Pakistan’s Strategic Opportunities

An Interview with Ambassador Masood Khan,
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As the Ambassador of Pakistan to the People’s Republic of China, did you find the business environment in China suitable and welcoming for foreign investors?

Leading U.S., Japanese, Korean, German, British, and French corporations are doing profitable business in China, which has also become a foreign investor in many parts of the world. In China, business, innovation, and growth are integral parts of the new economic creed. China also works with developing nations to promote bilateral trade and industrial partnerships. I witnessed constant efforts being made by the Chinese public and private sectors, as well as the Chinese Government, to identify and remove barriers to investment. To do business successfully in China, it is important for foreign investors to understand not just modern China but its traditional culture.

What opportunities are available for foreign investment in Pakistan?

Huge new investments are being made in Pakistan in industry, particularly in manufacturing, telecommunications, infrastructure development, and agriculture. A port, many new airports, energy plants, and highways are being built; and there is a construction boom in Pakistan. Pakistan’s real estate and stock markets are outperforming their regional competitors. In the energy sector, the maximum scope is in hydropower, coal-fired power generation, and wind and solar energy. It would be good to advise foreign investors to look into oil and gas exploration, and modernization of the textile and leather industries. Pakistan’s public and private sectors are also working on ways to improve ease of doing business across all sectors.

What steps is the Pakistani government taking to stabilize security conditions for local and foreign investors?

First, we are fighting terrorism. Second, we are taking on all types of violent extremism. We have had successes in both of these areas. The incidence of terrorist acts has gone down drastically. The tide of violence is abating. Karachi, our biggest metropolis, is calm. As the Ambassador of Pakistan to the People’s Republic of China, did you find the business environment in China suitable and welcoming for foreign investors?