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International Maritime Law Awareness Workshop, Gwadar

Event Report



Research Center for International Maritime Law & Practice
(RCIMLP), is a flagship project of ILP focusing on Maritime domain
Awareness and Security.

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Report on the conference titled “International Maritime Law Awareness Workshop, Gwadar” dated 30th January 2022 at China Business Center, Gwadar

Research Center for International Maritime Laws conducted a workshop dated 30th January 2022 at China Business Center, Gwadar keeping in view the global maritime development taking place strategically at the international level in terms of security and trade. The session was opened up by Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Ranjha International Director, RCIMLP. Mr. Ranjha stated that with the emergence of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and analyze Pakistan’s commitment to becoming a responsible maritime nation China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a project of immense social, economic, and diplomatic value, which will not only boost the bilateral economic and diplomatic ties between the two friendly nations but will also usher in opportunities for friendship, trade, and diplomacy for both China and Pakistan. The effects of such a strong project will also influence the entire South Asian region and extra-regional actors hence optimizing the diplomacy.



International Director RCIMLP Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ranjha, Solicitor Supreme Court of England and Wales during the opening session of the 1st International Maritime Laws Awareness Workshop, Gwadar.

Later the stage was handed over to Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel, Chief Executive Officer, RCIMLP, who emphasized that it is a well-understood fact that the CPEC is the most vital component of the Chinese, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to connect the world for Diplo-economic benefits. CPEC being a vital component links Eurasian and Australian continental plates at Gwadar and is located at the crossroads of the Asia Pacific Region, Eurasia, and Africa.



Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel, Admiralty & Maritime Lawyer, CEO RCIMLP highlighted the importance of CPEC and BRI during the workshop held at China Business Center, Gwadar.

The workshop was further taken by a detailed lecture and presentation by Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel, Admiralty and Maritime Lawyer on matters of Admiralty Laws and focused on skills of Legal Drafting and litigation relating to the admiralty, air crash investigations, short landing of cargo, loss of cargo, damage and contamination, the tort of conversion, maritime liens, ship arrests and releases from arrest, collision, fire, grounding, general average and salvage, ship breaking, shipbuilding, sale and purchase of vessels, charter party claims, bills of lading disputes, ship owners liability, demurrage, over and under-invoicing issues, shipping arbitrations, and charter parties' legislation, etc. The workshop highlighted the strategic importance of Gwadar port and emphasized the need for a strong legal skeleton to secure foreign investments coming to Gwadar port.

The workshop advocated the strategic importance of Gwadar Deep Sea Port combined with its potential have emerged as an outlet for Central Asian Regions and other international state and non-state actors, considering the Russian influence in the Caspian region. Gwadar appears to be the most viable option for China and Central Asian Regions for access to warm waters. The emergence of Central Asian Regions as futuristic energy reserves has compelled the world to have focused and pragmatic attention towards Central Asian Regions. The geographical facet and religious affiliation between Pakistan, Central Asian Regions, and Afghanistan can provide a natural opportunity for CARs to depend on the Gwadar Port. The workshop supported the notion that it is indeed a viable time for Pakistan to make up a viable space in Central Asian Scenarios by building stronger bonds and offering all possible assistance.



Attorney Muslim Bin Aqeel, Admiralty & Maritime Lawyer, while delivering the lecture on the Strategic Importance of Gwadar Port and the need to strengthen Maritime Legal Skeleton and Laws to enhance Maritime Security Domains.

The proceedings of the workshop included a talk by panelists, chaired by Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel, Admiralty and Maritime Lawyer. The talk was followed by an interactive session. Pertinent issues were raised during this session that led to an in-depth view and need of strengthening the maritime field of Pakistan in view of the recent events of trade and international naval activities i.e. QUAD, AUKUS, and Polaris 21. The guests and participants included representation from the Pakistan Navy, Gwadar Port Authorities, Fisheries Department, Gwadar Development Authority, and Academia of various disciplines. The workshop was further facilitated by the Gwadar Port Authority where the distinguished guests and participants were taken to the seaport and were briefed about the operations and management of the ports.

Recent Visit of PM Imran Khan to China

H.E. Mr. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan visited Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese leadership from 3 to 6 February 2022 to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games 2022. During the visit, the Prime Minister held talks with H.E. President Xi Jinping, and H.E. Premier Li Keqiang.¹ Gwadar is a central pillar of CPEC and an important hub for regional connectivity. In a joint statement issued by Prime Minister

¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Pakistan, "Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan", 6 February 2022,68/2022,<https://mofa.gov.pk/joint-statement-between-the-peoples-republic-of-china-and-the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan-2/>

