

# Planning Commission Newsletter

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## Macroeconomic Section

During July 2014, officers of this Section attended a workshop on the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM), which would help in building the economic model for Pakistan, and evaluating the impact of policies. Further, a proposal draft Aide Memoire, developed by the World Bank, on 'Scoping Mission on Pakistan: National Financial Inclusion Strategy' was examined. The process of providing daily update on macroeconomic indicators for Federal Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal continued during this month as well to keep the policy-makers vigilant to the happenings and

trends of the Pakistan's economy.

This Section also provided input/comments on the Country Performance Assessment Report 2014, compiled by the Asian Development Bank. Chief Macro Economic Section represented Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform at the stakeholders' meeting at the EAD to discuss the report.

Officers and officials of this Section actively participated in the meetings of Balanced Score Card Committee which is designing BSC for the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The BSC aims at improving

the systems, procedures and efficiency of the Ministry. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2014, General Manager NESCOM Mr Naveed Anjum imparted training to the BSC Committee for effective BSC formulation. The Section actively participated in the meetings related to the promotional campaign and launching ceremony of Pakistan Vision 2025, which would be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2014, at the Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad.

## International Trade & Finance (IT&F) Section

This Section performed following major activities:

- Updated data for analysis of the External Sector Performance of the economy. According to provisional data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, during June-July 2014, exports increased by 2.75% over the same period of the last year and stood at \$25,132 million. Imports were worth \$45.113 million showing an increase

of 0.36% over the same period of the previous year. The exchange rate during June 2014 remained at Rs 98.46/\$ against Rs 98.57/\$ during June 2013

- Draft Account of Proceedings of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session (phase-I) of UNESCAP
- Prepared case of nominations of the 70<sup>th</sup> session (phase-II) of UNESCAP
- Prepared material for 20% reduction in stra-

tegic lists of the SAARC member states under SAFTA phase-III

## Plan Coordination Section

Following major activities were carried out in the Section:

- The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Advisory Committee M/o Planning, Development and Reform was arranged by this Section on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2014 in the Auditorium of P-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal. Minutes of the meeting were prepared and circulated after approval.
- Implementation of decisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee was carried out by this Section. All concerned were directed to carry out necessary actions in accordance with the decisions taken in the meeting.
- A lot of activities, such as frequent meetings, were carried out by officers/officials of the Section regarding preparation and launching ceremony of Pakistan Vision

2025. Lists of invitees for the launching ceremony were provided to the Member SS (Social Sector).

- Mr Abdul Ahad joined this Section as Assistant Chief in place of Ms Naila Jabeen, who was transferred from this section to be posted in the MP&FP Section.

## Public Investment Authorization (PIA) Section

Following activities were carried out in this Section:

- A meeting of the CDWP was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Reform/Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Prof Ahsan Iqbal. The forum considered ten projects and three position papers. Out of these, seven schemes worth an estimated cost of Rs 8718.815 million, were approved. Three position papers were also approved. One scheme worth Rs 122.585 billion was recommended to the ECNEC for approval, which is the competent forum for this. Two schemes were deferred. Infrastructure, energy and social sector projects were given priority.
- The first ECNEC meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2014 in which twelve projects costing approximately Rs 437.282 billion were considered and approved. Out of the total, nine schemes related to the infrastructure sector consisting of energy, T&C and water resources

sectors. Three schemes related to the Governance and Higher Education Sectors.

- The second ECNEC meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 in which two projects worth approximately Rs 148.137 billion were considered and approved. These schemes related to the infrastructure sector consisting of the T&C and PP&H sectors.

## Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section

The MP&FP Section remained engaged in following assignments:

- Prepared an update on inflation highlighting increase and decrease in the prices of major food and non-food items
- Prepared an update on stock market reflecting analysis
- Prepared Monthly Review 'Monetary Developments and Growth' for the period July-June 2013-14
- Consultations continued with stakeholders for getting their feedback on the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan on Fiscal, Monetary and Stock Market Development.
- Lists of stakeholders con-

cerned, along with VIPs, were prepared for inviting them to the Vision 2025 launching ceremony.

- Coordination continued with invitees was ensured for their participation in the Vision 2025 launching ceremony.

## Governance Section

Following activities were carried out in the section:

