

Planning Commission Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Macroeconomics	2
Projects Wing	2
Manpower	2
Employment & Research	2
Health	3
Environment	3
Nutrition	4
Industries & Commerce	4
Information & Communication Technology	4
Food & Agriculture	5
Pakistan Planning & Management Institute	5
Federal DERA Unit	5
National Fertilizer Development Centre	5

New Growth Framework (NGF)

Planning Commission is devising implementation strategy for "Framework for Economic Growth Pakistan". In this regard, Planning Commission and UNDP organized a two-day international conference on "Framework for Economic Growth Pakistan" at Marriot Islamabad on 13-14 July, 2011.

Eminent national and international scholars and policy makers including Sulaiman B. Mahbob, Chairman, Malaysian Industrial Development Authority; Norma Binti Mansor, Secretary General, National Economic Advisory Council, Malaysia; Ishrat Hussain, IBA, Karachi; Mohammed Ali, Chairman, SECP; Philip Auerswald, Professor, George Mason University; Ms Rahat Kaunain, Chairperson, CCP; Mr. Heru Prasetyo, Deputy Chairman of the President's Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight Indonesia; Nohman Ishtiaq, Advisor, Finance Division, Pakistan; Akmal Hussain, Professor, Beaconhouse National University; Vinaya Swaroop, Sector Manager of Economic Policy in South Asia, World Bank; Dr. Andrew Rathmell, Coffey

International Development; Raza Rumi, Public Policy Advisor/Editor; Ms Belinda Yuen, Urban Development Unit, World Bank; John Speakman, Private Sector Specialist, World Bank; Mr Amer Z. Durrani, Sector Coordinator for Trade Logistics, Transport and Customs, World Bank; and Mahub Hossain Executive Director, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee delivered lectures and shared their experiences.

The discussions covered six main topics, including; *Implementing governance reforms, Civil service reforms, Openness and competitive markets, Result based management in public sector, Human capital, Productivity*



and Innovation, Creative cities and urban development reforms and Connecting to compete. In the dinner gala, a special lecture by Professor Richard Florida on 'Cities as engines of growth' was telecasted through



video conference.

Intense debate on policy issues took place during Q&A at the end of each sessions. Presence of a large number of scholars, academia, civil society, public servants and media made the event a great success. In the concluding session, Ms Fozia Wahab, MNA and Ms Palwasha Khan MNA assured government support for the reform process. They appreciated the growth strategy prepared by the Planning Commission and endorsed the proposed reforms agenda.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Planning Commission and UNDP for establishing an Inclusive Growth Center for implementation of the proposed reforms by upgrading the existing Centre for Poverty Reduction and Social Policy Development — CPRSPD.

Governance

During the month of July, 2011, PC-1 of Project titled "Construction of NIPA Complex, at Samungli Road Quetta" was examined and working paper for Pre-CDWP was prepared. Pre-CDWP meetings to discuss the projects titled "Capacity Building Project, Government of Pakistan" and "Disaster Management System for Balochistan" of Govt. of Balochistan were

arranged and attended. Rolling Work Program for 2012-14 for Capacity Building and Training (CBT) and Information in respect of Governance Section has been prepared.

During the month, 14 opportunities for various training programmes, workshops and conferences were circulated among relevant sections of the Planning and

Development division. Four meetings of the committee on foreign training were arranged. On the recommendation of the Committee, 18 nominations for participation in 13 training courses were processed and forwarded to the sponsors. 10 officers attended foreign trainings including one long term course during the month of July, 2011.

Macroeconomics

Macroeconomics Section held a meeting with the Federal Bureau of Statistics specialists on methodology for estimation of value added of small scale manufacturing on 30 July 2011. Mr. Bernd

Stuck, Advisor and Mr. Shahid Butt, Director National Accounts participated from FBS. Mr. Stuck gave a presentation on the existing methodology and the proposed new methodology.

Participants from Planning Commission offered suggestions and comments for improvement in the methodology.

Projects Wing

Meetings/visits

D.G (SS) visited the Khyber Medical University (KMU) and Institute of Management Sciences and held meetings with Vice Chancellor, KMU and representatives of IMS. The KMU being under funded was recommended to the HEC and PIP for allocation/re-appropriation of required funds.



D.G(SS) also convened a meeting on 18th July to review physical and financial progress of development projects implemented by the Federal Directorate of Education. The meeting was also attended by the representative from the Capital Administration & Development Division.

On-line Connectivity with PMES

Ministry of Industries and



Ministry of Postal Services were brought on loop with the Projects Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES). In this connection 10 meetings were held during the month of July in the M/o In-



dustries and M/o Postal Services. The PDs and Project Officers of the divisions were acquainted with using the PMES System.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Projects Wing monitored 19 development projects during June 2011. The Wing also evaluated "New Broadcast-

ing House, Karachi" sponsored by the M/o Information and Broadcasting. In this respect a presentation on the recommendations of the Evaluation Report was given to Member (I&M).

