


CERTIFICATE TRAINING COURSE **GREEN REVOLUTION**

April 21-28, 2025

LANZHOU, UNIVERSITY CHINA



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND.....	5
DAY 1.....	6
ARRIVAL AND IMMERSION IN LANZHOU	6
DAY 2.....	7
FIELD EXPOSURE VISITS.....	7
DINGXI POTATO RESEARCH INSTITUTE.....	7
LIVESTOCK BREEDING & GRASS PROCESSING FARM.....	8
POTATO PROCESSING & PRODUCTS COMPANY.....	8
CULINARY JOURNEYS IN DINGXI AND LANZHOU.....	9
DAY 3.....	10
YAK-BASED AGRIBUSINESS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN	
GANSU'S TIBETAN COMMUNITIES.....	10
GANSU HUALING DAIRY COMPANY.....	10
FIRST-TIME YAK HOTPOT ADVENTURE.....	12
DAY 4.....	13
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN LANZHOU.....	13
VISIT TO GANSU'S PREMIER SOLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.....	14
GANSU DRYLAND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH STATION.....	15
EVENING AT WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE, GUANGZHOU.....	16
REFLECTIONS FROM THE DELEGATION.....	16
DAY 5.....	17
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION IN LANZHOU.....	17
GANSU PROVINCIAL MUSEUM.....	17
IRON BRIDGE OF THE YELLOW RIVER (ZHONGSHAN BRIDGE) &	
YELLOW RIVER BOAT RIDE	17
MOTHER OF YELLOW RIVER STATUE.....	18
WATER WHEEL PARK.....	18
DAY 6.....	19
CITY TOUR AND FREE TIME IN LANZHOU.....	19
WHITE PAGODA MOUNTAIN.....	19
LOCAL MARKETS & CULTURAL EXPLORATION.....	19
DAY 7.....	37
INAUGURAL SESSION.....	21
REMARKS BY MS. ZHU LILI.....	21
REMARKS BY PROF. DR. LI CHUNLIN.....	22
SESSION: CPEC-BRI: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES BY PROF. DR. ISMAIL KUMBHAR	22

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REMARKS BY PROFESSOR LONG RUIJUN	24
MR. MR. LI XITING	26
MR. MA XIAOPING VOLUNTEER, SOCIAL WORK SERVING CENTER.....	27
MR. BAI SHENGYI	28
PRESIDENT OF GANSU XINGBANG SOCIAL WORK SERVING CENTER.....	29
REMARKS BY MR. ANWAR SALEEM KASI, MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (HRDN).....	30
REMARKS BY MR. HAMID ALI KHAN	31
REMARKS BY MR. MUHAMMAD JUNAID SHAIKH,	32
REMARKS BY PROF. DR. ISMAIL KUMBHAR CHAIRMAN SAFWCO	33
REMARKS BY MR. SALMAN ABRO.....	34
REMARKS BY MR. ABID HUSSAIN CHANNA	35
REMARKS BY DR. ALLAH NAWAZ SAMOO	36
DR. SONO KHANGARANI.....	37
CLOSING REMARKS.....	38
MS. ROBEELA BANGASH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) HRDN.....	39
CERTIFICATE & SOUVENIRS' DISTRIBUTION.....	39
SOUVENIRS' & CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION	40
ATTENDANCE SHEET.....	41



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), in strategic collaboration with Lanzhou University–China, led a high-level international learning visit themed the “Green Revolution” Certificate Training Course from April 21–29, 2025. The delegation comprised 17 senior nonprofit leaders, including CEOs, Presidents, Chairpersons, and Board Members of HRDN’s member organizations.

This comprehensive program integrated field exposure, expert-led workshops, institutional engagements, and cultural experiences to explore sustainable rural development, climate resilience, and renewable energy practices aligned with Pakistan’s priorities.

The academic centerpiece—a multi-stakeholder workshop hosted by Lanzhou University—facilitated deep discussions around the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), innovation in agriculture, and cross-sector partnerships. It also opened pathways for collaborative research and capacity-building initiatives between Pakistan and China.

Field visits to the Potato Research Institute, ANDUO Yak Breeding Farm, Hualing Dairy Company, and Gansu Agricultural University gave participants firsthand insights into advanced practices in livestock, seed innovation, food security, and value-chain systems. Renewable energy exposure at GNERI and sustainable agriculture models at the Dryland Agriculture Research Station added value to the technical learning components.

A strong cultural dimension—including visits to Lanzhou’s halal food streets, the Yellow River sites, Lanzhou Museum, and Guangzhou’s Wong Tai Sin Temple—deepened the delegation’s understanding of Chinese heritage and people-to-people connections.

To build on the momentum, a smaller HRDN delegation engaged in follow-up meetings in Shanghai and Beijing, connecting with Pakistani students and Chinese faculty. Discussions focused on youth exchange, community development models, and strengthening future academic partnerships.

The visit reinforced HRDN’s vision of applied learning, global engagement, and promoting human capital development for climate-resilient, inclusive growth.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) has long been committed to enabling development professionals to learn from global models that inform local transformation. In line with this vision, HRDN entered into a formal partnership with Lanzhou University through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in October 2024, focused on promoting collaboration in sustainable agriculture, ecological research, and human resource development.

As a result of this strategic partnership, HRDN and Lanzhou University co-designed the “Green Revolution” Certificate Training Course, tailored to provide Pakistan-based nonprofit leaders with practical exposure to innovative Chinese models in rural development, food security, climate resilience, and renewable energy.

Held from April 21 to 29, 2025, the course brought together a carefully selected cohort of HRDN’s most experienced leaders and institutional heads. The design of the program emphasized hands-on learning through a unique combination of field exposure visits, expert dialogues, workshops, policy roundtables, and cultural engagement.

The initiative was conceived not only as a training course but as a long-term relationship-building effort to identify mutual areas of learning under the broader umbrella of BRI and CPEC, support people-to-people ties, and enhance the capacity of Pakistan’s development sector to adopt and adapt best practices in sustainability.

This report presents a detailed account of the delegation’s journey, learnings, outcomes, and reflections from this milestone engagement.

ARRIVAL AND IMMERSION IN LANZHOU

DAY 1
APRIL 21, 2025

On April 21, 2025, the Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) delegation arrived in Lanzhou, where they were warmly received at the airport by representatives of Lanzhou University, officially marking the beginning of a significant international learning and cultural exchange journey. The meticulously arranged hospitality—from airport reception to hotel accommodations—reflected the host institution's deep commitment to ensuring a seamless and meaningful experience for the visiting delegation.

After a brief period of rest and orientation, the delegation was introduced to the culinary and cultural richness of northwest China, beginning with a traditional lunch at Zhong Hua Shouzhua DaWang (Jian GouYan)—a renowned halal restaurant celebrated for its authentic Shouzhua (hand-pulled dumplings). For many participants, this was also their first encounter with using chopsticks—adding a lighthearted and engaging dimension to the cultural immersion. The flavorful meal served as both a warm welcome and a respectful introduction to local customs, marking the delegation's first “taste” of Lanzhou.

Following lunch, the group explored the bustling streets and marketplaces near the hotel, including the lively Dongbushichang Market. This traditional urban hub offered a window into the everyday rhythms of Lanzhou life—showcasing fresh produce, local delicacies, artisan wares, and the warmth of community interaction. As the day transitioned into evening, the delegation embarked on a truly unique and interactive dining experience at the halal food carts located behind Lanzhou University. Participants selected from a variety of fresh ingredients—vegetables, meats, handmade noodles, spices, and breads—which were then cooked on the spot by skilled street vendors. The colorful carts, animated crowd, and aromatic street-side feasting created a vibrant atmosphere rarely experienced in Pakistan. It was not just a meal—it was an encounter with the spirit of Lanzhou's urban life.