- Pre-CDWP meeting on the project 'Change of Base of National Accounts from 2005-06 to 2015-16' was arranged and minutes were prepared.
- Working paper of project 'Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement (PSLM) Survey-2<sup>nd</sup> Revised' of the Statistics Division was finalised, and forwarded to the PIA Section for placing it in the next CDWP meeting.
- Draft summary for the Secretaries' Committee on review of functions of ministries/divisions was prepared.
- Draft 'Technical Cooperation Agreement' between the governments of Germany and Pakistan was examined, and comments were forwarded to the IT&F Section.
- Brief of chapter 'Governance, Institutional Reform and Modernisation of Public Sector' of the Vision 2025 was prepared, and forwarded to the Plan Coordination Section.
- Case for expeditious approval of unapproved projects, reflected in the PSDP 2014-15, was processed internally as well as with ministries concerned, and information in respect of new initiatives of the Planning Commission was prepared.
- A presentation on Balanced Score Card for the Committee on finalising Balance Score Card and presentation regarding 'Social Media as Catalyst of Development Process and Discussion' in context of Vision 2025 for officers of the Ministry were arranged.
- List of participants of Vision 2025 launching ceremony was prepared, and forwarded to the Plan Coordination Section.
- Case for views/comments on draft 'Pakistan Disability Act' was processed with the provincial governments and their social welfare departments.
- Status of actions taken on the Second SAARC, Cabinet Secretaries meeting held on 26-27 April, 2014 in Dhaka (Bangladesh) was forwarded to the IT&F Section.
- A meeting of Non-Lending Technical Assistance Committee of the Economic Affairs Division on proposals of the Punjab government was attended.
- Research proposal regarding the Civil Administration Reform Group Project was prepared.
- Brief for the Standing Committee of the Planning, Development and Reform was prepared, and attended meeting of the Committee.
- List of governance institutions of the world was prepared.
- Proposal and tender document for installation of the Bio-Metric System in the M/o Planning, Development and Reform was prepared.
- PC-I of the project 'Support and Monitoring of High Impact-New Initiatives of Vision-2025' was examined.

## Industries & Commerce Section

The Section performed following major tasks:

- Court case regarding Islampur Swat to be declared Model Village. The case was before District/Sessions Judge District Swat, KPK.
- Concept clearance of the National Mineral Cadastre system, letter issued to the Foreign Aid and TR Section
- Coordination on different matters relating to industries and commerce with counterpart members/divisions and relevant sections of the PD&R is also carried out.
- Draft minutes of the CDWP meeting regarding red chillies project submitted to the Member (S&T).
- Meeting with Minister and Secretary Planning, Development and Reform, regarding finalisation of list of participants for launching ceremony of Vision 2025.

## Nutrition Section

During this month, following activities were carried out:

- A meeting was conducted in the Chief Nutrition office on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2014, with all stakeholders of the Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) to discuss the process and funding mechanism for participation in the SUN Global Gathering – to be held from 16-18 November – and Second International Conference on Nutrition (*ICN2*) – from 19-21 November, 2014 in Rome, Italy.
- A regular activity of estimation of the cost of Food Basket based on a minimum of 2150 calories at the national and provincial levels has been carried out, which showed following findings.
  - The cost of national Food Basket increased in July 2014 all over the country, and it

showed a significant change in comparison to the previous month, as the increase is of 3.8 percent. Price of Food Basket in Islamabad showed an increase of 6.1 percent while in Punjab 6.3 percent, Baluchistan 4.7 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) 3.3 percent and Sindh 2.7 percent.

## Water Resources Section

Following major activities were carried out:

- Preliminary works for releases of the PSDP 2014-15 (all executing agencies are requested to submit 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter demand).
- Finalisation of the latest physical and financial progress of all water sectors' projects up to June 2014.
- About eight working papers for the CDWP meeting and five ECNEC summaries were prepared.
- Preparation of updated water sector projects briefs (more than 70 projects).
- Submission of the latest status for PM/President Directives to PM Secretariat/Cabinet Division.
- Official correspondence with other ministries, departments, executing agencies and international organisations concerned.

## Food & Agriculture Section

Major activities of this section were:

- List of invitees of the Food and Agriculture Sector for the launching ceremony of Vision 2025 was furnished.
- Compiled one-page brief, questions, answers and 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan concerning the Food and Agriculture Sector for meeting on the subject of 'Progress Review Meeting of Launching Ceremony of Vision 2025'.
- Sent a copy of action plan to the quarters concerned about 'Expeditious Approval of Un-approved Projects reflected in PSDP 2014-15'.
- Attended annual meeting of the Agricultural Credit Advisory Committee (ACAC) 2014-15' held on July 12 at the State Bank of Pakistan, BSC Lahore Office.

## Manpower Section

Major activities of the Section were:

- Proposed goals and targets on substantive development for Post-2015 Development Agenda were finalised with the consultant of sponsor, and submitted to the quarter concerned for further necessary action accordingly.
- Comments on the National Training Ordinance (Amendment 1980) supplied by the National Training Bureau were offered keeping in view the government policy.
- Approval of Un-approved project in the PSDP 2014-15
- Comments on project proposal for the Japanese Request Survey JFY 2015 were offered to concerned.
- Progress/review meetings of Vision 2025 were conducted with the stakeholders for necessary action.