Imran Khan's visit to China, it was agreed to expedite the construction operation of Gwadar Port, create employment plans for socio-economic development of the residents including the creation of low carbon circular industry zone.² Commending on President Xi's visionary Belt and Road initiative, Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored that as the flagship project of BRI, CPEC has significantly contributed to Pakistan's economic and social development, in line with its shift to geo-economics and the economic security agenda of promoting trade, investments, and connectivity.³ Both sides acknowledged the major contributions of the CPEC projects, particularly in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure, in strengthening Pakistan's key role in regional connectivity while modernizing the economic base. The leaders reaffirmed their support to CPEC's high-quality development and commitment to ensuring the smooth operation of completed projects and the timely completion of projects under construction. The leaders took note of the signing of a framework agreement on industrial cooperation and agreed to leverage the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both countries to contribute to Pakistan's industrialization in an all-around way. The Chinese side appreciated the Prime Minister's launch of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum and will enhance B2B cooperation between business sectors of both countries. The leaders agreed to task the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to strengthen cooperation across all areas including in the fields of trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernization, scientific and technological cooperation, and socio-economic wellbeing of the local people. The two sides agreed to launch China-Pakistan health, industry, trade, green and digital corridors. The two sides highlighted the significance of Gwadar as a central player of CPEC and an important node in regional connectivity. According to the "1+4" layout, the two sides agreed to jointly accelerate the construction and operations at Gwadar Port and build Gwadar low carbon circular industry zone. The two sides agreed to build high-quality livelihood projects for the socio-economic development of Gwadar city and its residents.⁴ Both sides observed CPEC as a win-win enterprise and pivotal for regional prosperity and enhanced connectivity. Both sides expressed their strong determination to safeguard CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to making all-out efforts for the security of all Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan and the Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the measures taken by Pakistan in this regard.⁵

² Twitter, Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf, Feb 07, 2022, <https://twitter.com/PTIofficial/status/1490567492670050304>

³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Pakistan, "Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan", <https://mofa.gov.pk/joint-statement-between-the-peoples-republic-of-china-and-the-islamic-republic-of-pakistan/>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

Presentation:



Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel

Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel is the CEO of the Research Center for International Maritime Law & Practice. A detailed presentation was delivered by Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel, Maritime Lawyer on International Maritime Laws and the need to strengthen Blue Legal Skeleton. Mr. Muslim Bin Aqeel focused his talk on Pakistan's maritime position in the great power competition. The presentation also encompassed laws including Karachi Port Trust Act, 1886, Fisheries Act, 1897, The West Pakistan Fisheries Ord. 1961, The Exclusive Fisheries Zone (Regulations of Fishing) Act 1993, Ports Act, 1908, Law of Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1925, Port Qasim Authority Act, 1973, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency Act, 1997, Pakistan Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 2001, The Marine Insurance Act 2017, The Joint Maritime Information Act 2019. In addition to that 32 Instruments of IMO were also discussed. The presentation also included discussion on Hague Rules 1924, Hague Visby Rules 1968, Rotterdam Rules 2011, and Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR), Convention on the contract for international carriage of goods by rail, MARPOL Convention, Civil Liability Convention 1992, Warsaw and Montreal Convention.

Attorney Muslim Bin Aqeel is a Defence Analyst and an Advocate of High Courts specializing in International Maritime Laws. He has been a former Visiting Faculty Member at National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also rendered his services as Senior Research Associate Legal at Maritime Study Forum, Islamabad. He has also worked at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). He is an experienced Advocate of Admiralty and Maritime affairs and has worked at different national and international cases as a research analyst and in various capacities and positions. His areas of expertise include admiralty, civil, criminal, and corporate matters. He has been a former Member of Foreign Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination Committee Lahore, Punjab Bar Council. He has been writing in different English daily newspapers as a columnist on various issues. He has been a member of the organizing team for Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Courts 2018, US Embassy Islamabad.



Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ranjha

Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ranjha is the International Director of the Research Center for International Maritime Law & Practice. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ranjha is the Senior Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England & Wales and he believes that Diversity and inclusion are at the core of who we are and how we do research. We are a high-performing global team with people from different backgrounds, perspectives, and life experiences. We are at our best when we can be ourselves – working together and delivering for our clients. The 2013 Law Society Diversity & Inclusion Charter report clearly shows that size does not matter when it comes to creating a more diverse and inclusive law firm and legal research centers. We seek to foster innovation – where employees and clients feel safe and valued. Mr. Ranjha has vast experience and expertise in Civil Litigation, Asylum & Immigration, Personal Injury, Family Laws, EU Laws & Regulations, Conveyancing.

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Photo Gallery of the Event



Group Photo with distinguished guest and participant at China Business Center Gwadar on a workshop titled “International Maritime Law Awareness Workshop, Gwadar, Baluchistan.”



Working Session during a workshop titled “International Maritime Law Awareness Workshop, Gwadar, Baluchistan.”



Working Session on Maritime Laws during the workshop titled “International Maritime Law Awareness Workshop, Gwadar, Baluchistan.”



Working session II: Interactive session while highlighting Problem Statements during a workshop titled “International Maritime Law Awareness Workshop, Gwadar, Baluchistan.”



During the concluding session of the workshop “International Maritime Law Awareness Workshop, Gwadar, Baluchistan.”



Group Photo with the distinguished guests and participants at Gwadar Port, Baluchistan.



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