This immersive first day—steeped in hospitality, cultural exchange, and shared laughter—set a compelling tone for the transformative days ahead. It not only bridged worlds through food and fellowship but also underscored the essence of HRDN's mission: connecting people, practices, and places for impactful learning and sustainable development.



DAY 2
APRIL 22, 2025

DINGXI POTATO RESEARCH INSTITUTE



As part of the Green Revolution Certificate Training Course, the HRDN delegation visited the Dingxi Potato Research Institute on April 22, 2025—China's first private-sector potato research institute and seed potato production enterprise, located in Gansu Province. Now the country's largest exporter of seed potatoes, the institute produces more than 60 million virus-free tissue culture seedlings and approximately 100 million original seed potatoes annually, with exports reaching 10 million micro-sized seed potatoes. The visit provided delegates with an in-depth understanding of China's scientific approach to seed potato development, starting from tissue culture labs where meristem explants are used to generate disease-free mini-tubers, followed by advanced virus detection technologies capable of delivering results in as little as five minutes.



The institute utilizes automated elevated seedbeds with substrates like coconut coir, allowing for two crop cycles per year under controlled conditions, and supports the development of over 30 elite seed potato varieties. These innovations have significantly improved yields—reaching up to 45,000 kg per hectare, compared to conventional yields of around 14,400 kg.

For many HRDN delegates, this was their first exposure to such a highly specialized, scientific seed production system. The visit offered powerful insights into how technology, precision agriculture, and private sector investment can revolutionize seed systems—knowledge particularly relevant for enhancing seed quality, boosting productivity, and achieving food security goals in Pakistan's potato-growing regions.

LIVESTOCK BREEDING & GRASS PROCESSING FARM

The next stop on April 22, 2025, took the HRDN delegation to a pioneering Livestock Breeding and Grass Processing farm in Dingxi City, where they explored innovative practices in animal husbandry and sustainable agriculture. The farm showcased innovative crossbreeding programs, integrating four imported sheep breeds with local varieties to enhance productivity, resilience, and adaptability—practices highly relevant to Pakistan's evolving livestock sector. Delegates also observed the farm's sustainable, zero-waste model where animal waste is converted into organic manure, exemplifying effective nutrient recycling and environmental stewardship.

This climate-smart approach not only improves soil fertility and reduces greenhouse gas emissions but also serves as a powerful model for sustainable livestock systems in Pakistan's diverse agro-ecological zones.



POTATO PROCESSING & PRODUCTS COMPANY

The HRDN delegation's schedule on April 22, 2025, included a visit to a state-of-the-art Potato Processing and Products Company in Dingxi, China, where they gained insight into advanced value addition techniques within the potato industry. This immersive visit offered delegates firsthand exposure to the complete value chain of the potato industry—beginning with seed-level cultivation, observed on a pilot scale, and extending through to the production of a wide variety of processed potato-based products. The company showcased the transformation of raw potatoes into high-demand commodities such as starch, flour, dehydrated flakes, chips, fries, cookies, and sweets, reflecting China's strategic



investment in agricultural innovation and food processing. Notably, with 10-20% of the total potato crop processed annually, China is effectively converting a staple crop into a driver of economic growth and global trade. The visit provided critical insights into how value addition, technological advancement, and product diversification can significantly enhance the economic potential of agricultural commodities—lessons of great relevance for Pakistan as it seeks to modernize its agri-industrial landscape and improve rural livelihoods through innovation-driven, climate-resilient strategies.



This visit was particularly relevant for the Pakistani context, where agriculture remains a cornerstone of the economy and food security. By witnessing the integrated systems used in China for enhancing crop yield, minimizing post-harvest losses, and improving market access, the delegation gained practical insights that can inform similar innovations back home. The experience aligned closely with HRDN's mission to build the capacity of development professionals in Pakistan and foster the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices through global learning and local adaptation.

CULINARY JOURNEYS IN DINGXI AND LANZHOU: FROM AUTHENTIC TRADITIONS TO VIBRANT STREET FEASTS



Participants savored an extraordinary lunch in Dingxi, where vibrant flavors and unique textures introduced them to authentic Chinese cuisine. Guided by a gracious host from Lanzhou, they learned traditional rolling and pairing techniques, enriching the meal with cultural insight and hospitality. Later that evening, the adventure continued near Lanzhou University's bustling halal food streets. Here, participants engaged in a dynamic, interactive dining experience—handpicking fresh vegetables, meats, breads, and spices to create personalized dishes amidst lively carts and colorful aromas. Together, these meals offered a thrilling sensory journey celebrating both deep-rooted traditions and vibrant street food culture.



DAY 3
APRIL 23, 2025

FIELD VISITS

YAK-BASED AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN GANSU'S TIBETAN COMMUNITIES

On April 23, 2025, the HRDN delegation began their visit to the Anduo Group in Xiahe County, Gansu Province, with an engaging cultural overview presented by a company representative. Through detailed models, murals, statues, and documentary films, participants gained a rich understanding of Tibetan culture and its deep connection to yak husbandry. Following this, the group was briefed on the company's innovative yak-based product line. The delegation witnessed an impressively rigorous cleaning and packaging operation for yak meat. At the modern processing facility, participants observed yak carcasses undergoing precise electrical stimulation and hot-boning techniques—methods aimed at preserving meat tenderness and freshness—before being expertly cut and vacuum-packed to stringent hygiene. This attention to detail aligns with global best practices, as yak meat is prized for its high-protein, low-fat qualities and unique texture profile, prompting careful processing to ensure both quality and safety. The facility maintains controlled cold-chain storage that supports accurate texture profile analysis over time, reflecting commitment to scientific meat handling. These advanced protocols not only ensure consumer confidence but also showcase how Anduo Group combines traditional pastoral products with cutting-edge food technology—a model of excellence for rural agribusiness transformation.



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GANSU HUALING DAIRY COMPANY



The delegation also toured the Gansu Hualing Dairy Company in nearby Hezuo City, a high-tech enterprise specializing in yak milk products such as milk powder, casein, butter powder, cheese powder, and yogurt powder. Established in 2010 and holding multiple international certifications (ISO 9001:2015, GMP, ISO 14001:2015, Halal, HACCP), Gansu Hualing sources fresh yak milk from nearly 30,000 herder households, playing a vital role in sustainable agriculture and supporting local livelihoods. Returning to Anduo Group, participants toured the showroom displaying a diverse range of yak-based by-products—including sausages, meatballs, dairy items, traditional Tibetan fur hats, and dresses—demonstrating the fusion of cultural heritage with economic enterprise. The visit concluded with a warm serving of authentic yak tea accompanied by local sweets, offering a genuine taste of Tibetan hospitality. Many delegates purchased souvenirs and specialty products, reflecting the cultural richness and economic potential of yak-based industries. This comprehensive experience provided HRDN participants with valuable insights into value-added livestock processing and demonstrated how traditional pastoral practices can be integrated with modern agribusiness models—knowledge crucial for promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development in Pakistan's mountainous and pastoral regions. This experience provided HRDN delegates with practical knowledge on value-added livestock processing and the role of culturally rooted agribusiness in rural development. These insights align with research emphasizing the potential of Tibetan yak value chains to drive rural enterprise growth while preserving indigenous practices—lessons that hold great relevance for Pakistan's mountainous and pastoral regions as they pursue sustainable agricultural growth and cultural preservation.