Clearance/Approval of Cash/Work Plans

The Projects Wing has been entrusted responsibility to approve the cash/work plans of the development projects included in PSDP 2011-12. During the month of July 128 cash/work plans were received by the Projects Wing. Of these 80 cash/work plan were cleared. 19 cash/work plans were returned to the ministries/projects authorities for reconciliation with previous data. On 30th July 2011 in all 29 cash plans were under process in the Projects Wing.

Posting/Transfer

Mr. Muhammad Din Naz, Joint Secretary has joined the Projects Wing, under Section 10, as Director General (Infrastructure).

Mr. Arshad Maqsood Malik has also joined as Director General (Evaluation), Projects Wing.

Manpower

The CDWP in its meeting held on 7th April, 2011 approved a project titled "Short Term Skill Development Courses under Prime Minister's special Hunarmand Program for IDPs of affected areas of Malakand Division"

at an estimated cost of Rs. 80 million. NAVTEC is the sponsoring agency for the project. While approving the project, the CDWP directed the sponsors to make a presentation to the Planning Commission on the proposed

implementation strategy and expected outcomes. The Manpower Section, in collaboration with the sponsors of the project, finalized the presentation to be made to the Planning Commission.

Employment & Research

A meeting of the Research Studies Evaluation and Review Committee (RSE&RC) chaired by Additional Secretary held on 7 July, 2011

considered draft report of the for the study on "Designing of Strategies and Plan Document on Trauma, Accidents

and Emergencies in Hospitals".

Health

Planning Commission in collaboration with Ministry of Science & Technology and GTZ organized a two-day symposium “*Bridging The Gaps: Linking Quality And Financing Of Healthcare Services*” on 25-26 July 2011 at PC, Bhurban.

The symposium aimed to explore value addition to health care by linking financing and quality aspects of health service delivery system. The symposium looked at variety of institutional mechanisms and arrangements in social health protection and health financing schemes. Resource persons were invited from the countries which already have well advanced or have started working on these reform issues including Lebanon, Spain, and India. The symposium consisted

of a range of sessions focused on experience sharing, active participant engagement, and discussion. The Inaugural session of the symposium was chaired by Member (SS) Planning Commission. A wide range of audience including parliamentarians, provincial bureaucrats and technocrats, researchers, academia, and various organizations participated in the event. Technical sessions were moderated by an international moderator from Germany. The sessions included presentations followed by question answer session. A unique feature of the symposium was assembling of ‘market place’, wherein 10

stalls on various topics on health care financing and its linkage with quality health services. The participants had the choice to select any 3 of the stalls of their choice. A TV talk show was also arranged with panelist of high & international repute from Spain, World Bank, & WHO. The closing session was chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology. The participants benefited from the lively discussions in beautiful environment of Bhurban. The symposium concluded that similar dialogue should continue at provincial level for their active involvement as well as for involving district level professionals.

Environment

Planning Commission and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized a Seminar on: “Strategic Environmental Assessment: Greening Development Planning in Pakistan”, in Islamabad on 19 July 2011 for sensitizing senior decision makers and other stakeholders on the role of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in development planning. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, Senior Advisor Climate Change & Development, Planning Commission was the chief guest and Mr. Ghulam Mohyuddin Marri, Member, Planning Commission of Pakistan co-chaired the event. Dr. Aurangzeb Khan, Chief Environment/NPD-NIAP said that environment has been integrated into development planning and has been institutionalized. He highlighted various new environmental projects which helped creating a better understanding and awareness about environmental issues. He said that to introduce strategic impact assessment into the development planning process, NIAP was launched in 2009 with the assistance of Dutch Government.

Chief Guest stressed the need for better management since Pakistan as world’s sixth most populated country was highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and global warm-

ing. He stressed on the need to address the ongoing energy crisis and financial recession in the country. He expressed optimism on ‘New Growth Strategy’ developed by the Planning Commission and appreciated the design of NIAP and outcomes envisaged in taking SEA forward. The co-chair Mr. Ghulam Mohyuddin Marri expressed the need for better coordination and exploring potential and also appreciated the role of IUCN, Environment Section, Planning Commission, and Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment for their efforts.

As a result of the enactment of Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment, the following functions of the devolved Ministry of Environment have been entrusted to the Planning & Development Division:

- *National policy, plan, strategies & programmes regarding environmental pollution, ecology, forestry, wildlife, biodiversity, Climate Change and desertification.*
- *Coordination, monitoring and implementation of environmental agreements with other countries, International agen-*

cies & forums.

- *Pakistan Environmental Planning and Architectural Consultants Limited (PEPAC).*
- *Global Environment Impact Study Centre, Islamabad.*

In this context the role of Planning Commission has come under limelight. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, has been redesignated as Senior Advisor on Climate Change and Development to undertake the Climate Change related functions at the level of Planning Commission, P&D Division more effectively.

In order to achieve the MDGs targets, Planning Commission (Environment Section), UNICEF and RSPN hosted a two day National Conference on 28-29 July, 2011 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad with officials of Provincial P&D Departments with a view to facilitate the Provincial Governments in preparing provincial policies and strategies on drinking water, sanitation and behavior change communication.

