhance cultural cooperation

07-02-2018: Pakistan and China signed Executive Programme of Cultural Agreement for further consolidating cultural relations and promoting people-to-people contacts between the two states. Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary heritage, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Chinese Minister of Culture Luo Shugang signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries. Ambassador of Pakistan to

China and senior officials of both the countries were also present on the occasion. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1627670/1-pakistan-china-sign-executive-programme-cultural-agreement/>

## CPEC Cultural Caravan Grand Exhibition to be held in Islamabad

12-02-2018: A three-day project the paintings, photographers and artists of China Pakistan Economic drawings and art work Pakistan and China would Corridor Cultural Caravan produced by artists of CPEC exhibit their artwork they grand exhibition would be cultural caravan. captured during the CPEC held here at Pakistan National Besides, a series of books and Cultural Caravan journey. Council of the Arts (PNCA) research reports was also part. <http://www.app.com.pk/cpec-cultural-caravan-grand-exhibition-start-feb-24/> from February 24. The grand art exhibition aimed to of the Caravan to document, preserve. The professional

## SCO attend International Cyber Security in Vienna

02-02-2018: From 29 January The participants discussed challenges that arise for the to 2 February, Vienna hosted a important current topics such international community, in a representative international as ensuring cybersecurity broad conceptual vein. conference on cyber security amid the growing threat <http://eng.sectsc.org/news/20180202/382484.html> attended by SCO of crime in the international

representatives. information space, the

## SCO Secretary-General met with prime Minister of Pakistan

06-02-2018: On 5-6 February with Mr Alimov's meeting further development of the 2018, SCO Secretary-General with Prime Minister versatile mutually beneficial Rashid Alimov paid an official of Pakistan Shahid Abbasi cooperation in the visit to Islamabad on the in the government residence. association. invitation of the Pakistani During the meeting, the <http://eng.sectsc.org/news/20180206/383360.html> Foreign Minister. The working officials discussed key items

programme of the visit began on the SCO agenda and

## SCO Secretary-General met with Pakistani Foreign Minister

06-02-2018: SCO General-Secretary paid an official visit to Pakistan. Mr Alimov and Mr Asif discussed the current state of multilateral cooperation within the SCO and prospects for its further development, including in light of Pakistan's increasing contribution to SCO efforts in a broad range of areas of collaboration. The officials also discussed preparations for SCO events planned for 2018, including the SCO summit in Qingdao (China) and a meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council in Dushanbe (Tajikistan). After the meeting, the Pakistani minister invited the SCO Secretary-General and his delegation to an official dinner. <http://eng.sectsc.org/news/20180206/383387.html>

## SCO Secretary-General met with Pakistani planning and transportation officials

06-02-2018: SCO Secretary-General Rashid Alimov held meetings with Mr Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, and Dr Hafiz Abdul Kareem, Minister for Communications. The meeting with Mr Aziz included a presentation of Pakistan's ongoing and future projects in the economy and infrastructure. The officials also discussed preparations for the upcoming meeting of the SCO ministers responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities to be held within the framework of the SCO Heads of Government Council meeting in Dushanbe in October 2018. During a meeting with the Communications Minister, the SCO delegation attended a presentation of the ongoing road and rail projects in Pakistan.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2018/02/07/397545/sco-secretary-general-visits-pakistan/>

## SCO headquarter hosts Afghan Day

08-02-2018:SCO Secretariat the SCO Secretary-General hosted the Day of Afghan Culture. Addressing the guests and participants of the event, the SCO Secretary-General thanked top leadership and the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for all support in organising the Day of Culture.

<http://eng.sectesco.org/news/20180208/385999.html>

## Beijing host Spring Festival reception at SCO headquarters

09-02-2018: The SCO Headquarters hosted an official reception to celebrate the Lunar New Year, or Chun Jie, the Spring Festival. In the run-up to this Chinese family festival, Meihua, a large-scale exhibition of Chinese paintings opened in the gallery leading visitors to the warm and welcoming atmosphere in the main hall for special events.

<http://eng.sectesco.org/news/20180209/386230.html>

## SCO Ambassador Club Visit to Chongqing, Chart Cooperation Prospect

25-02-2018: Members of the SCO Ambassadors' Club completed their session in Chongqing. Their trip included visits to companies with a key significance for expanded trade and economic cooperation and to well-known cultural heritage landmarks. The Ambassadors of SCO member-states also visited the Chongqing Logistics Centre, established in September 2007. Members of the SCO Ambassadors' Club held a roundtable discussion at Chong Qing Life Online Industrial Group Co., Ltd that provides services in international transactions and financial operations and which also acts as a cost-effective online trading platform. At the end of their working programme, SCO Family Ambassadors and diplomats visited the cradle of Chinese Buddhism, including the Dazu Rock Carvings and the ancient city.

<http://eng.sectesco.org/news/20180225/389452.html>