



# INSTITUTE OF PEACE AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH AN INFORMED DIALOGUE

## BRI-CPEC & PSCOFF NEWSLETTER

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### BRI & CPEC Highlights

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**25-01-2018:** \$43.8m worth of Ethiopian projects signed off in Changsha

**25-01-2018:** Gwadar Expo 2018 to be held on 29th - 30th January

**29-01-2018:** China publishes Arctic policy, eyeing vision of 'Polar Silk Road'

**29-01-2018:** Gwadar: PM Abbasi inaugurates free trade zone

### IPD Proceedings

**01-01-2018:** President of IPD Farhat Asif's opinion based article published on 'Trilateral Meeting : Convergence of Pakistan, Afghanistan and China'

**05-01-2018:** IPD in collaboration with Preston University organized seminar on 'Belt and Road Initiative and Regional Development'

### Announcements

**17-01-2018:** Pakistan is going to launch Islamabad-Gwadar flights as part of CPEC project

**23-01-2018:** Chinese Cultural Center is going to open in Vietnam and Jordan in 2019

### SCO Highlights

**08-01-2018:** India's Ambassador to China visit SCO headquarters

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**22-01-2018:** Presentation of China Development Bank and SCO Interbank Association at SCO headquarters

**26-01-2018:** SCO Ambassadors club arrives in Shenzhen to hold offsite meeting in Pearl River Delta

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**28-01-2018:** SCO ambassador's club visit LNG processing industrial complex in Shenzhen

**30-01-2018:** The SCO Council of National Coordinator meets in Beijing

## Desalination Plant in Gwadar inaugurated

02-01-2018: A desalination plant installed at the Gwadar port by China Overseas Port Holding Company was inaugurated by federal Minister for Ports and shipping Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo. The plant will supply drinking water. The newly-installed desalination plant with the capacity of producing 254,000 gallons of clean drinking water had been completed by the Chinese firm in record time. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1380179>

## Pakistani central bank allows Chinese currency for bilateral trade

03-01-2018: Pakistan's central bank has allowed the Chinese yuan to be used for bilateral trade and investment activities, ensuring that imports, exports and financing transactions can be denominated in the Chinese currency. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) stated that the Chinese yuan was an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan, reports Xinhua news agency. In terms of regulations in Pakistan, the yuan is at par with other international currencies such as US dollar, euro and the Japanese yen. <https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/pakistan-central-bank-allows-chinese-yuan-for-bilateral-trade/999617/>

## Chinese and Cambodian firms sign 34 trade agreements

12-01-2018: The Chinese and Cambodian enterprises recently entered into 34 trade agreements worth nearly 530 million U.S. dollars and covering Cambodia's superior products including pepper, timber, lemon, banana, rubber and cashew nut. These enterprises signed the agreements at the "Cambodia-China Business Talk and Signing Ceremony" held jointly by China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce in Phnom Penh. Economic and trade relations between China and Cambodia have developed rapidly in recent years, according to Li An, Commercial Counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Cambodia. <https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/qwyw/rdxw/43720.htm>

## CPEC: First employment exchange programme launched

19-01-2018: Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry launched its first employment exchange programme to connect people with the opportunities created under the CPEC project, a statement said. In order to put the plan into reality, adding that the programme is fully operational in Chinese, Urdu and English languages to facilitate participants. The launching ceremony was held at the PCJCCI Secretariat. <https://www.theneews.com.pk/print/270047-pcjjci-launches-first-employment-exchange-programme>

## \$43.8m worth of Ethiopian projects signed off in Changsha

26-01-2018: On Jan 18, the contracts of five projects worth a total of \$43.8 million, were signed off during a promotional event in Changsha county. The five projects will be directly related to Ethiopia-Hunan Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing Industrial Park that is set to begin operations. The five projects which will cover a large variety of fields such as food, embroidery, construction material and agricultural manufacturing, are expected upon completion to yield an annual value of \$100 million in production. Otherwise, it is hoped that the contract's signing will motivate more Hunan firms to expand into overseas. <http://en.people.cn/n3/2018/0126/c313938-9420284.html>

## Gwadar Expo 2018 to be held on 29th - 30th January

25-01-2018: China Overseas Ports Holding Company and Gwadar Port Authority are jointly organising the first ever international exhibition in Gwadar Free Zone on January 29-30, 2018. Meanwhile, Gwadar Free Zone (Phase-1) will also be inaugurated during the expo. The expo is set to be a mega event in Balochistan's history. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/01/25/gwadar-expo-2018-to-be-held-on-january-29-30/>

