

# Planning Commission Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

International Trade & Finance	2
Public Investment Authori zati on	2
Industries & Com- merce	2
National Fertilizer Devel opment	3
Governance	3
Manpower	4
Food & Agri cul ture	4
Nutri ti on	4

## Framework for Economic Growth

Fifth event of the on going series of Stakeholders Dialogue on Framework for Economic Growth was held at Comsats Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Abbottabad on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. More than 135 participants from Academia, Banking sector, NGOs, Chambers of Commerce & Industry,



Bar Association and media attended the "Dialogue on Framework for Economic Growth" workshop.

Sixth workshop of the series was hosted by University of Peshawar at Peshawar on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar

chaired the event and appreciated Planning Commission's outreach and dialogue initiative. Vice Chancellor, UET Peshawar highlighted the importance of human capital development and called for increase in the education related investments for enhancing the productive youth engagement.

Seventh Stakeholders Workshop was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 at Quetta Club in collaboration of University of Balochistan. Member Infrastructure, Planning Commission of Pakistan was the Chief Guest. In his opening remarks he stated that Economic



Growth was wonderful source of poverty alleviation and macroeconomic stabilization. He stressed upon accelerating the economic growth and sustaining it at a high rate as a national priority. He said that the paradigm of project- and government-led growth had to be changed because it bred corruption, rent seeking and economic imbalances.

A meeting on "Implementation Plan for Pakistan Framework for Economic Growth" was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 to review the status of the action plan for implementation. The Joint Chief Economist (Macro) chaired the meeting. The chair directed economic sections to accelerate the preparation of their respective action plan so as to finalizing the overall action plan.

## Money Prices & Fiscal Policy

- Prepared a report on monetary developments during 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011,
- Reviewed fiscal developments during 2010-11,
- Prepared update on stock market development for the month of August -2011,
- Prepared first quarterly update on Stock Market (July-September) 2011-12,
- Coordinated the work of Tariff Reform Exercise with relevant Ministries/

Divisions/stakeholders,

- Organized a meeting of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission with the all concerned to review progress on Tariff Reform Exercise and prepared/circulated minutes of the meeting.

## International Trade & Finance

- Offered comments on Pakistan Country Partnership Strategy Progress Report (CPSPR) of World Bank.
- Prepared briefs for Secretary Planning & Development Division and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission on summary for the ECC of the cabinet pertaining to Trade Policy 2011-12.
- Prepared key functions and performance indicators for the section.
- Conveyed the implementation status of MOU on Planning between Pakistan and Turkey to Board of Investment.
- Processed nomination for ECO High Level Expert Groups meetings on HRD & Manpower being held in Iran on November 21-22, 2011.
- Sent comments to Economic Affairs Division on financial agreement € 40 million between Ministry of Finance, Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Artigiancassa S.P.A signed in Islamabad on 09-02-2011 and in Rome on 21-03-2011.

## Public Investment Authorization

Public Authorization Section coordinated a meeting of Central Development Working Party (CDWP) held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2011 in which eighty nine (89) PC-Is / PC-IIs, fifteen (15) Concept Clearance cases and five (05) Position Papers were considered. PIA Section received thirty five (35) schemes / projects for consideration of CDWP / ECNEC which have been circulated among the members of CDWP and concerned Technical Sections are preparing working papers for consideration of CDWP.

## Industries & Commerce

In order to meet the economic and financial challenges being faced by the country, a meeting was held on 15.10.2011 with representatives of Ministry of Industries and Production, Provincial Industries Departments and other stakeholders of public and private sector to make strategy for economic growth of the country. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, Member Science & Technology.

Similar meetings were also held with Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Textile Industry on 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2011 respectively.

The following projects of I&C Section were discussed and approved by CDWP in its meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2011:-

- a) Establishment of Provincial Training Centre" for Mine Workers and emergency response training, Quetta.
- b) Up-gradation of NFC Institute of Engineering & Technology Facilities
- c) Development of Infrastructure in Various Estates of Sindh Industrial Trading Estates Limited
- d) Ex-post Facto Approval of Purchase of Additional Machinery for the Project "Ceramics Development & Training Centre, Gujranwala"
- e) Ex-post Facto Approval of Purchase of Additional Machinery for the Project "Gujranwala Tools, Dies & Mould centre", Gujranwala"
- f) Grant of 15 % Escalation to a Project Titled "Faisalabad Garment City" Faisalabad.
- g) Pakistan Industrial Competitiveness Strengthening the linkages Between

## Industries & Commerce (cont..)

Sustainable Development and Industrial Competitiveness

- h) Expansion of Pakistan Steel's Production Capacity up to 1.5 Million Tons per Year.

