

Center for Research on CPEC

Thematic Areas and Theme Leads and Summary of Minutes

During the first meeting of the CPEC research group held on December 13, 2016 at KIU Conference Room, chaired by Prof. Dr. Asif Khan Vice Chancellor KIU, it was decided to formally initiate a center with the specific agenda to study CPEC-related issues/outcomes in the context of Gilgil-Baltistan. The following points summarize the discussion during the meeting:

- The Vice Chancellor emphasized that given the expectations of the policymakers and masses, academics at KIU have a vital role to play by conducting and sharing research and ideas on CPEC-related outcomes. He further emphasized the need for the faculty to explore CPEC-related priority areas for the region.
- Dr. Saranjam Baig, the focal person for the Center, congratulated the faculty for making history by starting the first-ever joint research venture at KIU.
- Dr. Naqvi, Dr. Khalil, Dr. Sartaj, Dr. Sher Wali, Dr. Asad, Dr. Noor, Dr. Tasawar, Dr. Aftab, Dr. Haibat, Dr. Shoukat, Dr. Sadiq, Mr. Zafar, Mr. Mehfooz, Mr. Sultan Abbas, Mr. Dostdar, Mr. Qamar Abbas, Mr. Azhar Hussain were among the faculty who shared their ideas on making this center successful.
- The faculty also discussed the possibility of running this CPEC Center under the umbrella of IMARC or Confucius Center. After deliberate discussion, the majority of the faculty decided to run it as an independent center.
- One opinion from the faculty suggested for a multidisciplinary center covering a wide range of themes. However, the majority endorsed the idea that many centers can be established simultaneously and run concurrently and therefore the focus of this Center should be on CPEC.
- The Chair assigned the task of finalizing the name and ToRs to the Focal Person after having feedback from the faculty.
- The suggestion that the Vice Chancellor will be the Academic Lead was unanimously endorsed and adopted by the faculty.
- The theme leads were advised to come up with their concept notes within 2-3 weeks
- The following thematic areas and theme leads were decided

1. Thematic Area: Natural Hazards

Theme Lead: Professor Dr. Asif Khan

Members: Hawas Khan

Iqtidar Hussain

2. Thematic Area: **Bio-Diversity and Conservation**

Theme Lead: Professor Dr. Arif-un-Nisa Navi

Members: Azhar Hussain
Dr. Sher Wali
Dr. Ali Noor
Qamar Abbas

3. Thematic Area: **Environmental Issues**

Theme Lead: Professor Dr. Khalil

Members: Dr. Ghulam Raza
Dr. Nafees
Dr. Shoukat
Dr. Haibat
Dr. Farida Shams
Mr. Masroor
Mr. Shamsar
Mr. Muhammad Zafar
Mr. Mustaq Ahmed

4. Thematic Area: **GIS and Remote Sensing**

Theme Lead: Dr. Aftab Ahmed Khan

Members: Syed Najam-ul-Hassan
Mr. Dosdar
Mr. Iqtidar
Mr. Hawas Khan
Miss Ponum Almas
Miss Jamila Baig

5. Thematic Area: **Economy and Trade**

Theme Lead: Dr. Saranjam Baig

Members: Mr. Muhammad Ather
Mr. Faqeer Muhamad
Mr. Amjad ali
Mr. Idress
Mr. Mehfoozullah
Miss Nazia Hassan

6. Thematic Area: Businesses, Marketing, and SMEs

Theme Lead: Dr. Saranjam Baig

Members: Mr. Muhammad Ilyas
Mr. Asif Sana Ullah
Mr. Razia Arif
Mr. Mehfoozullah
Mr. Mehtab Alam

7. Thematic Area: Social Development

Theme Lead: Dr. Sadiq Hussain

Members: Interested members please contact Dr. Sadiq

8. Thematic Area: Agriculture and Food

Theme Lead: Dr. Sartaj Ali

Members: Dr. Nasir Qayyum
Dr. Arshad

9. Thematic Area: Businesses, Simulation and Modeling

Theme Lead: Dr. Asad Ullah

Members: Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Dr. Aftab Ahmad Khan

10. Thematic Area: ICT

Theme Lead: Dr. Sabit Rahim

Members: Dr. Aftab Aftab Khan
Miss Gul Saher
Miss Esma Wali
Miss Ponum Alam

11. Thematic Area: Silk Route: Culture, Heritage

Theme Lead: Dr. Tasawar Baig

Members: Miss Sadia Baig
Dr. Saranjam Baig
Miss Samina Khan

12. Thematic Area: Conflicts and Indigenous Rights

Theme Lead: Mr. Sultan Abbas

Members: IR Department

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Chair.

Saranjam Baig, PhD
Focal Person