FIRST-TIME YAK HOTPOT ADVENTURE

The HRDN delegation experienced a thrilling culinary adventure—each participant selected skewers of fresh yak meat, chicken, vegetables, pasta, and more, and cooked them in a bubbling Lanzhou-style yak hotpot. As steam rose and spices infused the air, participants seasoned their selections to taste, sharing laughter, conversation, and a round of enthusiastic high fives—a feast to remember. This interactive experience highlighted a beloved tradition from the Tibetan Plateau, where yak hotpot is cherished for its rich flavor and cultural significance, rooted in the high-altitude grazing of yaks and centuries-old communal dining customs.



FIELD VISITS

DAY 4
APRIL 24, 2025

VISIT TO GANSU'S PREMIER SOLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS



On April 24, 2025, the Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) delegation paid a significant visit to the Gansu Natural Energy Research Institute (GNERI), located in Hezuo City, alongside the UNIDO International Solar Energy Center for Technology Promotion and Transfer and the Key Laboratory of New Energy Materials. These institutions represent the forefront of China's renewable energy research and innovation, especially in the domain of solar energy.



GNERI is a premier research hub in China's northwest, known for its advanced work on solar thermal, photovoltaic, and hybrid energy systems. Situated in Gansu Province—one of the most solar-rich regions in the world—GNERI leverages the region's abundant solar radiation to develop high-efficiency technologies, including perovskite solar panels, thermal collectors, and integrated rural energy systems.



During the visit, the HRDN team engaged in in-depth discussions with Chinese experts on the practical applications of solar energy in rural and semi-urban settings, with a particular focus on Pakistan's potential for replicating such models. The delegation toured pilot installations and lab setups showcasing next-generation solar energy systems, grid integration techniques, and energy storage solutions aimed at ensuring sustainability and reliability in off-grid areas.



A key outcome of the visit was the commitment to initiate professional exchanges and technical learning opportunities for HRDN's emerging professionals and member institutions. The two sides explored collaboration avenues in areas such as solar-powered microgrids, decentralized energy models, and joint capacity-building programs.

This visit aligned seamlessly with HRDN's broader vision of promoting sustainable development, climate resilience, and energy equity in Pakistan. With the country grappling with persistent energy shortages despite its significant solar potential, the transfer of such knowledge and technology can play a vital role in enhancing local capacities and driving green transformation at the grassroots level.



The HRDN delegation recognized this engagement not only as an exposure to technological excellence but as a strategic platform for cross-border collaboration and innovation in clean energy—essential for shaping a climate-resilient and energy-secure future for the region.

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GANSU DRYLAND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH STATION

Subsequent to the visit at GNERI, the HRDN delegation proceeded with its strategic learning engagement in Lanzhou on April 24, 2025, by visiting the Dry Land Agriculture Research Center, a premier institution under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Situated in one of China's most ecologically fragile regions, the center has pioneered research and practices that address the pressing challenges of dryland farming, desertification control, and agricultural adaptation to climate stress.

The center is globally recognized for its integrated work on soil and water conservation, rainwater harvesting systems, eco-farming, and drought-resilient crop breeding, particularly tailored for semi-arid, semi-humid, and high-altitude environments—conditions that parallel many parts of rural Pakistan. The HRDN team closely examined pilot plots and demonstration sites where advanced models of contour trenching, mulching techniques, afforestation, and low-water-use crop systems have transformed degraded landscapes into productive farmland. Of particular interest were the center's innovations in rain-fed agriculture, where limited water resources are optimized through micro-catchment techniques and sustainable watershed management. The development and dissemination of climate-smart crop varieties—such as millet, potatoes, and highland legumes—have significantly enhanced food security for communities living in marginal agro-ecological zones. The visit provided HRDN delegates with critical insights into community-based agricultural rehabilitation, environmental protection, and sustainable land use—all of which hold immense relevance for Pakistan's arid and drought-prone districts. With climate change accelerating the frequency of extreme weather events, the lessons learned from the center's successful interventions offer replicable models to build agricultural resilience, restore degraded ecosystems, and support rural livelihoods.

The engagement reinforced HRDN's mission of promoting knowledge exchange and sustainable practices by connecting Pakistani professionals and institutions with global leaders in ecological agriculture and rural development. This visit marked a key step in fostering south-south cooperation aimed at confronting shared environmental challenges through innovation, adaptation, and shared learning.



EVENING AT WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE, GUANGZHOU



Families relished leisurely chairlift rides that provided panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, while the warm glow of Chinese lanterns softly illuminated the winding pathways, casting a magical and tranquil ambiance over the entire area.

The rows of local vendor carts lining the walkways presented an enticing array of traditional souvenirs, authentic local snacks, and exquisitely crafted Buddha statues—each artifact narrating a unique story of heritage, artistry, and devotion.

This bustling market atmosphere invited the delegation to engage closely with the local culture through its crafts and flavors.

The overall experience at Wong Tai Sin Temple served as a perfect cultural pause after a day of learning and exploration, leaving a lasting impression of tranquility, reverence, and cultural depth.

In the evening the delegation embraced a memorable cultural experience at the renowned Wong Tai Sin Temple, situated in the Huadi Subdistrict of Liwan District, Guangzhou. This revered Taoist site added a spiritual dimension to the evening, with its intricate architecture, vibrant colors, and peaceful courtyards leaving everyone in awe.

After a day dedicated to strategic learning and professional exchange, the visit offered a serene and enriching respite that beautifully showcased China's vibrant cultural and spiritual heritage. As the delegation strolled through the lively temple park, they witnessed people of all ages engaging in traditional evening exercises, creating a harmonious blend of health, community, and daily routine.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE DELEGATION

Members of the HRDN delegation expressed profound appreciation for the harmonious coexistence of tradition and daily life witnessed at the temple park. Many noted how the community's integration of wellness, spirituality, and cultural expression inspired a deeper understanding of the social fabric that supports resilience and cohesion. The peaceful ambiance of the temple was seen as a reminder of the importance of mindfulness and cultural heritage in today's fast-paced world. Delegates also reflected on the significance of such cultural experiences in enriching their professional journeys, emphasizing how these moments foster empathy, broaden perspectives, and strengthen international bonds. This culturally immersive evening provided a perfect balance to the delegation's rigorous schedule, fostering deeper appreciation and understanding of China's rich traditions alongside their ongoing educational pursuits.



DAY 5
APRIL 25, 2025

FIELD VISITS

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION IN LANZHOU

On the fifth day of their visit, the HRDN delegation embarked on a rich journey through Lanzhou's most iconic historical and cultural landmarks, deepening their appreciation of the city's heritage and its pivotal role along the ancient Silk Road.

GANSU PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

The day commenced with a visit to the Gansu Provincial Museum, which houses an extensive collection of artifacts illustrating the region's significant role as a vital hub along the ancient Silk Road. Here, participants explored extensive exhibits featuring bronze relics, Buddhist art, ethnic minority crafts, and archaeological finds that vividly illustrate the cultural exchanges that shaped northwest China. The displays of dinosaur fossils found in Gansu Province were especially fascinating, providing insight into prehistoric life and the area's natural history, which added an interesting scientific aspect to the cultural visit.

