

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Minister for PD&R's Activities

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, was the chief guest at award distribution and closing ceremony organized by Institute of Architects Pakistan on 2nd April 2014.

- Prof, Ahsan Iqbal convened a meeting with the senior level delegation from Baluchistan Government headed by Chief Minister Baluchistan Dr. Abdul Malik, Sardar Sanaullah Zahri (Provincial Minister) and Abdul Qadir Baloch (Federal Minister) on 3rd April 2014. He assured the delegation that development of Baluchistan had been assigned high priority by the government. Planning Commission of Pakistan had released amount of Rs. 23 billion, out of total allocation of Rs. 38 billion for Public Sector Development Programs (PSDPs) in Baluchistan. The remaining funds would be released during April-May, 2014.
- The Federal Minister for PD&R addressed to the officers of Planning Commission and said that we need to adopt healthy lifestyle for preventive care as the cost of healthcare for heart

disease, cancer, and hepatitis will be huge in future if we didn't adopt proactive approach. He was jogging with them in Sports Complex to demonstrate commitment for taking 30 minutes out daily for jogging on 4th April, 2014.

Shah Jamal, Lahore prize distribution function on 12th April 2014. This school was started by Federal Minister's late mother as a welfare project to provide education to girls from poor families.



- Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, was the chief guest at Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) convention organized by PIMA on 5th April, 2014.
- The Minister for PD&R attended Apa Nisar Fatima Girls High School, Katchi Abadi
- Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said that South Korea's development miracle offers many lessons for Pakistan. He was speaking after receiving South Korean Prime Minister Jung Hong Won at Noor Khan Base, Islamabad, who arrived on a four day visit of Pakistan, the first visit of Korean Pre-

Minister for PD&R's Activities (Cont...)

mier in 31 years on 13th April, 2014.

- Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, see off Prime Minister of South Korea at Islamabad airport after his successful visit of Pakistan on 16th April, 2014.
- The Minister for PD&R signed a MoU with Oxford University and UNDP to develop multi-dimensional Poverty Index for combating poverty in Pakistan effectively on 17th April. He said that developing links with leading knowledge houses inside and outside the country is our priority.
- Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired the conference at Islamabad on the subject of inter-faith harmony in Pakistan, hosted by Planning Commission and attended by leaders of various religions to discuss the subject of inter-faith harmony in Pakistan.
- Minister for Planning, Development and Reform visited Gawadar on 24th April, 2014 with Prime Minister of Pakistan, Dr Malik (Chief Minister Balochistan), Mr. Ishaq Dar (Minister Finance), Mr. Abdul Qadir Baloch and Sardar Sana ullah Zehri were also members of delegation.
- Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressed Alumni Dinner of University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila in Lahore on 26th April. He said that Science, Technology and productivity enhancement were key drivers in growth strategy for future. Engineers must contribute in economic development of country through innovation.
- On 29th April, the Minister for PD&R chaired the Roundtable Conference on "Devising Policies for SME growth" organized by Young Development Fellows (YDFs), in collaboration with Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs Division. The Conference was attended by Engr. Khuram Dastgir, Federal Minister for Commerce; Rana Afzal, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Finance; Alamgir Chaudhry, SMEDA; Zulfiqar Thaver, President UNISAME; Mr. Junaid Mohmand; Head Operations SME Bank; William Butterfield, Senior Economist USAID and representatives from World Bank, COMSATS, MAJU, USAID, First Women Bank, National University of Science and Technology and several other organizations.
- Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired the workshop for application of Balanced Scorecard and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in public sector organized by Planning Commission and was attended by senior officials of all ministries and conducted by Dr Mohammad Mustafa Mahmud, CEO, Madinah Institute of Leadership and Entrepreneurship (MILE).