Nutrition

Food Security, food supplies, and the impact of food on nutritional well-being are imperative for nutrition improvement of household, communities and nations. Ensuring nutritional security is necessary for improving nutritional status as it denotes the consumption and psychological use of adequate quantities of safe and nutritious food by every member. It also encompasses the process of equitable distribution among members of households and communities. Given the availability of food in sufficient quantity, access is primarily a function of a household's income, its distribution within the household and price of food, besides the physical aspects.

A food basket is maintained as a tool, based on minimum essential food items drawn from the consumption sur-

veys and adopting the minimum standards from FAO/WHO dietary guidelines. The food basket so adopted for nutrition purposes is maintained as part of medium term plans for standard comparison. The food basket has been used in the Five Year Plan 2001-05 and MTFD 2005-10 for targeted dietary change and estimating demand gaps. The food basket is also used for estimating cost of minimum national food needs.

The minimum food basket adopted for MTFD 2005-10, providing minimum average energy of 2150 calories. The cost of 2150 calories has been updated since 2007 estimated at Rs. 960 to Rs. 1670 based on the retail prices of June 2011. The Nutrition Section, Planning Commission has completed its report on cost estimation for the year ending June

2011, during the month of July 2011. This report is based on secondary data from Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), Ministry of Food & Agriculture and other public data sources, and thus reflects public sector information.

The report presents various combinations of estimated cost, such as; monthly change, provincial comparisons, followed by specific provincial level details, further comparisons within regions within the provinces, wherever possible. The report has effectively presented changes over time and across provinces. The provincial comparison did highlight some prominent findings. An attempt has also been made to go a step further to find some beyond provincial differences. These differences have strong policy implications.

Industries & Commerce

Industries & Commerce Section, submitted a summary on the Project titled "Economic Revitalization of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa". ECNEC in its meeting held on 29.7.2011 approved the project at total estimated cost of Rs. 1.1 billion. The Project will be funded by World Bank, under Multi Donors Trust Fund (MTDF) for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project aims at economic rebuilding of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by consolidating small and medium enterprises, alluring investment and creating long term

growth opportunities for private sector.

Key Objectives of project are:

- Reconstruction, rehabilitation and revitalizing SMEs affected by militancy/floods
- Up gradation of productivity and augmentation of product Quality of SMEs
- Building the capacity and efficiency of SMEs for optimum business activities
- Boosting employment opportunities for the people of affected areas
- Encouraging investment in private sector
- Building institutional capacities to foster investment and implement reforms.
- SME development through grants and technical assistance to support SMEs affected by floods and militancy.
- Investment mobilization through attracting Diaspora to mobilize private investment to jumpstart rehabilitation of business and reconstruction of infrastructure.

Information & Communication Technology

Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre (JACC) facilitates various offices of Planning & Development Division by providing services such as web portal management, internet and networking services, supervision of video conferencing, hardware troubleshooting etc.

JACC provided full IT sup-

port services for the International Conference on "Framework for Economic Growth, Pakistan" held at Marriott on 13 – 14 July 2011. Video conferencing with several universities was also arranged and supervised by JACC. A video of entire event was recorded and uploaded on Planning

Commission web portal. A dedicated web page was designed and created for the conference.

*We are on the
Web
www.pc.gov.pk*



Planning Commission
Planning & Development
Division

P-Block, Pak. Secretariat,
Islamabad.

Food & Agriculture

Summary for the ECNEC on "Community Development Project for Rehabilitation of Salt Affected and Water-Logged Land was prepared and sent to PIA Section.

Draft working papers of three projects were prepared namely:

- Gwadar-Lasbella Livelihoods Support Project.
- Construction of Fish

Landing Jetty and Allied Harbor Works at Pishukan.

- Construction of Fish Landing Jetty and Allied Harbor Works at Surundar.

Pakistan Planning & Management Institute

During July, 2011, Pakistan Planning & Management

Institute conducted the training course "Management

and National Development" on 25-30 July, 2011. 22 partici-

Federal DERA Unit

- Prepared presentation on "Drought Recovery Assistance Programme Project".
- Prepared working paper for the Expert Consultation Meeting to revisit the drought programme.
- Analyzed implementation status of ongoing schemes for contract awards, implementation stages and completion of schemes in Provinces and Federal Areas.
- On the close of financial year 2010-11, reconciliation of accounts with National Bank of Pakistan and Accountant General Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) has been completed.

National Fertilizer Development Centre

The Monthly Fertilizer Review for July, 2011 has been published. Total nutrient off take during June, 2011 was about 301 thousand tones compared to 333 thousand tones of June, 2010, showing a decrease of 9.7%. Nitrogen and potash off take decreased by 14.2% and

40.5%, respectively, whereas, phosphate off-take increased by 36.4% over June, 2010. Off-take of urea during June, 2011 was 492 thousand tones as compared to 580 thousand tones in June, 2010 showing a decrease of 15.2%. DAP off-take increased by 50.4%

from 45 thousand tones in June, 2010 to 68 thousand tones in June, 2011. At present, shortage of gas supply to fertilizer plants is hampering fertilizer industry to produce as per demand, which has resulted in price increase for farmers.