## PM Abassi Inaugurate Free trade zone in Gwadar

29-01-2018: Pakistan accomplished yet another milestone and transformed the "dream of China Pakistan Economic Corridor into a reality" by making the Gwadar Economic Free Zone operational, so as to optimally achieve the potential of the port city. The prime minister along with Balochistan chief minister, Azad Jammu Kashmir president and others, jointly pressed a large button to unfurl a huge red and green banner, covering the on building a "trans-Himalyan front gate of the economic free zone, amid applause of Pakistani and Chinese nationals, gathered at the inauguration ceremony. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/01/29/gwadar-free-zones-opens-for-business/>

## Indian Ambassador to China Visit SCO Headquarters

08-01-2018: India's envoy to China Gautam Bambawale held talks with SCO secretary general Rashid Alimov and discussed measures for strengthening multi-faceted interaction in the China-led regional security grouping. The Indian ambassador met Alimov and held talks on India's participation as a member of the SCO and cooperation with its other member countries. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-s-envoy-to-china-meets-sco-secretary-general/story-cneOq6XEmLdQhLI0y5N3dL.html>

## Presentation of CDB and SCO IBA at SCO headquarters

22-01-2018: A presentation of the state-owned China Development Bank called "Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Interbank Association: Cooperation for Development" was held at the Headquarters of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Beijing on 22 January 2018. SCO Secretary-General Rashid Alimov and President of CDB Zheng Zhijie, ambassadors and diplomats from the SCO family countries, experts and economists, as well as representatives of international financial institutions and mass media took part in the event. <http://eng.sectsc.org/news/20180122/377285.html>

## SCO Ambassadors club hold meeting in Pearl River Delta Shenzhen

26-01-2018: On 26 January 2018, ambassadors of the SCO member states arrived in the city of Shenzhen, located in China's Guangdong Province, to take part in a regular offsite session of the SCO Ambassadors Club. The programme includes meeting with the city's top officials and members of the business community, and visiting high-technology industrial facilities in Shenzhen, a major industrial, financial and transport centre in the Pearl River Delta economic region and in China at large. The programme of events started with a meeting between the SCO Ambassadors Club members and Shenzhen Vice Mayor Gao Zimin and a joint working dinner, where participants had a comprehensive exchange of opinions for establishing and prospects for expanding economic ties between SCO member states. <http://eng.sectsc.org/news/20180126/377784.html>

## SCO calls for creation of unified global counter-terrorism front

10-01-2018: The member states of the SCO, it said that three evils" - terrorism, states of the SCO have the member states strongly extremism and separatism . condemned terrorism of all condemned all forms [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/sco-calls-for-creation-of-unified-global-counter-terrorism-front-118061000623\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/sco-calls-for-creation-of-unified-global-counter-terrorism-front-118061000623_1.html) kinds and called for the of terrorism and confirm the formation of a unified global key role of the state and its counter-terrorism front for competent agencies and tackling the issue. As per special role of the SCO RATS in Qingdao Declaration signed by the joint fight against "the

## SCO ambassador's club visit LNG processing industrial complex

08-01-2018: The SCO The participants learned terminal. During a meeting Ambassadors Club's spent day about the history of the LNG with the company's top three of their offsite session's terminal in Shenzhen, and officials, the current state programme in Shenzhen were introduced to the of and development touring the high-technology performance features and prospects for international facilities of Guangdong Dapeng technologies used cooperation in the gas LNG Co Ltd, a company that in production. The guests were industry were discussed. specialises in the processing then shown the gas-receiving <http://eng.sectesco.org/news/20180128/377745.html> and delivery of liquefied dockyard and gas storage units natural gas to end customers. of southern China's largest LNG

## The SCO Council of National Coordinator meets in Beijing

30-01-2018: The Council of chairmanship. During the As one of the SCO's key National Coordinators of the meeting the National bodies, the CNC coordinates the SCO met at the SCO Coordinators plan to discuss its activities and cooperation Headquarters in Beijing under the practical preparations and of the relevant ministries and China's chairmanship. SCO procedures of this year's key departments of the SCO Secretary-General Rashid political event — the 18th member-countries. Alimov opened the meeting session of the SCO Heads of <http://scochina.mfa.gov.cn/eng/dtxw/t1530889.htm> with a welcome speech. The State Council scheduled for the meeting's agenda includes over June in Qingdao (Shandong Province, China) and other events under China's SCO aspects of the SCO's current