

---

## PAKISTAN SHELVES MAJOR PROJECT OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

-

16.01.2019

---

Taiwan New (16 January 2019)

The Pakistan government has announced its decision to shelve a major power plant project that was to be part of Chinas Belt and Road infrastructure-building initiative.

The Dawn reported on Monday that the government cited sufficient generation capacity for the next few years as the reason for the projects cancellation. A cabinet minister told the paper that the plant would have caused further financial strain of the countrys already heavily-burdened power sector.

The Rahim Yar Khan project was to be a 1,320MW imported coal-based power-generating facility financed by Chinese banks under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) □□ crucial strategic gambit in Chinas overall Belt and Road infrastructure development initiative.

It was initially removed from the CPEC priority list in 2016 following a government ban on capacity addition on imported fuels, The Dawn reports, but was later reinstated. Now, Pakistan authorities have requested Chinese partners delete the project entirely from the CPEC list.

According to the paper, Islamabad made a decision to remove almost 400 politically motivated projects from its Public Sector Development Program portfolio. A cabinet minister told The Dawn the government does not want to waste public funds where lien has been created.

The CPEC stands as the flagship project of the Belt and Road initiative and the gateway to inland Asia and Europe to which the new Silk Road extends. Although much focus has been given to its capacity as a transport thoroughway, the majority of completed Belt and Road projects in the CPEC have so far been for generating power.

Analysts believe Beijing is attempting to fuel economic development in Pakistan and bolster bilateral relations in order to improve the security environment along the economic corridor so as to contain dissidents from Chinas Xinjiang Autonomous Region and prevent militants from finding training and support in Pakistan. It is also suggested Pakistan provides a check on its regional rival India.

Pakistan has already fallen victim to what experts have deemed Chinas debt trap diplomacy and requested a bailout from the IMF last year, which is still under deliberation. China has exhibited a pattern of seizing national assets from countries unable to repay loans which leaves no doubt in the minds of experts that Pakistan could succumb to the same fate.

The Pakistan government has announced its decision to shelve a major power plant project that

was to be part of Chinas Belt and Road infrastructure-building initiative.

The Dawn reported on Monday that the government cited sufficient generation capacity for the next few years as the reason for the projects cancellation. A cabinet minister told the paper that the plant would have caused further financial strain of the countrys already heavily-burdened power sector.

The Rahim Yar Khan project was to be a 1,320MW imported coal-based power-generating facility financed by Chinese banks under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) □□ crucial strategic gambit in Chinas overall Belt and Road infrastructure development initiative.

It was initially removed from the CPEC priority list in 2016 following a government ban on capacity addition on imported fuels, The Dawn reports, but was later reinstated. Now, Pakistan authorities have requested Chinese partners delete the project entirely from the CPEC list.

According to the paper, Islamabad made a decision to remove almost 400 politically motivated projects from its Public Sector Development Program portfolio. A cabinet minister told The Dawn the government does not want to waste public funds where lien has been created.

The CPEC stands as the flagship project of the Belt and Road initiative and the gateway to inland Asia and Europe to which the new Silk Road extends. Although much focus has been given to its capacity as a transport thoroughway, the majority of completed Belt and Road projects in the CPEC have so far been for generating power.

Analysts believe Beijing is attempting to fuel economic development in Pakistan and bolster bilateral relations in order to improve the security environment along the economic corridor so as to contain dissidents from Chinas Xinjiang Autonomous Region and prevent militants from finding training and support in Pakistan. It is also suggested Pakistan provides a check on its regional rival India.

Pakistan has already fallen victim to what experts have deemed Chinas debt trap diplomacy and requested a bailout from the IMF last year, which is still under deliberation. China has exhibited a pattern of seizing national assets from countries unable to repay loans which leaves no doubt in the minds of experts that Pakistan could succumb to the same fate.

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3618223>

---

Kaynak/Source: