



LUMS

Centre for
Chinese Legal Studies

BULLETIN

July 2021 – December 2021

Issue **04**

Message from the **Director**



"I am delighted to share the fourth issue of the Centre for Chinese Legal Studies (CCLS) Bulletin. Despite the numerous challenges 2021 brought with it, the Centre did not waver from its commitment towards novel research and teaching initiatives, hosting a number of exciting conferences over the course of the year. Given the topicality of the pollution emergency in Lahore, CCLS organized a conference on China and the Environment, during which leading academics and policy makers discussed the lessons Pakistan can derive from China's environmental policy. The discussion was warmly received by its audience both within and outside of LUMS. In addition to this and other engaging conferences and exciting research conducted this year, the Centre has focused on expanding its international reach, networking with universities and centers abroad to better project its own research while, at the same time, drawing upon a broader array of international investigations. I look forward to sharing more updates on our academic projects, future conferences, and other exciting collaborations with international centres, next year with the LUMS community."

Assoc. Prof. Sikander Ahmed Shah
Director,
Centre for Chinese Legal Studies,
Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law,
Lahore University of Management Sciences

MEET THE TEAM

Eeman Shahzad Qureshi (Assistant Manager)

Ms. Qureshi completed her BSc. (Honours) in Economics from LUMS in 2019, and also holds an MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics. During her time in the UK, she worked as a consultant for the Save the Children Head Quarters in London, conducting a global scoping study to examine the current state-of-play of NGOP-business partnerships. She has been deeply involved in the establishment of a successful social start-up in Pakistan, and brings her diverse managerial experience to the CCLS.

Minahil Toor (Research Associate)

Ms. Minahil Toor has completed her MS in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, and holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Kinnaird College. Ms. Toor has extensive experience working on a diverse array of research publications, and has authored a chapter of the book titled "Non-exhaustion of Liberal Legal Means to End the Kashmir Conflict" published by NUST Press, Islamabad.

Mirat Sattar (Research Associate)

Ms. Sattar completed her BA (Honours) in English from the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS), LUMS in 2020. Her research areas include studying postcolonial violence from an ecological perspective, and the impact of state policies on climate change.

Sana Afraz (Research Associate)

Ms. Afraz graduated from the pioneer batch of the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL), LUMS in 2008, and has since worked on a number of research-based projects focused on developing a comprehensive thesis on civil procedure in Pakistan. She now brings her formidable skills to bear on the work conducted by the CCLS, contributing significantly towards the projects the Center undertakes.

Maneha Tariq (Research Assistant-Part Time)

Ms. Tariq is a graduate of SAHSOL, and her areas of research interest include constitutional theory and the intersection of law and economics.

Maha Hussain (Research Assistant-Part Time)

Ms. Hussain is a graduate of the University of Cambridge's law program, and her areas of research interest include a broad spectrum of issues relating to public international law and globalization.

COURSES OFFERED

This Fall, the Centre offered two topical and insightful courses on Chinese Law to the undergraduate student body. Both were well received and proved popular with the student population, with plans to expand upon these offerings in subsequent semesters:

Introduction to Chinese Law

The Centre offered an advanced version of the Introduction to Chinese Law course this semester, taught by esteemed faculty members from the School of Law, Wuhan University, People's Republic of China: Professors Huang Mingtao, Wu Yu, and Yuan Kang.

The course provided students with an introduction to and understanding of different aspects of the Chinese legal

system, exploring elements of Chinese environmental, constitutional, and commercial law. It enabled students to develop an in-depth understanding of China's economy and business regime, with a particular emphasis on financial inclusion and poverty elimination. The course offered students insights into the Chinese constitutional structure, its fundamental rights, and rule of law conceptions.

Chinese Business Law

This introductory course on Chinese Business Law provided students with an overview of the legal framework informing the conduct of business in China, addressing topics such as the regulatory and legislative landscape for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and legal requirements for establishing and conducting business in the country. China has experienced economic growth unparalleled in modern history, having done so with the assistance of

foreign direct investment galvanized by China's accession to the WTO in 2001.

The course covered topics including the role of legal institutions in China's economic developmental, regulatory, and legislative bases for foreign direct investment – both into China as well as Chinese FDI directed overseas – and the legal prerequisites for conducting business in the country, as well as for Chinese nationals and concerns seeking to do business outside extranationally.

VIRTUAL SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

The Centre conducted and hosted a series of lectures and conferences aimed at generating and encouraging dialogue on current matters relating to the Pakistan-China relationship including, most particularly, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Virtual Seminar on the Rise of China: Pakistan's Opportunities & Challenges

On December 1st, 2021, the Centre for Chinese Legal Studies (CCLS) hosted a virtual seminar exploring the "Rise of China: Pakistan's Opportunities and Challenges". The session was enriched by the participation of and observations by renowned political commentator, Dr. Moeed Pirzada. The director of the Centre, Professor Sikander Shah, noted that Pakistan must remain attuned to its developing dynamic with China; staying aware of Pakistan's gains, interests, and costs, to ensure positive outcomes from the current geo-political situation.

Dr. Pirzada spoke at length on the historical trajectory of the Pak-China relationship, as well as the current strategic relationship shared between the two countries. Throughout the session, he emphasized that China is already at the forefront of global economic developments, having extended its presence to more than a hundred countries through significant investments, due to which the economic world order appears to be transitioning away from Western hegemony. He observed that though China is extensively invested in various countries, it has only made substantial progress in Pakistan – primarily through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a sub-project of its larger Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Concluding his remarks, Dr. Pirzada emphasized the need for Pakistan to move away from one-dimensional perceptions of strategic partners to understand diversity in the population and politics of neighboring countries for effective diplomacy.



Virtual Conference on China and the Environment: Lessons for Pakistan

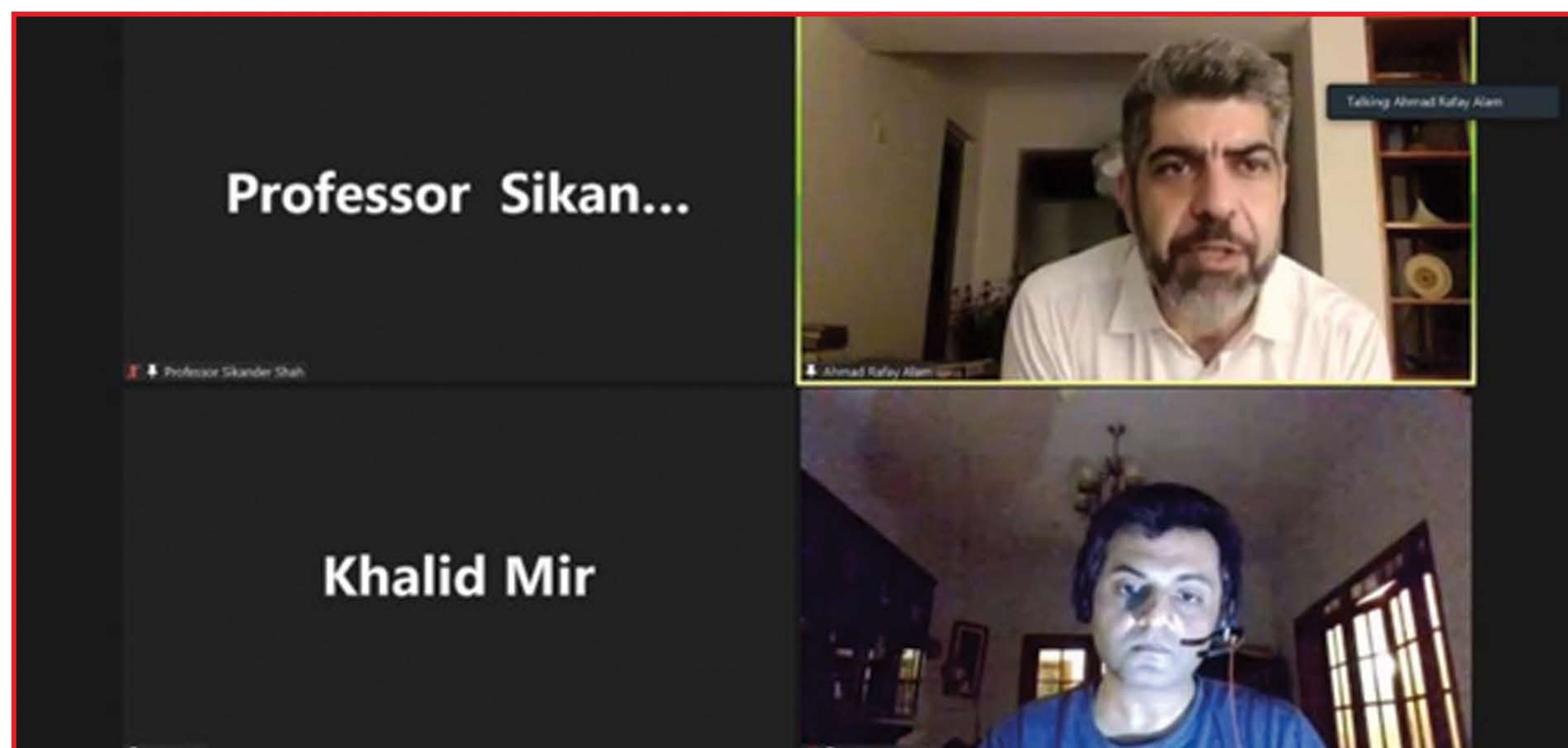
On the 14th of October 2021, the CCLS organized a virtual Conference on 'China and the Environment: Lessons for Pakistan.' Speakers included Dr. Khalid Mir, Associate Professor, Economics Department, LUMS; Mr. Ahmad Rafay Alam, a renowned environmental lawyer and activist; and, Professor Uzair Kayani, Head of the Department, SAHSOL, LUMS.

The conference was moderated by the Director of CCLS, Professor Sikander Shah, with the virtual conference kicking off by highlighting how Chinese activities impact the global environment and the lessons Pakistan can learn from China's current environmental governance model. Professor Khalid Mir contextualized the discussion by outlining the environmental catastrophes faced by the world today, arguing for the necessity to incorporate legal, economic, scientific, political, and ethical dimensions while discussing any policy directives to address climate change.

The second speaker, Mr. Ahmad Rafay Alam, discussed the practical implications of the existential threat posed by climate change and China's environmental policymaking.

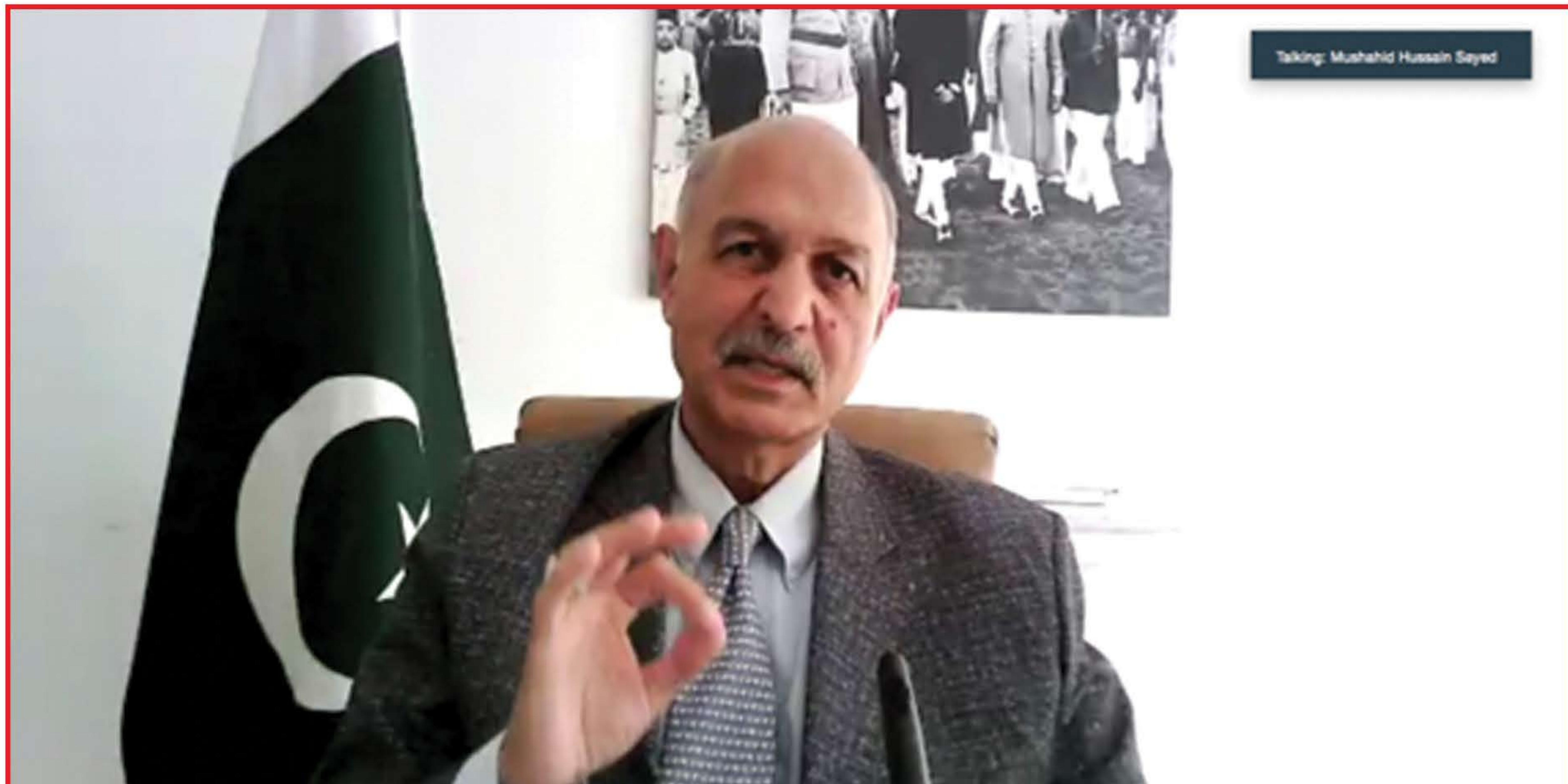
He remarked that the air quality index (AQI) in Beijing compelled Chinese policymakers to take concrete steps to mitigate air pollution in the city. Effective contextual research, depoliticized environmental plans beyond election cycles, capturing private sector finances, and ensuring financial systems' sustainability and compatibility in Pakistan were prominent take-aways from his discussion.

