

Parliamentary Committee on CPEC organized a one day consultation on 21st March, 2021 in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung at Pak-China Business Center, Gwadar Free Zone, under the titled “Gwadar Development and the Growth of Blue economy in Pakistan”.

The dialogue was attended by members of National Assembly, Provincial Assembly, Gwadar Development Authority, Gwadar Port Authority, Civil and District administration official, GOC 44 Division Maj General, Commander West Rear Admiral Sajjad , Civil society members, students and faculty members of different universities.

Chief guest and Chairman of CPEC Parliamentary Committee Sher Ali Arbab during his inaugural address welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of Gwadar and Balochistan in general and called Gwadar a pivot for the concept of CPEC. He stressed that the people of Gwadar must own this mega project and play their vital role in progress of CPEC for the people of Balochistan and Pakistan in general. He added that the Gwadar ports and its allied projects will go on a long way to change the lives of people in a good way.

Aslam Bootani, MNA and member Parliamentary Committee on CPEC stressed on the needs of local population to be addressed in priority basis. He added that socio-economic development of the people of Gwadar is very important in order to materialize the true sense of CPEC projects in Gwadar. He urged the need for establishment of universities, health facilities and employment opportunities for the people of Gwadar.

Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, MNA and member CPEC committee highlighted the issues faced by women and children that should be addressed and given importance.

FES senior Programme Coordinator Hamayoun Khan, while highlighting the role of FES in Pakistan, elaborated that FES Pakistan has contributed a lot for the social development , democracy and freedom of expression and this regional dialogue is continuation of FES Pakistan’s good work so that peoples voices can be heard and all stake holders in this mega project can assess what people of Pakistan needs and how their lives can be improved through CPEC.

Two subsequent sessions were held under the title of Gwadar Development Planning under CPEC “Challenges and Opportunities” and Promoting Blue Economy under CPEC “Gwadar as Free Zone for Trade”. MNA Aslam Bootani, MNA Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, MNA Noor Alam Khan, MNA Murtaza Javed Abbasi, MPA Gwadar Mir Hammal Kalmati were present on the occasion and highlighted the role of CPEC Parliamentary Committee and deliberated on the role of Gwadar in enhancing the sustainable growth for Balochistan and Pakistan. A lot of challenges faced to Gwadar were discussed and options were deliberated to overcome them. The findings of these series of dialogues will be presented in a comprehensive report at the end of the year to the Parliament, Federal government and provincial governments so that the shortcomings may be addressed amicably.