**Ambassador Khalil Hashmi’s Speech for the Student Council Investiture Ceremony, Academic Session 2024-25**

(Beijing: 21 October 2024)

**Management of Pakistan Embassy School College,**

**Esteemed Teachers,**

**Parents,**

**and Dear Students,**

It is my pleasure to stand before you today at this momentous occasion, the Student Council Investiture Ceremony of the Pakistan Embassy College Beijing for the academic session 2024-2025. Today, we celebrate leadership, responsibility, and bright future of the students who will now carry forward the values of this esteemed institution.

Leadership, as we all know, is not merely about holding a position of authority or responsibility. Leadership, at its core, is about inspiration. It is about setting an example, making tough decisions, and above all, it is about serving others. It is about empowering those around you, helping them to grow while you yourself continue to learn. In every role, whether as a head prefect, a council member, or even a class representative, a leader is someone who uplifts others, who is ready to listen, and who leads with empathy and integrity.

In an educational institution like the Pakistan Embassy College Beijing, student leadership holds special significance. Your time in school lays the foundation for the roles you will take up later in life. These early leadership experiences, whether small or significant, shape your character and your outlook. As members of the student council, you are not only representatives of your peers but also role models for the younger students. The trust placed in you by the school and your fellow students is both a privilege and a responsibility.

The expectations from you as student leaders are high, and rightly so. You are expected to demonstrate discipline, honesty, and dedication in all that you do. You will need to strike a balance between your academic responsibilities and your leadership duties, ensuring that you lead by example in every aspect of school life. Remember, leadership is not just about standing at the front of the room; it is about being approachable, being fair, and making a positive impact on those around you.

In a multicultural environment like ours at PECB, and in a country as dynamic and diverse as China, your role as a leader takes on an even deeper dimension. You are not just leaders within your school community but also representatives of your country’s values in an international setting. Embrace the diversity around you, learn from it, and build bridges of understanding between cultures. Your role in promoting harmony, respect, and collaboration within this multicultural environment is of immense importance.

Our institution, the Pakistan Embassy College Beijing, holds a special place in the context of Pakistan-China friendship. As the oldest international school in Beijing, it is one of the cornerstones of Pakistan’s soft power projection in China.

On a personal note, I vividly recall my own experiences of taking on leadership roles during my school years. Those early experiences taught me invaluable lessons about responsibility, teamwork, and perseverance—lessons that continue to guide me in my role today. I encourage each one of you to take this responsibility seriously and make the most of this opportunity to learn, grow, and lead.

I would like to take this moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Principal, teachers, the staff, and the parents who have guided these students to this point. Your support and dedication have been instrumental in shaping these young minds, and your contributions are deeply appreciated.

To the students, my advice is simple: Lead with kindness, integrity, and humility. Leadership is not about being perfect; it’s about doing your best, learning from your mistakes, and always striving to improve.

Thank you, and I wish you all the very best in your leadership journey ahead.