Professor Uzair Kayani presented the recent findings of the International Energy Agency (IEA) on China's carbon emissions, accounting for a quarter of global emissions due to its heavy reliance on fossil fuels. He discussed that the environmental policy laid out in the 14th Five Year Plan of China offers more optimistic projections, as the Chinese government has strengthened its resolve to reach peak emissions by 2030 and go completely carbon-neutral by 2060.



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: CPEC: Pakistan-China Security and Strategic Cooperation

On 30th June 2021, the CCLS organized a conference with Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Defense Committee of the National Assembly of Pakistan, as the keynote speaker. Senator Hussain is a key visionary in recognizing and promoting the importance of Pakistan and China's relationship at a crucial juncture when the world is witnessing enormous shifts in global policy. He contextualized the present status of China as it emerges as a global power, by taking the participants through an enlightening trip down international relations history. Continuing his remarks, Senator Hussain discussed how the projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are proving instrumental in shifting Pakistan's focus from geopolitics to geoeconomics by boosting connectivity, commerce, trade, and cooperation in the region. Professor Uzair J. Kayani, Head of Department at SAHSOL, LUMS, also shared his views on the pivotal and 'all-weather friendly' relationship between Pakistan and China.



NETWORKING AND OUTREACH

On Friday **5th of November 2021**, the CCLS team, including Director Professor Sikander Shah, visited Islamabad to network with colleagues at other Chinese centres in the country.

During the visit, Team CCLS met with Ambassador Hasan Javed (R), Director China Study Centre at NUST, and explored various avenues of partnership between the two centres. Ambassador Javed shared his knowledge about business and culture in China, and also extended his utmost support and guidance to assist CCLS in achieving its intended future goals.

Team CCLS also met with Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Director China Study Centre at COMSATS, and identified the various collaborative arrangements between the two centres to promote research, education, and research on China, the CPEC, and the greater BRI.

Post pandemic, the visit served to re-engage partners in Islamabad and created a sense of mutual advancement in research and teaching of Chinese legal studies.



In the Pipeline

The Centre is actively pursuing opportunities for growth and networking, conducting outreach with entities operating in similar spaces in particular, in order to draw upon the best research and academic sources in its efforts. It intends to draw upon its existing strong ties with several Chinese centres operating within Pakistan for cooperation and engagement, as it also aims to widen its outreach efforts internationally.

In Spring, 2022 the Centre will be offering a course titled "Introduction to Chinese Language" and, another course on "Advanced Topics in Chinese Law" and, after a successful Summer internship programme, the Centre is set to launch its Winter internship programme for undergraduate students at LUMS. The internship aims to provide the students insight into the workings of a research-intensive centre and equip them with the necessary skills to conduct rigorous research. Given its past successes, the Team at CCLS is enthusiastically looking forward to another successful internship cycle.

ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Centre for Chinese Legal Studies is a groundbreaking initiative for research in, and the promotion and teaching of, Chinese legal studies in Pakistan. Founded in October 2019 at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law, the Centre is the first of its kind to be established across Pakistan.

The Centre envisions itself as the premier hub for Chinese legal studies in Pakistan and aims to:

- a) contribute to the capacity-building of Pakistan's academics, legal and business professionals, students, and other relevant stakeholders vis-à-vis the Chinese legal system and framework (and its relevance to academia, trade, commerce, exchange, investment, and cooperation between Pakistan and China) through research, publications, executive training programs, conferences, workshops, and symposia;
- b) encourage cross-border collaboration between legal professionals and members of the academia;
- c) facilitate exchange programs for students and faculty with leading universities, centres, and think tanks abroad; and
- d) liaise with leading universities, centres, and think tanks domestically and globally to build a strong network for research, policy, and expertise.