## Education Section

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has desired to launch the National Educational Endowment Fund (NEEF) with an initial seed money of Rs 1.00 billion. However, the provinces/area governments are also expected to make contribution. The purpose of this initiative is to address the educational needs of less privileged strata of the society. In order to take all stakeholders on board, a consultative meeting of the representatives from all

provinces/area governments was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014 under the chairmanship of Member (Social Sector) Planning Commission at the Conference Room, P-Block Islamabad. The participants presented the view point of their respective provincial/area governments, and unanimously supported the proposed initiative of the NEEF, which would be established on the pattern of the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund

(PEEF), already under implementation of the Punjab government. After lengthy deliberations, it was decided that the provincial/area governments shall provide details of similar programmes/initiatives under implementation by them, and in next meeting, the PEEF shall arrange a presentation regarding its activities, including strategy, targets, achievements and impact etc.

## Employment, Research & Foreign Aid Section

The Section furnished its comments/feedback on the relevant agenda item of the Draft Account of Proceedings Phase-I of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission (23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2014) with the views that the document

'Draft Strategic Framework for the Biennium 2016-17' discussed in the Phase-I of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission sets the direction on how the Economic and Social Commission for Asia &

Pacific (ESCAP) will provide platform for consultations and play its role for the implementation of set goals to achieve sustainable development in Asia and Pacific.

## Economic Appraisal Section

In this Section, following activities were carried out:

- Prepared Part-C of the working paper regarding Economic and Financial analysis/appraisal of 16 projects for consideration

by the CDWP.

- This Section participated in various pre and post CDWP meetings as a member, and presented required view points on different

schemes relevant to the Transport & Communication, Education, Energy and PP&H Section.

## National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

Following tasks were performed by this Section:

- Production of all fertilizer products during Jun 2014 was about 552 thousand tonnes. Out of which, urea production was 406, DAP 67, CAN 36, SSP 5, Nitrophos 35 and various grades of NPK were four thousand tonnes. Dispatches of imported fertilizers from port were 140 thousand tonnes, comprising of 29 thousand tonnes of urea, 109 thousand tonnes of DAP and 1.1 thousand tonnes of

SOP and one thousand tonnes of MOP.

- Total nutrients off-take during June 2014 was about 313 thousand tonnes, which witnessed a decrease of 19.7% over corresponding period of the last year. Nitrogen off-take was 275 thousand tonnes which decreased by 10.7%. Phosphate off-take was 36 thousand tonnes during June 2014 which decreased by 54.1% over June 2013. Potash off-take

was only one thousand tonnes which witnessed a decrease of 41% over the previous year.

- Urea off-take was 512 thousand tonnes against 568 thousand tonnes during Jun 2013, which exhibited a decrease of 9.9%. DAP off-take was 60 thousand tonnes against 150 thousand tonnes during June 2013, which reflected a decrease of 59.6% over June 2013.

## Social Welfare Section

Mr Nisar Ahmed, Assistant Chief, Social Welfare Section was promoted as Deputy Chief. This post fell

vacant after selection of Mr Muhammad Arshad as Director General (HR), M/o Law, Justice & Human

Rights through the FPSC, Islamabad.

## Projects Wing

The Social Sector of the Projects Wing had undertaken following activities:

- Reply to the National Assembly Starred question No. 138 regarding the schemes initiated by the government for improving the socio-economic conditions of the people during the last five years was prepared and circulated to the quarters concerned.
- Four cash plans of the HEC for the FY 2014-15 have been vetted by the Wing.
- Meeting with the Executive Director HEC on implementation status of projects executed by University of Peshawar held on July 7, 2014
- Draft PC-I of support and monitoring of the High Impact New Initiatives (HINI) of Vision 2025 has
- been prepared and submitted to the Governance Section.
- Two meetings with Chairman, Prime Minister's Inspection Commission (PMIC) to discuss the implementation status of projects funded through the PSDP, delay in completion, and measures taken to prevent the delay and cost escalation of the projects.
- Information provided to Advisor (DB) Senate Standing Committee on completed projects with cost over-run amounting Rs 5 billion and above.
- Meeting with representatives of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Cell held to resolve the issues of cost reconciliation and funds utilisation.
- Meeting with an Italian

delegation regarding monitoring plan of the Olive Plantation Project phase-I, and format of the Project was finalised for its evaluation.

- The Monitoring Report data regarding funds utilisation of the project 'Sewerage and Water Supply Multan City (PM Package)' was provided to the Council Section for an onward transmission to the Lahore High Court, Multan Bench.
- Comments on salary releases to employees of the Population Welfare Programme KPK, furnished to the Council Section for submission to the Peshawar High Court.

## Management Information System (MIS)

- The MIS Section was assigned the task of preparing a report for the Prime Minister office on the PSDP projects monthly progress updates. In this connection, a report was compiled and forwarded to the PM office on the progress of the PSDP projects for
- June 2014.
- With the start of new financial year 2014-15, this Section updated PMES according to the new PSDP by adding new Projects in the system and entering allocations of all the projects in the system. The MIS Section is also facilitating

the Project Directors by providing them technical support for using the PMES system in preparation of their Cash and Work plans for FY 2014-15.

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