Following the museum visit, the delegation enjoyed a stroll through Wuquanshan Park, a serene urban green space known for its relaxed atmosphere, lush greenery, and historic temples. The park provided a peaceful setting for reflection and conversation amid centuries-old pagodas and gardens, emphasizing Lanzhou's blend of spirituality and nature.

IRON BRIDGE OF THE YELLOW RIVER (ZHONGSHAN BRIDGE) & YELLOW RIVER BOAT RIDE

Famous Iron Bridge of the Yellow River, also known as Zhongshan Bridge, the first permanent bridge spanning the Yellow River and a symbol of Lanzhou's resilience and modernization since its completion in 1909 was the next stop to amaze the participants. The bridge's blend of American engineering and German technology reflects a fascinating period of international collaboration.



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MOTHER OF YELLOW RIVER STATUE



Following the boat ride, the group visited the Mother of Yellow River statue, an imposing and symbolic monument celebrating the river's vital role in Chinese civilization. The statue's grandeur and the surrounding park provided a contemplative space to reflect on the deep cultural and historical significance of the Yellow River, offering an experience quite distinct from typical urban sightseeing.

WATER WHEEL PARK



Next, the delegation explored Waterwheel Park, a captivating site that showcases Lanzhou's traditional water-lifting technology, which has sustained agriculture in the arid region for centuries. The park is home to multiple giant wooden waterwheels inspired by ancient designs dating back to the Ming Dynasty. These waterwheels historically lifted water from the Yellow River to irrigate fields and support local livelihoods, demonstrating remarkable ingenuity in adapting to harsh environmental conditions. Visitors can walk among these towering structures, many still operational, gaining firsthand insight into sustainable water management practices that have been vital to the region's survival.



The park also offers scenic walking trails along the riverbank, punctuated by informational exhibits that narrate the story of Lanzhou's agricultural heritage and the critical role of water conservation. This blend of natural beauty, history, and engineering marvels made Waterwheel Park an inspiring stop on the delegation's cultural tour.

FIELD VISITS

DAY 6
APRIL 26, 2025

CITY TOUR AND FREE TIME IN LANZHOU

Day six of the HRDN delegation's visit to Lanzhou was designated as a free day, offering participants the opportunity to explore the city at their own pace and engage more personally with its cultural, commercial, and historical offerings.



WHITE PAGODA MOUNTAIN

Few members of the delegation crossed the iconic Zhongshan Bridge to visit Baitashan Park, home to the renowned White Pagoda Mountain. This elegant Buddhist landmark, perched atop the hill, offered panoramic views of the Yellow River and Lanzhou's urban landscape. The visit provided both a spiritual and scenic experience, showcasing the city's deep-rooted heritage and natural beauty.



LOCAL MARKET AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION

Others opted to explore Lanzhou's thriving marketplaces, each offering a distinct flavor of the city's cultural identity. Many delegates visited the popular Lanzhou Old Town, one of the city's main tourist attractions—prosperous, beautifully built, and rich in character. Here, participants had the chance to purchase quality local products at reasonable prices, while enjoying the historical ambiance of this vibrant district.

The nearby Xining Road Night Market proved equally popular, serving as a bustling hub of affordable goods and authentic street food. Delegates wandered through lively stalls offering traditional handicrafts, colorful textiles, jade jewelry, and ethnic souvenirs. The market's culinary delights included Lanzhou's famous hand-pulled beef noodles (Lamian), grilled lamb kebabs, steamed buns, fried dough twists (Mahua), and glutinous rice cakes, providing a savory taste of the region's rich gastronomic heritage.



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Several participants also explored Zhongshan Road Pedestrian Street, a busy commercial avenue that seamlessly blends traditional storefronts with modern boutiques. It offered a wide array of items—from silk scarves and embroidered garments to herbal medicines and premium tea leaves—capturing both the legacy and evolving consumer culture of Lanzhou. In parallel, a few delegates ventured to the Huang Miao Antiques Market, a lesser-known gem that revealed Lanzhou's artistic and historical depth. This market showcased vintage porcelain, calligraphy scrolls, old coins, and rare collectibles—delighting those with a keen interest in China's cultural past.

For participants drawn to contemporary trends, Wang Shang Technology City offered insight into the city's innovative edge. Here, they explored advancements in digital commerce, smart retail, and technological entrepreneurship, underscoring Lanzhou's growing role as a regional innovation hub.

The participants' peaceful stops at quaint local teahouses, engaging themselves in reflective conversations with residents over fragrant Chinese teas. These quiet moments provided a deeper understanding of everyday life in Lanzhou, enriching the broader cultural experience.

This day of self-directed exploration and immersion served as a meaningful interlude in the delegation's itinerary—strengthening personal connections to Lanzhou's traditions, marketplaces, and modern aspirations. It highlighted the value of informal cultural exchange as an integral complement to structured learning and professional engagement.

DAY 7
APRIL 27, 2025

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

INAUGURAL SESSION



Ms. Zhu Lili

Member of the Party Leadership Group | Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Gansu Province| Executive Vice President of Gansu NGO Network for International Exchanges.

Ms. Zhu Lili, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Gansu Province, reflected on the deep-rooted friendship between China and Pakistan, using the Karakoram Highway as a powerful symbol of bilateral cooperation. Once referred to as the "8th Wonder of the World," the highway not only improved connectivity but also transformed local livelihoods.

She highlighted the Chinese Martyrs' Cemetery in Gilgit, where Pakistani villagers like Mr. Ahmed and Mr. Madaf had voluntarily cared for the graves of Chinese workers who died during the road's construction. Their dedication reflected a deep sense of gratitude. Mr. Ahmed often welcomed visitors with the phrase,

"Chinese brothers, I have come to see you," symbolizing enduring respect.

In recognition, the Chinese government honored Mr. Ahmed with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence Friendship Award, and he was hosted in China as part of the "China-Pakistan Friendship Journey" in 2007.

Ms. Zhu also shared insights into the Gansu International Fellowship Program, launched in 2006, which had brought international delegates to the province for cultural exchanges, site visits, and homestays. She encouraged continued engagement with regions like the Dingxi Muslim Autonomous Prefecture, known for its rich Islamic heritage, as a way to deepen cross-cultural understanding.

Her remarks underscored how infrastructure, cultural memory, and personal bonds have reinforced China-Pakistan friendship across generations.



Professor Dr. Li Chunlin

Li Chunlin Dean of the School of International Cultural Exchange, Lanzhou University.

Dean of the School of International Cultural Exchange, Lanzhou University

Following the opening remarks, Prof. Li Chunlin, Dean of the School of International Cultural Exchange at Lanzhou University, addressed the participants and extended a warm welcome on behalf of the university. She emphasized the significance of intercultural collaboration in advancing sustainable development and appreciated the diverse international presence at the workshop. Prof. Li highlighted Lanzhou

University's role as a center for global academic exchange and its commitment to fostering environmentally responsible education. She underscored the importance of youth engagement, research cooperation, and people-to-people linkages in tackling shared environmental challenges. Prof. Li expressed confidence that the workshop would serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue and lasting partnerships aligned with the goals of the Green Revolution.



