

Press Coverage of International Conference
“Emerging Security Order in Asia Pacific and its Impact
on South Asia”

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Emerging order in Asia Pacific: Indian opposition to CPEC ill-advised: Aziz

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Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz. PHOTO: AFP

ISLAMABAD: Researchers and security experts have said that given China's significant capacity and stakes in the region, a new concept of security has emerged. This new paradigm encourages stake holders to find solutions to non-traditional security challenges like terrorism, disaster management and water management by forming economic interdependence.

“Cooperation between Pakistan and China are focused on economic development and the mutual cooperation should not be seen as a strategic move against any other country,” said Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz.

“Pakistan, therefore, seeks to establish and sustain long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with global and regional players in Asia,” he added.



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Adviser to the Prime Minister on
Foreign Affairs **Sartaj Aziz**

Speaking as chief guest at the concluding session of a two-day international conference on “Emerging Security Order in Asia Pacific and its Impact on South-Asia,” on Wednesday, Aziz said it is unfortunate that some other countries in the region are trying to divert attention away from the importance of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said India's attempt to gain support from elements hostile to Pakistan are ill-advised.

The conference was organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF).

Scholars, foreign affairs experts and strategic thinkers gathered to present research papers on the dynamics of Asia-Pacific politics, and share suggestions on potential roles that Pakistan can assume given the emerging regional alliances.

Reasserting Pakistan's stature in the current geo-political scenario, Aziz said the country has the distinction of holding and mainstreaming strategic dialogues with both China and the US.

“For Pakistan, development of vibrant relationship with each of the world's powers such as China, Russia and the US is seen as an important component for its security and development as an emerging economy,” Aziz said.

Speaking of Pakistan's current position with regards to the competition between China and the US, Aziz said the country is currently focused on expanding bilateral ties with the US through joint investments in education, clean energy, technology and climate change mitigation.

HSF Resident Representative Kristof W Duwaerts said there is a need to bridge diversity in order to take informed decisions. “Security does not mean tackling traditional security issues alone, but should be viewed in light of socio-economic and cultural aspects of the region on the whole, and countries in particular,” Duwaerts said.

Calling for the need for Asia Pacific to develop its own region, analysts discussed politics in light of China's competing interests with the US, and how this power play needs to be addressed by countries in the region.

More than 14 research papers were presented, while nine scholars from China, US, India, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Sirilanka and Australia also participated.

IPRI President Ambassador Sohail Amin announced that the papers presented during the conference will soon be published as a book along with recommendations and suggestions made by experts. Earlier, Amin had said that Asia-Pacific has undergone serious changes in the post-Cold War era, making Asia the powerhouse of global politics.

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DAWN

[Growing Pak-China ties not against any country: Aziz](#)

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Aziz says cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development.—AP/File
ISLAMABAD: Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said on Wednesday that growing China-Pakistan ties were not against any other country and Pakistan was simultaneously promoting relations with all major regional and world powers.

“Cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development through connectivity and is not against any other country. Pakistan seeks to establish and sustain long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with global and regional players in Asia,” Mr Aziz said at a seminar.

Pakistan has been China’s longstanding strategic ally in the region. The two countries have recently made great strides in deepening this cooperation. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor launched in April this year during President Xi’s visit is being seen as the launching pad for the next phase of Sino-Pak relations.

India has been vocally opposing the CPEC project.

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Idea of shared regional leadership involving main countries of the region floated

The new phase in relations with China has also brought its own challenges with respect to relations with other countries in East Asia, particularly South Korea, Japan and Asean states. China’s relations with South Korea and Japan have been marred by maritime territorial disputes and historical legacies from the World War II. China and Japan dispute the sovereignty of the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, while Japan and South Korea have their problems over Dokdo/Takeshima Islands. Meanwhile, the United States is reasserting its presence in the Asia-Pacific to counter China’s rise.

“Pakistan has the distinction of forging and maintaining Strategic Dialogue with both the US and China. We have vibrant and robust relations with another power in the region, i.e. Russia. From Pakistan’s perspective, China together with the United States and Russia, are important pillars in the newly emerging economic and security order of the region,” Mr Aziz said.

He regretted that “some countries” were trying to cause a distraction in the implementation of CPEC.

“India’s loud objections to CPEC and its attempts to gain support of elements hostile to Pakistan in the region are ill-advised,” he observed.

About normalisation of ties with India, he said Pakistan continued to support normalisation, but such a thing should be done with “respect and dignity”. He also asked India to reciprocate Pakistan’s peace gestures.

Mr Aziz floated the idea of shared regional leadership involving main countries of the region instead of just one being propped up as a regional hegemon.

“The most viable option for peace and stability in Asia-Pacific is a form of shared regional leadership that is inclusive not only of the major powers but also of other key players in the region,” he suggested.

He also called for resolution of “territorial and border disputes in the region”. Unresolved disputes and politics of ‘re-balancing’, he warned, could lead to a ‘new cold war’ here.

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