

# Planning Commission Government of Pakistan

## Press Release

24th August 2010

### World Bank Mission meets the Member (S&T) and his team to discuss issues pertaining to IT & Telecom Sector

The World Bank Mission visited Dr. Samar Mubarakmand, Member (S&T) Planning Commission on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 to discuss the issues pertaining to IT & Telecom Sector. The meeting was also attended by Director General (ICT&JACC), Planning Commission.

The World Bank Mission informed that the Universal Service Fund managed by Pakistan is presented by the Bank as a success story in all its meetings which needs to be followed by other countries. But unfortunately, in the last few months, a no. of issues have cropped up regarding delays in approvals of budgets, contracts, payments etc. due to non-scheduling of board meetings. Matter may be raised by the Planning Commission with Ministry of I.T. and issue may be got resolved. Member (S&T) assured the Mission that he will consult Ministry of IT on this issue.

According to the Mission, Pakistan has a lot of potential to benefit from Human Resource Development in IT Sector. The World Bank Mission suggested that Pakistan should build more IT Parks, promote IT Industry, implement e-payment gateway and launch a comprehensive Skill Development Program. Member (S&T) informed that a very good program has been initiated by the Punjab Government under the guidelines of Planning Commission to train about 45,000 people every 15 months. Similar programs will also be carried out by other provinces.

World Bank Mission pointed out about the weaknesses in the E-Government Program. Member (S&T) informed the Mission that he has been recommending IT Cadre to Ministry of IT for sustainability of E-Government Program. Mission suggested that each Ministry should carry out Business Process Re-engineering (BPR). DG(ICT&JACC) replied that even in order to implement Business Process Re-Engineering, you need to have IT professionals working under a central command which leads to the IT Cadre. WB mission agreed with the views of DG (ICT&JACC).

World Bank mission then referred to the views of Planning Commission on the World Bank's project concept note. DG (ICT&JACC) informed that the initial value of project was USD 23 million which included proposals for IT Industry development, MOIT capacity building and strengthening of E-Government Program. The project by and large covers most areas but some important areas like E-Commerce and IT Parks are not included. Mission agreed to revisit their project concept note.

In the end, Dr. Samar Mubarakmand thanked the World Bank Mission for their valuable suggestions and recommendations and assured that Planning Commission will always welcome solid proposals/ projects pertaining to ICT sector.