Technical Session

CPEC-BRI: Challenges & Opportunities

Prof. Dr. Ismail Kumbhar

Director of University Advancement & Financial Assistance

Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) |

Principal Investigator (CPEC-CRG-HEC) |

Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam

Among the highlights of the certificate training program was a detailed presentation delivered by Prof. Dr. Ismail Kumbhar, who participated as a guest speaker representing Pakistan's academic sector. Drawing upon his expertise in agricultural education and rural development, Dr. Kumbhar presented an overview of CPEC's evolution, scope, and impact, beginning with its launch in 2013 as a flagship initiative under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He explained that the corridor, linking Gwadar in Pakistan to Kashgar in China—was designed to spur development through large-scale investments in infrastructure, energy, and digital connectivity. With investments exceeding \$60 billion, CPEC aimed to transform Pakistan into a regional trade and economic hub.

He outlined the key benefits that had emerged from the initiative. Major infrastructure projects, including highways, ports, and railway lines, had helped improve internal and cross-border connectivity. Energy security had been bolstered through the construction of coal, hydro, wind, and solar power plants, helping to reduce Pakistan's long-standing electricity shortages. Furthermore, community displacement, ecological concerns, and geopolitical pressures—especially opposition from India and skepticism from some international actors—had presented ongoing obstacles. Despite these difficulties, Dr. Kumbhar emphasized that CPEC remained a strategic opportunity for Pakistan. It had the potential to stimulate economic growth, diversify energy sources, and foster technology transfer to enhance local innovation. The corridor also supported Pakistan's global connectivity, deepening its links to international trade routes and reinforcing its diplomatic partnership with China. In conclusion, Dr. Kumbhar stressed that for CPEC to fully deliver on its promise, Pakistan needed to adopt a more inclusive and equitable development approach, ensuring that all provinces benefit. He called for stronger governance, enhanced transparency, and a greater focus on environmental sustainability and community welfare. Most importantly, he underscored the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to align strategy with ground realities. He closed his remarks by reaffirming his belief that CPEC was not merely a corridor of roads and infrastructure—but a corridor of opportunity, capable of transforming Pakistan's economic landscape and strengthening its role in the region and beyond.

The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in each province was also noted as a mechanism for promoting industrial growth, attracting investment, and creating employment. In addition, CPEC offered strategic trade access to Central Asia and the Middle East, while projects in education, healthcare, and vocational training supported Pakistan's human capital development. While acknowledging these gains, Dr. Kumbhar also reflected on the challenges encountered at the provincial level. In Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he noted ongoing security threats and perceptions of limited local benefit, which had led to public skepticism. Sindh, his home province, had faced delays in SEZ implementation and concerns related to environmental sustainability. In Punjab, a perceived concentration of investment had stirred debates about equity. Gilgit-Baltistan, though strategically important, continued to grapple with legal ambiguity and challenging terrain, which complicated infrastructure development. He then shifted to discuss broader structural challenges faced by the corridor. These included security risks affecting workers and sites, financial hurdles such as exchange rate fluctuations and funding constraints, and governance issues like bureaucratic red tape and corruption.

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Professor Long Ruijun

Deputy Director of Research Center for the Belt and Road of Lanzhou University, Professor of College of Ecology, Lanzhou University

The presentation then turned toward the theme of academic integration, with Professor Long acknowledging the contributions of international scholars, particularly those from Pakistan. He highlighted how academic exchanges and joint learning initiatives had flourished between China and Pakistan, fostering deeper understanding and shared growth. Once again employing repetition, Long used the phrase “We went to Pakistan” numerous times. With each iteration, the statement took on new weight—at once a diplomatic recollection, a personal memory, and a testament to enduring collaboration. It was clear that for him, Pakistan had played a pivotal role in China’s academic outreach and sustainable development agenda.

Professor Long also shared a symbolic anecdote involving a scientific delegation to Nepal, during which researchers transported eggs from Dingxi to Nepalese communities. Though simple on the surface, this act represented the transfer of trust, knowledge, and cooperation across borders. It was an emblem of China’s model of agricultural innovation combined with soft diplomacy, aimed at promoting food security and rural sustainability.

Further in his speech, Professor Long addressed China’s work in veterinary science and the control of zoonotic diseases. He described research bases engaged in the treatment and monitoring of animal-borne illnesses, leveraging both traditional Chinese medicine and modern scientific tools. This, he stressed, illustrated the vital link between animal health, human well-being, and environmental balance, particularly in the context of rural development and climate change.

Looking ahead, he shared updates on upcoming international events scheduled in countries such as the United States and Spain, many of which were backed by global platforms and diplomatic support. These events aimed to enhance cross-cultural collaboration and academic exchange. He also highlighted China’s significant research on yaks, an animal central to high-altitude ecosystems. This research involved over 40 international teams, underscoring the global scale of China’s scientific outreach. Yaks, he explained, had become a symbol of ecological resilience and transnational cooperation, especially in regions like Mongolia and Central Asia.

As he brought his remarks to a close, Professor Long delivered a reflective and emotional message. He emphasized the need to balance infrastructure development with ethical and sustainable systems that were inclusive and in harmony with society. For him, international cooperation was not merely a trend or policy tool—it was a foundational principle for future progress. His concluding thought was philosophical yet action-oriented: to shape a better world, societies must work hand in hand—across cultures, disciplines, and borders—for the greater good of humanity.

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Mr. Li Xiting

Project Officer of Gansu Jian Charitable Development Center

Title: "Warmth for Children, Companionship with Love"

Innovation and Practice of Community Public Service Models

Organized by: Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation

Speaker: Mr. Li Qiang

Mr. Li Qiang reflected on his team's extensive experience in developing community-based service models in China, aimed at supporting vulnerable populations—especially the elderly and children. Over the past few years, their work focused on weekly volunteer-led outreach, providing essentials like food and companionship, while building lasting social networks.

The model followed a structured, four-step approach: service delivery, community listening, self-managed education systems, and public service projects shaped by community input. Between 2022 and 2025, the team trained over 230 volunteers and reached more than 1,000 residents, fostering a culture of participation and trust.

Mr. Li highlighted signature initiatives including a community-designed festival, a youth recovery

program for children affected by natural disasters, cultural heritage workshops, environmental education through recycling and art, and special programs for "left-behind" children whose parents had migrated for work. He emphasized two core engagement models: one for vulnerable populations, promoting social cohesion, and one for children, using education as a tool for community building. Local leaders and educators, such as school vice principal Sha Yongzhong, played key roles in ensuring the sustainability of these efforts.

As the team began sharing their work internationally, Mr. Li underscored that service must be rooted in empathy, cultural identity, and genuine partnership. Their mission, he concluded, was to build stronger, more connected communities—by the people, for the people.



Mr. Ma Xiaoping

Volunteer of Gansu Xingbang Social Work Serving Center

Mr. Ma Xiaoping, a volunteer with the Gansu Xingbang Social Work Serving Center, shared his experiences and contributions as part of the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community, particularly focusing on post-disaster volunteerism and cross-cultural solidarity.

He began by reflecting on the devastating floods that struck various parts of Pakistan in 2021, which left behind extensive destruction and displaced countless families. In response to the long-term humanitarian impact of these natural disasters, Mr. Ma committed himself to serve as a volunteer in 2023, joining coordinated relief operations and material distribution efforts across flood-affected regions of the country.

His engagement in Pakistan formally began in January 2023, shortly after yet another wave of heavy flooding. Upon arrival, he was warmly received by local Pakistani volunteers, whose resilience, hospitality, and unwavering commitment to their communities left a strong and lasting impression on him. Their spirit of cooperation helped fortify the collective determination of the volunteer team to carry out the relief mission with efficiency and integrity.

During his time on the ground, Mr. Ma witnessed the aftermath of the floods firsthand. In many of the affected areas, the floodwaters had risen so high that they submerged classroom floors, leaving schools inaccessible and severely disrupting the education of local children. Despite the extensive damage to homes and infrastructure, the determination of the affected communities to recover and rebuild stood out as a source of profound inspiration.

