

Revised Concept Note: SCO Business & Investment Conference, Pakistan(SCO-BIC 2024)

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Business Council (SCO BC) will organize a SCO Business and Investment Conference (SCO-BIC 2024) at Islamabad, Pakistan. This conference, organized by FPCCI in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, will convene business leaders from SCO Member Countries on a single platform.

SCO-BIC 2024 will explore possibilities to establish and/or bolstering cooperation in key pillars of sustainable economic growth including investment, trade, sustainable development, human resource development, agriculture, industry, tourism, SMEs, Innovation, Information Technology and other relevant areas.

The conference will expand the business relations among the private sector and provide the platform for policy advocacy of the following;

- Trade & investment opportunities between Pakistan and SCO Member Countries
- Highlighting the Significance of promoting inter-regional tourism amongst the SCO member states
- Identify the areas of cooperation and meaningful engagements with particular focus on trade and investment through joint ventures, technology transfer and knowledge sharing
- Facilitate meaningful linkage for cooperation among Trade Bodies of SCO Member Countries
- Importance of direct business-to-business contact between the private sectors of member states
- Platform to showcase culture and tradition of SCO member countries via an Exclusive Exhibition at the venue

SCO Cooperation:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organization founded on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai, China. It was established by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan. Its predecessor was the mechanism of the Shanghai Five.

Pakistan was accorded the observer status of SCO in 2005 which further turned into full membership of the SCO in the 17th Summit of Heads of States held in Astana, Kazakhstan on June 9, 2017 along with India. The permanent membership for Pakistan is a milestone which has strengthened deep-rooted historical and cultural links as well as strong economic and strategic relations with all the members' countries of the SCO.

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Significance of SCO:

It is the biggest regional organization in term of geography (80% Eurasian mass), population (40% of world population) and economy (20% of world's total GDP). At present, The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has seen increasing global trade influence since its establishment 20 years ago, with its share of global trade rising from 5.4% in 2001 to 17.5 % in 2020.

SCO plays a crucial role in trade of Pakistan as 27.6 % of Pakistan's trade is with SCO Member countries. Moreover, China Pakistan Economic Corridor is also very important for SCO Members countries (landlocked countries) as it provides transit through Pakistan and China.

SCO Business Council:

The Business Council of SCO was established on June 2006 in Shanghai in order to promote economic cooperation to establish the comprehensive dialogue between the SCO business circles on trade and investment issues.

The Business Council of SCO is a non- governmental organization uniting the most authoritative representatives of the business community of member states. SCO Business Council, through its proactive secretariat in Moscow, Russia, working for the enhancement of trade, service, industry, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship, migration, agriculture, tourism etc.

Being an apex trade body of Pakistan, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) is a permanent member of SCO Business Council and regularly participates in the activities of SCO Business Council.

Proposed Areas to be focused

1. Equitable and Sustainable Growth
2. Strengthening regional connectivity
3. Opportunities in Regional Trade in different sectors
4. Collaboration for the promotional of regional tourism
5. Cooperation in Information Technology, Renewable Energy, Agriculture Technology, Education Transportation sector
6. Investment in SEZs and CPEC adjunct. Industrial zones in Pakistan
7. Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSME) and industrial development

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Main Areas of Cooperation:

- Bilateral & Multilateral Trade
- Investment opportunities' amongst SCO region
- Exploring avenues of cooperation in the field of Information Technology
- Promotion of Health and Adventure tourism in the SCO region

Theme of the Conference:

“Forging Partnerships: Uniting the SCO for Economic Growth and Innovation”

Format and Structure:

The conference will be comprised of key note speeches, panel discussions, Business networking sessions, exhibition of Traditions & Cultures of SCO

- Key Note Speeches:** Keynote speeches in the upcoming SCO Business & Investment Conference will be delivered by government dignitaries, the host country, and relevant authorities. These speeches will emphasize on the significance of strengthening regional bonds within the SCO region and underscore the importance of the conference in fostering cooperation and economic development among member states.
- Panel Discussions:** Panel discussions at the SCO Business & Investment Conference will feature experts and industry leaders discussing key topics. Three main panel discussions will be held during the course of the course, each focusing mainly on Trade, Investment, information technology, and tourism. These discussions will provide valuable insights and perspectives on regional cooperation and economic development within the SCO region.
- Interactive Business Networking Session:** Interactive business networking sessions at the SCO Business & Investment Conference will provide a platform for delegates to build connections, explore partnerships, and exchange ideas with foreign counterparts from multiple countries, all under one roof.
- Exhibition of Tradition & Culture of SCO:** This exclusive exhibition of Traditions and Cultures within the SCO, will offer each member country a platform to showcase their unique heritage. This cultural exchange will create a synergistic environment, enriching the conference location with diverse knowledge and information about trade and

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cultures from different countries within the SCO region, all under one roof.

Potential Speakers:

Chairmen/Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce & Industries of SCO Member Countries, Representatives of SCO Secretariat, Representatives of SCO Business Council, Diplomats & Officials of Government of Pakistan

Venue of the Conference:

Islamabad, Pakistan.

Proposed Date:

September, 2024

Participating Countries:

Member Countries		Observer Countries		Dialogue Partner	
1.	Pakistan	1.	Afghanistan	1.	Azerbaijan
2.	China	2.	Belarus	2.	Armenia
3.	Kazakhstan	3.	Mongolia	3.	Egypt
4.	Kyrgyzstan			4.	Cambodia
5.	Iran			5.	Qatar
6.	Russia			6.	Nepal
7.	Tajikistan			7.	Turkey
8.	Uzbekistan			8.	Saudi Arabia
9.	India			9.	Sri Lanka

Program outline of the Conference:

The tentative program of the conference is attached.

Expected Participants of the Conference:

Business Leaders, Government Officials, Foreign Diplomats, Academia, Stakeholders etc.

Deliverables of the Businessmen Conference:

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It is expected that SCO Businessmen Conference will consolidate business cooperation within the SCO community by boosting intra-trade and investment and working towards achieving economic development and social welfare of the people of member countries.

Interpretation System:

Russian, Chinese and English will be provided

Visa Facilitation:

FPCCI will support all foreign delegates Visa facilitations through Pakistan Trade Missions.

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