First Quarter Review meeting of PSDP 2011-12 was held on 25-26 October 2011 wherein the actual expenditures up to June 2011, release demanded by Ministries, actual releases made by

Finance Division and actual expenditure incurred by sponsor/executive agencies regarding the projects of Ministry of Industries & Production, Commerce, Textile and Petroleum & Natural Resources (Mineral Wing) were discussed by the Review Committee headed by Acting Secretary P&D Division.

First meeting of the Task Force on "Indigenization

of Raw Material in Pakistan Steel" was held on 27.10.2011 in Ministry of Production. TORs were discussed in detail and it was emphasized that efforts needs to be made to use indigenous raw material to reduce the cost of production to meet local demand as well as increase production of different products so as to cater the financial loss of Pakistan Steel.

## National Fertilizer Development Centre

The Monthly Fertilizer Review of Mid October, 2011 has been published, which reveals that the total nutrient off take during September, 2011 was about 363 thousand tonnes which recorded an increase of 2.3% over September 2010. Nitrogen offtake increased by 37.5% whereas phosphate offtake decreased by 48.5%. Potash offtake also decreased by 65.6%. Urea offtake during September, 2011 was 524

thousand tonnes, which increased 61.7% over September, 2010. DAP offtake was about 124 thousand tonnes as compared to 256 thousand tonnes of September, 2010 which recorded a decrease of 51.7%.

The major reason for increase in nitrogen as well as urea offtake during the month under report seems to be possible hoarding of urea fertilizer by dealers and farmers in proviso of price increase

trend and gas shortage to fertilizer industry. One other possible factor may be hitting of most of the agricultural land of Punjab and Sindh by flood in last year due to which offtake remained very low and now coming normal. However, the record decrease in phosphate and potassic fertilizers offtake may be on account of abrupt price increase of these fertilizers.

## Governance

PC-I of the Project titled "Strengthening of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) System in NAs, Gilgit" was presented in CDWP and minutes of the CDWP were prepared. Briefs on the projects titled "Federal Programme under Access to Justice Programme" and "Project for Improvement of Financial Reporting and

Auditing (PIFRA-II) were prepared and forwarded to the projects Wing. Brief on the question, "How can Pakistan's Economy position itself to benefit from today's political and economical transition of Greater Arab World?" for the "World Economic Forum on the Middle East-Dead Sea, Jordan, 21-23 October,

2011" was prepared and forwarded to Plan Coordination Section. Meetings on draft course outline / contents of Diploma Course on the "Management of Pakistan Economy" by PIDE and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter review of PSDP were attended.

Fifty seven nominations for trainings / work-

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## Governance (cont..)

shops / conferences were processed. Two meetings of the committee on for-

oreign training were arranged whereby nineteen officers attended the for-

oreign trainings / seminars/ workshops during the month.

## Manpower

- The concept clearance proposal on "Italian Soft Loan Support Programme to Social Inclusion and Employment in the Khyber Pakhtukhawa Province" sponsored by NAVTEC was presented and approved by CDWP in its meeting

held on 21.10.2011.

- PCs-IV of two projects "Training of Trainers" and "Trade Testing & Certification" sponsored by NTB, M/O P& TT, received through PIA section for transfer of schemes from development to non-

development side were examined.

- First quarter review meetings for PSDP 11-12 were attended.

- Meeting to brief the Secretary on CDWP agenda item was attended.

## Food & Agriculture

A Pre-CDWP meeting on project "Gwadar Lasbella Livelihood Support Programme" was arranged and then processed through CDWP and minutes were accordingly recorded.

- Material for "8<sup>th</sup> Session of Pak-Afghan Economic Commission" was prepared.

- Presentation for an ADB

assisted workshop was finalized with Chief (F&A).

- Minutes of the President's Meeting on Agriculture (05-10-2011) were drafted.

- Comments were drafted on Mr. Kamal Majeedullah's proposal on revival/implementation of PARC's Projects.

- Follow up on CDWP

decision in respect of the following projects was undertaken.:

i. Grain Storage Project – Construction of steel silos.

ii Poverty Alleviation through Productivity Enhancement (Progressive Replacement of 100 Bulldozers for Balochistan).

## Nutrition

The quarterly report on the "cost of food basket" for first quarter (July, September, 2011) has been prepared based on the secondary data from Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS). The report present the quarter average cost estimation and comparison for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of

2011 over the same period of last year 2010, at national, Provincial and Regional levels. The main finding of the report is that the cost of food basket at national level increased by 4% during the first quarter 2011, which is 13% higher as compared to the same period

of 2010. The average cost in Federal areas had been higher as compared to Provincial and National average. The first quarter average cost comparison at national, provincial and Regional level followed almost similar trend of cost variation for 2010.