Working alongside both Pakistani and international volunteers, Mr. Ma took part in the distribution of emergency relief supplies provided by the Tongxinyuan Foundation, a charitable organization based in Beijing. The materials had been carefully transported to Pakistan and distributed directly to households identified as most in need.

Each relief package included staple food items such as rice, sugar, and tea, with the contents of each bag calculated to support a family for approximately one week. The distribution process was conducted with careful planning and transparency, ensuring fair and dignified access for every recipient. Volunteers collaborated closely with local community leaders to manage the logistics and to reach the most vulnerable households in a timely manner.

The scenes Mr. Ma described—flooded classrooms, damaged homes, and resilient families beginning to rebuild—remained etched in his memory. However, just as powerful was the spirit of cooperation he encountered throughout the journey. He observed a strong and genuine connection between international volunteers and the people of Pakistan, grounded in shared compassion, solidarity, and a mutual sense of responsibility.



Mr. Bai Shengyi

President of Gansu Xingbang Social Work Serving Center

Mr. Bai Shengyi, President of the Gansu Xingbang Social Work Service Center, shared a compelling account of the Center's community-based efforts and the growing significance of China-Pakistan people-to-people ties, particularly through youth engagement and cross-cultural collaboration. During the reporting period, Mr. Bai offered a personal reflection that illustrated the depth of connections fostered through cultural exchange. He spoke of his colleague Marty, a Chinese national currently based in Islamabad, who had become not only a committed partner in social service but also the inspiration behind Mr. Bai's study of the Urdu language—which he claimed had, at one point, surpassed his command of English. This anecdote symbolized the sincerity and depth of interpersonal relationships that had evolved between Chinese volunteers and Pakistani communities through sustained engagement.

Reflecting on his experience, Mr. Ma noted that the opportunity to contribute to the recovery efforts offered him not only a deeper understanding of the flood's impact but also a renewed appreciation for the power of human connection across cultures. For him, it was an honor and a privilege to stand in solidarity with the people of Pakistan during a time of great need, and to witness firsthand how cross-border collaboration could bring about meaningful and lasting change.

At the center of this collaboration was ICOSH, a flagship initiative spearheaded by Marty. The program currently supports 21 orphaned children across Pakistan, offering them Chinese language instruction, school uniforms, academic supplies, and basic learning resources. Beyond formal education, ICOSH placed a strong emphasis on emotional development and cultural understanding. Marty had explained that the initiative aimed to prepare these children as future ambassadors of China-Pakistan friendship, equipping them with the skills and intercultural empathy needed to bridge nations.

In addition to academic interventions, the program incorporated a range of cultural integration activities, including engagements with cultural ambassadors, human rights advocates, and traditional art practitioners. These activities were carefully designed to promote mutual respect, shared values, and cross-cultural dialogue.

The initiative also extended to charitable programs focused on children's health, well-being, and education, thereby reinforcing its inclusive and humanitarian ethos. As Marty had noted, "Through these activities, we aim to strengthen the bond between China and Pakistan." Volunteerism and grassroots outreach remained the cornerstone of the Center's mission throughout the year. The team provided assistance to underprivileged students, children with medical needs, and low-income families, adopting an approach grounded in dignity, sincerity, and community participation. In remarks delivered in Urdu, Marty had observed, "We help the underprivileged students and young kids who are sick. We do this from the heart, for those in need. That is what friendship between China and Pakistan really means."

Looking ahead, Mr. Bai outlined several forward-looking initiatives. These included the establishment of a new school to expand educational access for orphaned children, as well as the implementation of vocational training programs designed to equip youth with practical, market-relevant skills. Active collaboration with local governments was also underway to scale and replicate the model in other regions of Pakistan. "The children's future is important—we want them to have the right to choose their own path," Marty had affirmed, reflecting the initiative's enduring commitment to empowerment and opportunity.

The speaker emphasized the importance of anchoring civil society and volunteer efforts in a strong foundation of philosophical thought and cultural understanding. At the heart of his message was a call to deeply examine and shape social initiatives in alignment with each nation's unique cultural and philosophical heritage.

He reflected on the fact that, whether in Pakistan or China, the roots of public welfare, volunteerism, and societal engagement extended far beyond organizational structures—they were embedded in long-standing traditions. In Pakistan, he observed, these values stemmed from Islamic religious culture, particularly its deep tradition of charity and social responsibility. In China, parallel values were drawn from Confucian ethics, Buddhist compassion, and other classical schools of thought, all of which had historically shaped how people engaged with one another and contributed to the common good.

To be genuinely effective in today's context, the speaker argued, civil organizations and volunteer networks needed to go beyond simply referencing these traditions. They had to engage in a creative reinterpretation, transforming traditional values into modern, actionable frameworks that aligned with contemporary global priorities—including democracy, social justice, and the evolving principles of the "Silk Road Spirit."

He further asserted that civil society efforts should not remain confined within national boundaries. Instead, there should be cross-cultural dialogue and philosophical exchange among the world's great traditions. He encouraged recognizing the charitable ethos of Christian communities in Europe, as well as the influence of Liberation Theology in Latin America, which positioned the uplifting of the poor as both a moral obligation and a spiritual mission.

Through this approach, the speaker envisioned the formation of a global consensus around humanitarian values, one that would allow each culture to contribute its unique strengths to a shared ethical foundation. He noted that China, in particular, had a long-standing tradition of moral responsibility—especially in caring for the underprivileged—and could play a leading role in this global dialogue.

In his concluding thoughts, the speaker called for deeper collaboration between China and Pakistan, particularly in the development of shared philosophical frameworks. Given their ancient civilizations and rich moral traditions, both nations had the capacity to jointly advance a vision of modern charity, civic responsibility, and volunteer-driven development. Such cooperation, he suggested, would not only strengthen bilateral ties but also contribute meaningfully to the fabric of global humanitarian progress.

DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL COLLABORATION POINTS



**Remarks by Mr. Anwar Saleem Kasi,
Member of the Board of Directors, Human Resource Development
Network (HRDN)**

During the Lanzhou Certificate Training Course, Mr. Anwar Saleem Kasi emphasized the importance of strengthening organization-to-organization contacts. He noted that for long-term and sustainable relationships, there is a pressing need to improve direct communication and collaboration between institutions. Mr. Kasi expressed concern that if interactions remain solely at the government-to-government level, they may lack sustainability and fail to foster genuine mutual understanding.

Drawing from his experience in Balochistan, he observed that communication with local communities is often weak, leading to confusion and a general lack of awareness about ongoing initiatives.

He stressed that bringing people and organizations closer together would significantly benefit future cooperation and development efforts. Improving communication channels and fostering direct engagement are, therefore, essential steps toward building trust and achieving lasting results.



Remarks by Mr. Hamid Ali Khan
Former Senior Secretary, Local Government & Rural Development |
Board Member, GBTI

During the discussion, Mr. Hamid Ali Khan addressed several pressing issues facing Pakistan's development landscape, particularly in the areas of energy, poverty reduction, agriculture, and public-sector efficiency. He began by highlighting Pakistan's ongoing energy shortfall. Under the One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR), approximately ten energy projects had been initiated, generating an estimated 4,000 megawatts—predominantly through coal-based sources. However, Mr. Khan noted that global climate forums had increasingly pressured Pakistan to transition away from coal, due to its high carbon emissions and environmental implications.