Macroeconomic Section

The mega event organized by Macroeconomic Section during the month of April, 2014, was the Seminar on "State of the Pakistan Economy" chaired by the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform held on 28th April, 2014. Dr. Parvez Hassan, Former Chief Economist of the East Asia Division of the World Bank, made a pres-

entation in the light of the report on "The State of the Economy: Challenges and Response" which was prepared as a joint effort of Dr. Parvez Hassan and Dr. Shahid Javed Burki and published by Institute of Public Policy, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore. The prominent Economists like Dr. Aaliya H. Khan, Dr. Asad Zaman,

Dr. Idrees Khawja, Dr. Aqdas Ali Kazmi, teachers and students of PIDE and all Members, Chiefs and Officers of Planning Commission participated in the Seminar. The objectives of the seminar were to present the outlook of the Pakistan's Economy. The strategies for the government

Macroeconomic Section (Cont...)

mentioned by the speaker were:-

- Focus on the economy and extending international relations
- Stance on social security & extremism
- Bonds intervention in international Markets
- Strong concern over intense energy crisis leading to productivity issues

In his closing remarks, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform thanked Dr. Parvez Hassan for giving his insight over the economy. He identified that there is need for applied research in Pakistan. We should not focus on numbers but focus should be on quality.

There is need for the alignment of goals and resources. Our higher education policy should be goal oriented and target driven. He stressed the need for continuation in democracy and policy. He emphasized that there is no other solution for Pakistan economy except high growth and this can be achieved through out of the box thinking. He further identified that there is need to incentivize our goals and synergize them as well. He assured that high priority will be given to the construction of Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

Macroeconomics Section coordinated, consolidated and reviewed all the updated chapters of 11th Five

Year Plan 2013-18 in the light of the changes made in the seven pillars of Pakistan Vision 2025 and Annual Plan 2014-15 received from all the Technical and Economic Sections of Planning Commission. Macroeconomic Section attended a workshop on Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) organized by "International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)" in Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Moreover, the section prepared the first draft of the chapter on "Growth, Investment & Saving" for Annual Plan 2014-15 for the review of Annual Plan Coordination Committee.

Science & Technology Section

The major activities of Science & Technology Section for the month of April, 2014 are as under:

1. Science & Technology Section prepared working papers of the following projects of the Higher Education Sector:

- Strengthening of Research Programs of H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry
- Strengthening of Faculty of Oral Health Sciences and Support Facilities at Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi
- Strengthening of Khyber Medical University Peshawar
- Essential Needs for Strengthening and Development of Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, ZA Bhutto Campus, Khairpur Mir
- Strengthening of the University of Poonch

- Rawalakot, AJ&K
2. Prepared report on important activities/achievements and future programs of Science & Technology Section and its concerned Ministries/R&D organizations for inclusion in the "Annual Report of Planning Commission 2013-14 to be presented to the Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan".
 3. Minutes of the meeting in respect of various projects were prepared and issued.

A meeting with the attendees of training course at Hi-Tech International Business Incubation (HTIBI) Beijing China was held on 17th April 2014 under the chairmanship of the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform in the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, P-Block, Pak-Secretariat. Besides, the trainees of the

course, the representatives of Higher Education Commission and Ministry of Science & Technology also attended the meeting. The purpose of convening the meeting was to get feedback on science parks, business incubation centres, innovation & entrepreneurship etc. and share the lessons learnt/opinions from the subject training so that it may be incorporated in our long term plan for science & technology based development of the country. At the end of meeting the Chair advised HEC to develop a roadmap for Pakistan in view of our own constraints titled "Pakistani Model of knowledge based development by Science & Technology Incubation Centres".

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section

Following are the major activities of MP&FP section during the month of April, 2014:

- Prepared an update on Inflation highlighting increase and decrease in the prices of major food and Non- food items.
- Prepared Monthly Review on Monetary Developments Report and Growth for the period July-March 2013-14.
- Prepared draft Chapter on Fiscal, Monetary and Financial Sector Development for Annual Plan 2014-15.
- Prepared draft chapter on Fiscal, Monetary and Financial Sector Development for 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 after integrating Stock Market developments.
- Prepared Monthly Review on Monetary Development for Annual Report of Planning Commission 2013-14.
- Prepared material for APCC meeting to be held in May 2014.

Industries and Commerce Section

The requisite material on the above cited subject is reflected below.

