PRESS RELEASE

8th China-South Asia Business Forum

China-South Asia economic cooperation to add global Economy

P R - The Leaders from South Asian countries have pledged for deeper economic cooperation with People’s Republic of China (PRC), stating that China-south Asia economic cooperation would change the Global economic order to add prosperity to global prosperity. This was expressed by political and business leaders from China and South Asia at the 8th China-South Asia business Forum (CSABF) organised by China Centre for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Yunnan Province of PRC in collaboration with SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry today, the 6th June 2013 at Kunming city of the Yunnan Province of China.

Inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Li Jiheng, Governor of Yunnan Province, the 8th CSABF was addressed by Mr. Dilip Barua, Minister of Industries, Bangladesh, H.E. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), H.E. Khalid Masood, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Founder and former President of SAARC CCI Mr. Tariq Sayeed, Mr. Macky Hashim, former President of SAARC CCI from Sri Lanka, Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, President FPCCI, Mr. Yu Ping, Vic Chairman, CCPIT (Beijing), Secretary Ministry of Industries and trade, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr. Rafique Ahmed President of FIEO, India and Mr. Zaki Akram Uddin, President of FBCCI, Bangladesh who chaired the session.

Mr. Tariq Sayeed, founder and former President of SAARC CCI while addressing to the Forum said that since the creation of this platform in 2006, visible improvement in trade between China and South Asia has been witnessed, exceeding from $ 30 billion in 2007 to $ 93 billion in 2012, which he termed as below potential while comparing it with China’s trade with ASEAN, which has crossed $ 400 billion. He said that given the size of the population of China and South Asia, there was tremendous potential of trade which need to be tapped through extensive cooperation in areas of trade and investment. He appreciated that the Forum has been instrumental in deepening the cooperation between two great civilizations of the World, which would bounce back as economic power in near future.

Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik said that Pakistan and China in particular and South Asian countries in general attach great importance to China, which now was acclaimed as the 2nd largest economy of the World. He added that after signing of Free Trade agreement between China and Pakistan in 2007, the trade volume increased from $ 4.5 billion to $12.48 billion in 2012, which indicated the dividends of their bilateral cooperation. He invited the Chinese enterprises to explore
investment opportunities in mutually interested areas particularly in non-conventional sectors and benefit the advantage of Pakistan’s investment friendly policies.

This was reported by Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General of SAARC CCI who in on visit to China along with SAARC CCI delegation including FPCCI representatives comprising Shaheen Ilyas Sarwana and Gulzar Firoz, Vice Presidents of FPCCI, Munawar Baig Mughal, former President Islamabad CCI, Nasir Uddin Sheikh, Chairman Fairs and Exhibition Committee, FPCCI, Sheikh Abdul Razzaq and Muhammad Shoaib, Executive Committee Member of FPCCI and Hina Mansab Khan, Anum and Rizwana Shahid, members of women entrepreneur council of SCCI.

Pakistan delegation included Shaheen Ilyas Sarwana and Gulzar Firoz, Vice Presidents of FPCCI, Munawar Baig Mughal, former President Islamabad CCI, Nasir Uddin Sheikh, Chairman Fairs and Exhibition Committee, FPCCI, Sheikh Abdul Razzaq and Muhammad Shoaib, Executive Committee Member of FPCCI and Hina Mansab Khan, member women entrepreneur council of SCCI.

(Muhammad Iqbal Tabish)
Secretary General