He drew a parallel with China, which also had a coal-heavy energy mix—roughly 65% of its national energy supply. Unlike Pakistan, however, China had taken swift, innovative, and technologically advanced steps to phase out coal plants and shift toward cleaner energy alternatives. Mr. Khan suggested that Pakistan, through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), could greatly benefit by adopting China's energy transition strategies and emerging clean-energy technologies.

Turning to rural development, Mr. Khan emphasized that around 68% of Pakistan's population resides in rural areas, with an estimated 10 million people living below the poverty line. He commended China's monumental achievement in lifting approximately 800 million people out of poverty within just over a decade, attributing it to a results-driven and highly coordinated development model. He urged stakeholders in Pakistan to study and adapt elements of China's poverty alleviation approach. Nonetheless, he acknowledged that bureaucratic inefficiencies and administrative red tape continued to hinder progress in Pakistan. Government-to-government processes were often slow and complex. Despite these systemic challenges, he observed that Chinese private companies had demonstrated increasing interest in Pakistan, particularly in the agriculture sector. He cited a successful example of a Chinese agricultural company launching a potato cultivation project in Gilgit-Baltistan, which had significantly improved crop yields. He also noted the entry of multinational corporations from India and the West, signaling growing foreign confidence in Pakistan's market potential.

Mr. Khan then addressed the rural-to-urban migration trend, especially among the youth, driven by the climate-related decline of traditional farming practices. He highlighted the need to modernize agriculture and enhance its resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Referring to earlier insights shared by Dr. Ambrosev, Mr. Khan supported the recommendation that Chinese private sector actors intensify collaboration with rural communities in Pakistan. He outlined three priority areas for future cooperation:

- Development and dissemination of high-yield seed varieties.
- Improvement of crop productivity and disease management systems.
- Provision of training and technology to support smart, sustainable agriculture.
- Mr. Khan concluded that China's success in agricultural innovation and rural revitalization offered a valuable model for Pakistan. He encouraged stakeholders to take these areas of collaboration seriously as potential catalysts for transformative impact in rural livelihoods, food security, and climate adaptation.



**Remarks by Mr. Muhammad Junaid Shaikh,
Executive Director | Management & Development Foundation**

Mr. Muhammad Junaid Shaikh began his remarks by expressing sincere appreciation to Lanzhou University for organizing what he described as a highly enriching and thoughtfully structured study tour. He noted that the experience had been invaluable for all participants, offering a rare opportunity to witness cutting-edge innovations in science, education, and agriculture firsthand. As the tour approached its conclusion, Mr. Shaikh acknowledged the many insightful and forward-thinking ideas that had been shared by delegates throughout the week. However, he chose to focus his closing reflection on one area of particular relevance to his home province—Sindh, Pakistan.

He recalled the group's visit to the potato cultivation fields and processing facilities in Lanzhou, which had left a lasting impression. The delegation had been particularly struck by the advanced level of agricultural development in the region. Mr. Shaikh highlighted that over one hundred varieties of potatoes had been developed through dedicated research and modern farming techniques—an achievement he described as both inspiring and practically relevant to Pakistan's agricultural context.

Turning to Sindh, Mr. Shaikh observed that potato farming in the province remained underdeveloped, constrained by unsuitable climatic conditions, limited use of scientific practices, and poor-quality seed.

. These factors, he explained, had led to low productivity and inefficiencies in the sector. Instead of attempting to “reinvent the wheel,” he suggested, stakeholders in Sindh could build upon Lanzhou’s existing success through direct collaboration.

To that end, Mr. Shaikh proposed the establishment of a structured framework for technology and knowledge transfer between Lanzhou University and agricultural institutions in Pakistan.

Specifically, he recommended the following steps:

- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Lanzhou University and the Agricultural University of Sindh to formalize academic and research collaboration.

- Engagement of Dr. Ismail Kumbhar, present at the roundtable and representing Pakistan’s agricultural academic sector, to play a facilitative role in initiating this institutional partnership.
- Introduction and field testing of select potato varieties developed in Lanzhou on pilot plots in Sindh to assess their adaptability to local conditions.
- Based on the outcomes of these trials, scaling up the most successful varieties for broader commercial cultivation, with the goal of enhancing both crop yield and rural livelihoods.

Mr. Shaikh emphasized that such a collaboration could make a meaningful contribution to rural development, farmer capacity building, and the integration of smart agriculture into traditional farming systems in Pakistan.



**Remarks by Prof. Dr. Ismail Kumbhar
Chairman SAFWCO**

He concluded his remarks by encouraging participants to act decisively and collaboratively. Rather than deferring next steps to future email correspondence or virtual meetings, he called upon Professor Dr. Ismail Kumbhar and other relevant stakeholders to initiate direct dialogue immediately, while all parties were present and aligned in their objectives.

He urged them to use this moment to lay the groundwork for a strategic partnership—beginning with potato research, and potentially expanding into a long-term program of bilateral agricultural cooperation between Lanzhou University and Pakistan’s agricultural institutions.



Remarks by Mr. Salman Abro
Executive Director | Sindh Agricultural Forestry Workers &
Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO)

Mr. Salman Abro shared his reflections with a focused recommendation on the future direction of Pakistan-China collaboration, particularly in the rural agricultural sector. He humbly suggested that government-to-government partnerships should place greater emphasis on the development of rural agriculture across Pakistan, where numerous projects were already in place but remained constrained by limited technological support and outdated practices.

He proposed that both governments consider designing a comprehensive plan—formalized through bilateral agreements—centered around the introduction of advanced agricultural technologies. These would include innovations in biotechnology, smart farming techniques, and climate-resilient agricultural practices. Mr. Abro noted that such efforts would not only uplift rural communities but also help build greater public trust, strengthen people-to-people relations, and enhance long-term goodwill between the two nations.

In addition to public-sector cooperation, Mr. Abro emphasized the important role of the Chinese private sector, particularly through chambers of commerce, chambers of agriculture, and other business networks. He encouraged Chinese investors to explore opportunities for investment in technology-driven agricultural initiatives in Pakistan. Their involvement, he said, could help localize and transfer biotechnological advancements, resulting in tangible improvements in crop yields, rural livelihoods, and farming resilience.

Mr. Abro concluded by stating that the successful implementation of such collaborative efforts would contribute not only to sustainable agricultural development but also to economic resilience at the regional level—while simultaneously reinforcing the strategic bilateral relationship between China and Pakistan.



Remarks by Mr. Abid Hussain Channa
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | Sukaar Foundation

Mr. Abid Hussain Channa shared his reflections on behalf of his organization, which has been actively engaged in development work in the Tharparkar region of Pakistan—an area classified as arid and semi-arid. He explained that communities in Tharparkar face multiple and overlapping challenges, including extreme poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to technological advancements.

At the beginning of his remarks, Mr. Channa extended his sincere gratitude to HRDN and Lanzhou University for organizing what he described as an invaluable study visit to China. He noted that the opportunity to engage with various projects led by Lanzhou University across multiple sectors had been both enlightening and deeply educational for all participants.

Throughout the visit, he and other delegates observed how targeted interventions, research-based innovation, and institutional collaboration—particularly between academic bodies and rural communities—had contributed to sustainable development outcomes in the regions they visited.

Mr. Channa emphasized that these experiences were especially relevant for regions like Tharparkar, where the majority of the population lives below the poverty line and depends heavily on welfare support and humanitarian assistance.

