

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic Section

The Section played a pivotal role in preparing the Pakistan Vision 2025, and these efforts culminated with its launching on August 11 at the Convention Centre, Islamabad. Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif presided over the ceremony. Members of the Parliament, representatives of private sector, civil society and academia attended the event. This Section was also actively involved in the invitation, organising and administrative processes of the event.

On daily basis, detail of macroeconomic indicators is provided to Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal and Secretary Hassan Nawaz Tarar for Planning, Development and Reform to keep them updated about the trends of the economy. Moreover, a request was received to provide proposal for the Japanese Survey for the Fiscal Year 2015 of Japan. The project proposal has been furnished to ensure economic stability and promote diversification of industries. The proposal mainly focused the diver-

sification of export-led industry and human capital.

The Section provided answer to a question regarding finalisation and details of the Vision. The query was posed by MNA Junaid Akbar Khan, and forwarded by the National Assembly Secretariat. A brief on the effect of raising investment on growth was also provided to the Ministry of Finance in the light of the Federal Budget 2014-15.

International Trade & Finance (IT&F) Section

The IT&F section performed following major tasks:

- Updated data for an analysis of the External Sector Performance of the economy. According to provisional data released by the PBS, during July 2014, exports decreased by 7.88% over the same period of the last year and stood

at \$1,930 million. Imports were worth \$3,364 million showing decrease of 11.80% over the same period of 2013. The exchange rate during July remained at Rs 98.65/\$ against Rs 100.47/\$ of the last July.

- Draft account of proceedings phase-I of the 70th Session of the

UNESCAP

- Prepared case of nominations of the 70th session (phase-II) of the UNESCAP
- Prepared material for 20% reduction in strategic lists of the SAARC member states under the SAFTA phase-III.

Economic Appraisal Section

Following activities were carried out:

- Prepared Part-C of the working paper regarding economic and financial

analyses/appraisal for ten projects for consideration of the CDWP

- Officers and staff of the Section performed du-

ties assigned to them for preparation and launching ceremony of the Vision.

Plan Coordination Section

Following major activities were carried out:

- The Section organised frequent meetings to overview preparation and arrangements for the launching ceremony of the Vision. Lists of invitees were prepared and confirmations were taken. Moreover, lists of invitees were received from all sections and forwarded to Member (Social Sector).
- Meetings with the security agencies as well as with other stakeholders in connection with the Vision were arranged.
- Invitation cards were dispatched, and participation was confirmed from invitees.
- Arrangements for the ceremony were checked with the higher manage-

ment.

- Officers and officials performed duties assigned to them for the launching ceremony of the Vision.
- Follow up of decisions taken in the 5th meeting of the Advisory Committee held in July 2014 was carried out by this Section.
- As per sub rule (2) of Rule 25 of the Rules of Business 1973, the Cabinet Division has requested to furnish Year Book of the PD&R for the financial year 2013-14. In this regard, this Section requested all economic/technical sections/wings to provide material/data to be included in the Year Book 2013-14 at the earliest for circulation among the members of the Cabinet. Letters and remind-

ers were issued to the concerned. Material/data from different sections has been received, and is in process of consolidation.

- All sections of the PC were requested to provide write-ups for newsletter of July. Received material was consolidated, forwarded for approval and uploading on the Planning Commission website.
- This Section is also dealing with a Norwegian project 'Framework for Institutional Cooperative Programme (FICP). During August, additional charge was given to the FICP team for 90 days.

Nutrition Section

Following activities were carried out:

- A round table advisory group conference of the Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA) was held at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, on August 17. Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz chaired the conference, and Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Mukhtar Khan co-chaired it. The LANSA is an international research consortium aims at finding out how agriculture and agri-food systems

can be better designed to advance nutrition. Chief of the Section has participated as Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) focal person along with the SUN stakeholders.

- A regular activity regarding estimation of the cost of food basket based on a minimum of 2150 calories at national and provincial levels for August was carried out which showed that:
 - The cost of food basket increased 2.8% at the national level, 2.5% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2.0% in Islamabad, 1.3% in Punjab and a little increase of 0.7% in Balochistan. How-

ever, Sindh is the only province where prices show a decline of 0.4% on Month-on-Month (MoM) basis as compared to July 2014.