- Prepared brief on ECC summary tilted Pakistan Steel Mills Key performance Indicators.
- Prepared Working paper on PC-I of Project on Sialkot Business & Commerce Sector.
- Prepared brief on United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform.
- Arranged Pre-CDWP meeting for project titled "Establishment of Gemstone, Mining and Processing training Centres of Pakistan Gems & Jewellery at Skardu and Mingora.
- Prepared project profiles of Commerce, Industries, Production, Textile and Mineral Sectors.
- Prepared concept clearance paper of National Mineral Cadastre System.
- Prepared comments on registration of geographical indications.
- Prepared material for Annual Report of Planning Commission 2013-14.

Nutrition Section

The major activities of Nutrition Section for the month of April, 2014 are mentioned below:

- Material prepared and provided for Vision 2025, Five Year Plan 2013-18 and Annual Plan 2014-15.
- A Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) teleconference had been held in the office of the Chief, Nutrition Section on 22nd April 2014. A brief discussion was held between the SUN Secretariat Geneva and Nutrition Section regarding holding a workshop in Pakistan on "National SUN Self-Assessment One Day Workshop".
- Working Paper and presentations were prepared for CDWP and ECNEC regarding "Balochistan Nutrition Program for Mothers and Children (BNPMC)".
- A regular activity of estimation of the cost of Food Basket based on a minimum of 2150 calories at national and provincial level has been done by the section which showed following findings during the month of April 2014;
 - The Cost of food basket during April 2014 increased by 10 % at national level, 20 % in Punjab, 5 % in Sindh, 8 % in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 6 % in Baluchistan and 8 % in Federal territory, as compared to March 2014.
 - A significant change of 13 % increase has been found at national level when compared to April 2013. This change is found 12 % increase at federal level, 14 % in Punjab, 11 % in Sindh, 12 % in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 13 % in Baluchistan.

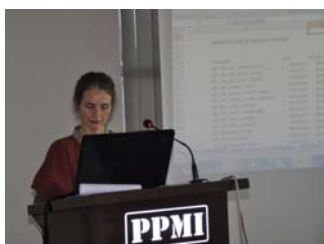
Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section

The major tasks taken by this section during the month of April, 2014 are listed as under:

- **National MDGs Coordination Committee Meeting**

A meeting of National MDGs Coordination Committee (NMDGCC) was held on April 4th, 2014 under the chairmanship of Chief, Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section to get input from all the stakeholders regarding the project proposal. The objective of the meeting was to discuss a project/scheme outline at the grassroots level development initiatives based on accelerated MDGs framework.

- **Training Workshop on Multidimensional Poverty Index**



The Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform and UNDP organized 10 day training course on Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) from 7-17 April 2014 at the Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI), Islamabad.. The training was delivered by the Oxford



Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) of the Oxford University, UK.

The MPI developed by OPHI and released by UNDP in the Human Development Report 2010, 2011 and 2013, is a novel measure for policy analysis, dialogue and monitoring. MPI approaches poverty as a multi facet issue and could enable policy makers to allocate resources more effectively; improve policy design; monitor the effectiveness of policies over time; and target poor people as beneficiaries of services or social safety nets.

- **Signing Ceremony of MoU between the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford**

During the signing ceremony of MoU between the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development and Reform said, "The traditional one-dimensional indices cannot reflect the true poverty levels in Pakistan. The MPI is more comprehensive, integrated and holistic as it covers education, health and living standards. This partnership between the Government, UNDP and University of Oxford will

help us understand, and better address issues related to poverty in Pakistan."

The initial results on the status of district level poverty in Pakistan based on Multi-dimensional Poverty Index were shared by Dr. Sabina Alkire, Director of OPHI at the University of Oxford, She also talked about the concept, measurement, and objectives of the Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and shared the results of the training session. Marc-André Franche, Country Director UNDP in Pakistan said, "The MPI is crucial for policymaking and improving the targeting of social policy. It is vital to develop a robust revenue formula, improve policy design and monitor effectiveness of policy over time.

A letter of agreement was signed by the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, Government of Pakistan, UNDP and OPHI. The agreement brings



participants together to collaborate in the following three areas:

1. To promote multidimensional poverty measurements and policy applications via knowledge exchange between participants; knowl-

Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section (Cont...)

edge sharing; and joint advocacy.