He stressed that given the socio-economic landscape of Thar, cross-border knowledge exchange and technological collaboration were not only beneficial but essential. The insights gained from Lanzhou University's successful projects, he believed, could inform strategic approaches for enhancing agricultural productivity, livelihood opportunities, and resilience in similarly vulnerable and arid regions of Pakistan.

In conclusion, Mr. Channa once again thanked the hosts and organizers for facilitating this enriching international experience. He expressed hope that such exposure would serve as a stepping stone toward joint initiatives focused on poverty alleviation, sustainable agriculture, and rural development in underprivileged regions like Tharparkar.



Remarks by Dr. Allah Nawaz Samoo

CEO | Thardeep Rural Development Program (TRDP)

Reflecting on the visit to China and the discussions held throughout the delegation's engagements, Dr. Allah Nawaz Samoo shared a number of key insights that, in his view, held great potential for shaping future collaboration—particularly in the areas of capacity building and sustainable development. He opened his remarks by extending special appreciation to Mr. Long Ruijun for his comprehensive and thought-provoking presentation, which had resonated deeply with many members of the delegation.

Dr. Samoo highlighted China's model of integrating agriculture with business and supply chains at both the village and town levels, describing it as exemplary. He noted that this approach represented a compelling alternative to traditional charity-based development models. Rather than one-off aid, he observed, China's framework emphasized structured, experiential learning and long-term sustainability—a concept he believed could be effectively adapted to Pakistan's rural development context. He was particularly struck by the visible and active participation of women across various sectors, including hospitality, transport, and agriculture. This level of gender inclusion, he noted, was not only impressive but also instructive. Understanding the systemic enablers behind this transformation could, he suggested, help guide similar gender empowerment efforts in other regions, including rural Pakistan.

In terms of infrastructure, Dr. Samoo emphasized that China's rapid advancements in both digital and physical infrastructure had created efficient connections between production and consumption—especially in rural areas. This progress, he said, underscored the potential of technology-driven rural transformation, and he identified it as a promising area for future joint research, training, and exchange programs.

He also referenced the “harmonizing approach” introduced by Professor Long Ruijun, which emphasized balanced development across environmental, technological, and social domains. Dr. Samoo pointed to specific examples observed during the visit—such as data-driven zoning and sustainable practices—which offered strong, adaptable models that could support both ecological balance and economic resilience in Pakistan's context.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Samoo advocated for a shift away from charity-based models toward capacity-building initiatives. He urged a greater focus on structured learning, gender inclusion, digital innovation, and climate-resilient strategies, asserting that this human-centered and forward-looking development model was not only relevant to Pakistan but also well aligned with global development priorities.



Dr. Sono Khangarani
CEO | Thardeep Microfinance Foundation

Dr. Khangarani spoke on behalf of Pakistan's Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), which serve unbanked populations—especially rural women, who comprise approximately 70% of the over one million active borrowers. He underscored the sector's role in fostering financial inclusion and empowering underserved communities.

He noted that the role of financial services in rural development had been underrepresented in the dialogue. He called for greater emphasis on how financial institutions—commercial banks, government programs, and the corporate sector—could support rural entrepreneurship.

Dr. Khangarani advocated for further research and collaborative exploration into inclusive financial services tailored for those at the base of the economic pyramid.

He highlighted growing interest from international investors in Pakistan's microfinance sector, noting investments from Western firms and companies like Alibaba. This, he said, reflected the potential for the corporate sector to expand financial inclusion.

Dr. Khangarani saw strong potential for China-Pakistan collaboration in designing inclusive and scalable rural finance models that respond to community needs and enable sustainable economic growth.

Key Takeaways from the Roundtable Discussion:

- HRDN had begun operationalizing its MoU with Lanzhou University through structured engagement and shared programmatic goals.
- Participants viewed China's integrated rural development model as a practical framework adaptable to Pakistan's socio-economic landscape.
- Speakers emphasized the importance of fostering gender-inclusive development through cross-country learning.
- Infrastructure and digital innovation were identified as critical drivers of rural development and areas for joint capacity building.
- Expanding inclusive financial services emerged as a strategic priority, with participants recommending new research, pilot programs, and policy engagement in this area.

“LONG LIVE CHINA–PAKISTAN FRIENDSHIP. LONG LIVE REGIONAL PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND PROGRESS.”

CLOSING EVENT

Professor Long Ruijun:

As the training course on the “Green Revolution” came to a close, Professor Long Ruijun extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Pakistani delegation for their active participation and thoughtful engagement throughout the week-long program held in Gansu Province from April 21 to 28, 2025. He shared that it had been both an honor and a pleasure for Lanzhou University to host such a diverse and committed group of development professionals. He commended the delegates for the spirit of openness, collaboration, and mutual respect they brought to every session—whether during academic dialogues, field visits, or cultural exchanges. Their presence, he noted, had greatly enriched the learning environment and affirmed the deep-rooted friendship between China and Pakistan. Professor Long acknowledged the delegation’s strong interest in agricultural innovation, climate-smart practices, and rural transformation. He appreciated the depth of discussion around practical challenges

and shared opportunities, and he expressed particular admiration for the delegation’s eagerness to explore joint research, student exchanges, and long-term institutional cooperation. He remarked that the visit had not only reaffirmed the strength of the MoU between Lanzhou University and the Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), but also laid the groundwork for future collaboration rooted in shared values, mutual learning, and sustainable development goals. The Pakistani delegates’ insights, he added, were both timely and constructive, and would inform the university’s planning for future international training and partnership programs.

In closing, Professor Long conveyed his sincere appreciation for the friendship, professionalism, and dedication shown by each member of the delegation. He hoped the visit would be the beginning of an enduring academic and development partnership—one that would continue to grow in the spirit of the long-standing China-Pakistan relationship.



MS. ROBEELA BANGASH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) | HRDN

Ms. Robeela Bangash took the opportunity to provide an update for the Chinese counterparts who had been unable to attend the previous certificate training course. She expressed her appreciation for the continued collaboration and reaffirmed HRDN's commitment to deepening institutional ties with Chinese partners.

She shared that HRDN had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lanzhou University, through which the organization committed to taking the lead on efforts related to human resource development in Pakistan. Under this

agreement, HRDN aimed to promote knowledge exchange, capacity building, and long-term cooperation. Ms. Bangash highlighted that HRDN's network extended across all provinces and regions of Pakistan, encompassing a wide spectrum of stakeholders—including leading NGOs, national support organizations, grassroots-level institutions, and regional rural networks. Beyond organizational partnerships, the network also included a large body of individual professionals working in diverse sectors, such as agriculture, health, infrastructure, education, and the corporate sector.

CERTIFICATE & SOUVENIRS' DISTRIBUTION

Following the closing remarks, certificates of participation were formally awarded to all delegates, recognizing their dedication and active engagement throughout the program. As a gesture of cultural goodwill, the HRDN delegation presented souvenirs and traditional scarves to the Chinese speakers, counterparts, and participants, symbolizing mutual respect and shared aspirations.

The ceremony concluded with a group photograph, capturing the warmth and camaraderie that had marked the week-long exchange. As Professor Long beautifully stated, "Just as rivers from different lands meet to nourish the same sea, our institutions flow together in friendship, carrying with them the shared hopes of China and Pakistan for a greener, more prosperous future."

SOUVENIRS' & CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION



ATTENDANCE SHEET



Certificate Training Course on CHINA GREEN REVOLUTION



In collaboration with Lanzhou University China.

From: April 21 – 29, 2025

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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