- A significant change was seen in comparison to August 2013 which was an increase at the rate of 10% at the national level and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 13% in Balochistan, 11% in Punjab, 8% in Islamabad and 5% in Sindh.

Governance Section

Following activities were carried out in this section:

- Lists of participants of the Governance Sector for the launching ceremony of the Vision were confirmed.
- Assignments in respect of all security/protocol arrangements for the launching ceremony were coordinated and implemented.
- The governance initiatives lauded in the Ministry of Planning Development and Reform were shared with the national universities and leading international governance institutions.
- Research proposal for the civil services administrative reform in Pakistan was prepared.
- A committee to short list applicants for various positions under project 'Reform and Innovation in Government for High Performance' was constituted.
- Meeting with the Asian Development Bank on Financial Risk Assessment in the PSDP-funded projects
- Cost-sharing agreement with the UNDP has been drafted.
- An Evaluation Performance for assessing officers/officials' performance during the launching

ceremony of the Vision was designed and circulated.

- Case for the payment of monthly stipend amount to Young Development Fellows was finalised, and processed to the AGPR.
- Case for release of payment of monthly stipend to interns of the National Internship Programme placed in the Ministry was processed with the Ministry of Federal Education and Technical Training.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section

The Section remained engaged in the following assignments:

- Prepared an update on 'Stock Market Developments'
- Prepared an update on inflation highlighting reasons/causes for increase and decrease in the prices of major food and non-food items
- Finalised consultation with stakeholders for getting their feedback on the 11th Five Year Plan regarding Fiscal, Monetary and Stock Market Developments
- The officers/officials of the Section also performed their assigned duties at the Jinnah Convention Centre at the launching ceremony of

the Vision.

- Prepared monthly review on 'Monetary Development and Growth' for August, 2014
- Tracked trends in Regional Prices of Essential Commodities, Monetary Aggregates, Fiscal and Stock Market Developments

Employment, Research & Foreign Aid Section

Activities carried out were:

- The chapter/write-up relating to the Section was finalised to be included in the document of the Vision.
- A draft of recommendation on 'External Resource Mobilization Policy Paper' based on Efficacy of Loans/Concessional Loans and Grants was prepared, and sent to the Economic Affairs Divi-

sion to be discussed in the said meeting in order to analyse effective utilisation of foreign assistance, especially in infrastructure, energy, and social sectors.

Administration

The Admn-IV Section has processed promotion case

of Five APSs, (BPS-16) as Private Secretary (BPS-

17). which is in progress.

Industries & Commerce Section

This Section performed the following major tasks:

- Performed duties assigned to the Chief & other officers for the
- launching ceremony of the Vision 2025
- Arranged a pre-CDWP meeting with M/o Textile Industry about the pro-

ject 'Garments Technology Training Centre, Karachi'

Water Resources Section

Following major activities were carried out:

- Initial work for releases of the PSDP 2014-15 (1st Qtr)
- Timely disposal of the Supreme Court cases (RBOD-III)
- Technical scrutiny of an inquiry report on the 'Construction of Satpara Dam' submitted by M/o Water and Power
- Desk monitoring and evaluation, scrutiny of bidding documents for the Darawat Dam in Sindh
- Preparation of bidding and other necessary documents for technical and financial audit of the Kachhi Canal Project
- Preparation of presentation on 'Construction of 100 small dams' in Balochistan
- Processing for approval of revised/rationalised cost of 'Raising of Mangla Dam'
- Working papers for the CDWP meeting were prepared
- Implementation of the
- CDWP decisions follow-up meetings (2 to 3) were arranged
- Preparation of up-dated water sector projects briefs (more than 70 projects)
- Submission of the latest status for the PM/President Directives to PM Secretariat/Cabinet Division
- Official correspondence with other ministries, departments, executing agencies and international organisations concerned.