2. To have an effective and informed role in the post-2015 discussions about multidimensional poverty measurements, and to promote the

multidimensional measurement of development goals in the post-2015 context;

3. To promote joint research and develop measurement tools, policy design and analysis and to assist with the dissemination and technical validation of efforts to implement multidimensional poverty alleviation measures.

Mr. Hassan Nawaz Tarar, Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform awarded certificates to the participants of the training course



Plan Coordination Section

Following are the major activities with respect to Plan Coordination Section during April, 2014:

- Conducted frequent meetings with the Committee Members of Annual Plan 2014-15 and chiefs/heads of economic and technical sections
- Initiated work on One Year Performance Report and Annual Report of Planning Commission.
- The 3rd and 4th meetings of Advisory Committee were arranged by Plan Coordination section on 4th & 10th April, 2014, in the Auditorium of P-Block. Both meetings were chaired by the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform. Minutes of the 3rd meeting were prepared and circulated among the concerned while minutes of 4th meeting were prepared and put up for approval.
- Regarding ECC (Economic Coordination Committee) meetings held on 17th & 25th April, 2014, summaries for the meetings were circulated, briefs collected for discussion in the meetings.
- The required information by IPC Division for the meeting of Standing Committee of ICC held on 29th April, 2014 were collected and forwarded to the quarter concerned.
- Timeline was prepared for Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC) Meeting.



Education Section

During the month of April, 2014, this section offered comments/input on the following projects:

- Bilateral consultations between Pakistan and Oman
- Capacity Building of Teacher Training Institutions and Training of Elementary School Teachers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Cost Rs. 1035.319 mil-

lion)

- Capacity Building of Teacher Training Institutions & Training of Elementary School Teachers of Sindh (Cost Rs. 1261.773 million)
- Campaign for promotion of literacy project in Punjab (Rs. 998.303 million)
- Improving Human Development Indicators

with Focus on MDGs and Six EFA Goals in Pakistan, Modified PC-1 (Cost Rs. 994.85 million)

- The contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post -2015 development agenda

Projects Wing

Meetings:

Director General (Social Sector) Projects Wing arranged a meeting on 28.4.2014, in connection with the follow up on 03 development projects being implemented by Federal Directorate of Education Islamabad. Mr. Muhammad Asif Shaikh, Advisor (Dev: Budget) chaired the meeting.

Management Information System (MIS)



In the endeavor to bring all the federal ministries online in the loop of Project Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES), Ministry of Foreign Affairs was brought online by conducting a training session at Islamabad on 3rd April, 2014.

MIS Section was assigned the task by Secretary PD&R for preparation of a report for Prime Minister's office on the PSDP

projects monthly progress updates. In this connection, a report was compiled and forwarded to Prime Minister's office on the progress of PSDP projects for the month of February, 2014

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI)

During the month of April 2014, two (02) training courses were conducted by PPMI. Officers from Federal/Provincial Governments and Public Sector Organizations participated in training course. Brief of the training courses are as under:-

• Results-Based Management (1-4 April, 2014)

This training course was designed to provide participants clear

understanding and skills of how to develop Result-Based Management processes and practices within their own projects and organizations. It is also relevant to those trying to improve Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) processes, or supporting partners to develop and implement effective M&E. The main focus is on considering result at the time of planning, appraisal and approval, monitoring and evaluation. Fifty Eight (58) officers participated in this training course.

• Contract Management (21 -2 4 April, 2014)

This training course was designed to give



an overview of Contract Management and to improve knowledge of participants regarding Contract Management Deliv-

Projects Wing (Cont...)

ery Model, Contract Terms and Conditions and how to use PICC Construction Cost Data to prepare BOQ, Engineer's Estimate and Price Adjustment Formula, as well as, to give them awareness of the rules of conciliation and

arbitration and the procedure for evaluation of bids for procurement. Fifty Seven (57) officers participated in this training course. Mr. Muhammad Anwar Hussain Ch, Director General, PPMI congratulated the participants for

successful completion of training courses in the concluding session and awarded the certificates among the participants.

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