Projects Wing

Activities during August were:

Meetings:

- A meeting chaired by the Director General (Social Sector) was held in the Projects Wing on August 21 to discuss the preparation of Cash/Work Plan 2014-15. The DG HEC also attended the meeting. Various proposals were discussed and the HEC agreed to this proposal:
 - The HEC will provide project-wise list indicating quarterly distribution of Allocation 2014-15 for each project. The justification may also be given for such projects wherein the quarterly funds demand is exceeding continuously, that is, Qtr.1:20%, Qtr.2:20%, Qtr.3:30%, Qtr.4:30%.
- Attended a meeting to discuss the draft PC-I of 'Support and Monitoring of High Impact New Initiatives (HINI) of Vision 2025', and presentation was given by the DG (SS) to Members (Planning Commission) for their feedback.
- A follow-up meeting was held on August 22 with officials of the EPI to discuss the issues/observations identified during the course of monitoring. The DG (SS) chaired the meeting.
- Cash/Work Plans of 10 projects (02 from the Climate Change Division and 08 from the HEC) were received out of which two Cash Work Plans examined, and returned for correction, while Cash/Work Plans received from the HEC were cleared.
- Notifications regarding extension in execution of 36 HEC Projects (issued by the HEC) were examined in this Wing, and found that there was a change in scope of work in 12 projects whereas the HEC had indicated that there was no change in the scope of work. The HEC was requested to withdraw the notifications of these 12 projects.
- Prepared minutes of the meeting on presentation of draft PC-I of project 'Support and Monitoring of High Impact New Initiatives (HINI) of Vision 2025'

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

Two training courses were conducted by the PPMI. Officers of the federal/provincial governments

regarding contract management was given to the participants. This training

participants a greater awareness of project management. In different organisations, Project Preparation and Management has great importance in capacity-building, and achieving sustainable development. Incorporating robust project management techniques will help their organisations accurately align different stages of the project cycle with strategic, organisational and programme goals. 32 officers attended the Course.



and public sector organisations participated in the training. Brief of the course is as under:

- *Tendering and Contract Process in Project Management (11 – 13 August, 2014)*

Main objective of the Course was to cover the key aspects of tendering and contract processes in project management. Detailed knowledge

course was also beneficial for the participants having no prior experience, and who wished to develop their expertise in the field of tendering and contract process. 29 officers attended the Course.

- *Project Preparation and Management (25 – 29 August, 2014)*

This Course was designed to provide par-

- Director General PPMI Dr Muhammad Ali Noor congratulated the participants for successful completion of the courses, and awarded them certificates.



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Planning Commission

**P-BLOCK, PAK SECRETARIAT,
ISLAMABAD.**

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

These tasks were performed by this Section:

- Production of all fertilizer products during July was about 579 thousand tonnes. Out of this urea production was about 429 thousand tonnes (74.1% share of the total production). Other products were: DAP 66 thousand tonnes, CAN 36 thousand tonnes, NP 36 thousand tonnes, SSP six thousand tonnes and various grades of NPK seven thousand tonnes. Imported supplies comprised 76 thousand tonnes of DAP, 0.2 thousand tonne of SOP and 3.0 thousand tonne of MOP.
- Total nutrient offtake during July was about 344 thousand tonnes, which was 18.0% more than July 2013. Among the nutrients, nitrogen offtake was 267 thousand tonnes which increased by 9.1%. Phosphate offtake was 75 thousand tonnes which mounted 65.2% and potash offtake was 1.9 thousand tonnes which increased by 25.7% over July 2013.
- Urea offtake was 487 thousand tonnes which increased by 4.4%, while DAP offtake was 145 thousand tonnes which increased by 77.9% over July 2013.

Food & Agriculture Section

This Section performed these tasks:

- Prepared tentative lists of the VIP Invitees and General Invitees of the Food and Agriculture Sector for the launching ceremony of the Vision, and conveyed to the quarters concerned for further necessary action
- Profiles of different ongoing projects were updated, and conveyed to the Public Investment Programming (PIP) Section regarding meeting of the Senior Management Committee of the Planning Commission. Similarly Joint Secretary (Admn) office was intimated that Chief (F&A) is coordinating with the IFPRI, and as soon as the related project proposal is finalised, it would be submitted to the concerned.
- Prepared and submitted working paper for the Concept Clearance Committee regarding 'Integrated Development Project in GB (IFAD Assistance)'
- Furnished working papers for revised PC-Is of the Livestock Access to Market Project (LAMP) and Capacity Development of Agriculture Extension Services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.