

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic

During the month of December, 2013, this section was involved in preparation of Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18. Several meetings were organized to expedite the process.

Macroeconomics Section convened two review meetings for 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 and Pakistan Vision 2025 during the first week of December dated 5th and 6th December, 2013 respectively. Both meetings were chaired by the Secretary, M/o Planning, Development & Reform. It was decided that all sections and conveners of Pakistan Vision 2025 would submit chapters for Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 by 11th December, 2013.

To extend the process of consultation, a team headed by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform along with the Secretary, M/o Planning, Development and Reform, Chief (Macro) and other participants had a meeting on 20th December, 2013 in Darbar Hall, Civil Secretariat, Lahore with Planning & Development Department, Government of the Punjab. Minister for Planning development and Re-

form said that Pakistan Vision 2025 an economic plan that covers all aspects of our society and should include culture, fine arts and our values also. While formulating 11th Five Year Plan, we shall also see how promises made in PML (N) manifesto are to be achieved because the government is answerable to the people of Pakistan about these claims of manifesto. Federal government will work in close coordination with the provinces to achieve these shared objectives. There will be separate chapters of provincial visions in the Pakistan Vision 2025

This Section also arranged two review meetings on 30th and 31st December, 2013 to review the progress of Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18. First meeting was chaired by Khalid Ikram, Consultant, ADB and it was decided that all Chiefs/Deputy Chiefs Incharge would provide short statements of the present situation relevant to their sector in addition to the strategy to improve the situation, quantifiable targets/goals for the year 2025 and prepare boxes on best practices in other countries. Second review meeting was chaired by Prof. Ahsan

Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development and Reform who directed that each economic and technical section should give their best input to be incorporated in the broad themes of the Vision and 11th Five Year Plan. Some sectors like ICT (Information Communication Technology), Housing and Urban Development, Governance, Climate Change etc. are missing in the Vision. The recommendations of the sub-working groups in the Conference of 1000+ and reports of Pakistan Business Council (PBC) may also be taken into consideration. The sections should come up with quantitative and qualitative situation analysis. Quantifiable targets for the Vision and Plan and provide best practices adopted by the other countries of the world may also be brought into consideration.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy

During December 2013, Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy Section mainly performed following activities:-

- Carried out a Review of Consolidated Fiscal Developments during July-September, 2013
- Prepared Monthly Monetary Development report
- Prepared a Brief for Secretary, Planning, Development and Reform on the

Cabinet Summary titled 'Report on Dismal Performance of FBR for the year 2012-13' for ECC.

- Carried out consultative process with Ministries/Agencies, Provinces/NGOs/experts, sought views/comments and updated the same for 11th Five Years Plan 2013-18 regarding draft Chapters on

- Fiscal and Monetary Development
- Deepening and Diversifying the Financial Sector
- Compiled Regional Prices information
- Tracked trend in Prices, Monetary Aggregates, Fiscal Policy and Stock Market
- Worked on Tariff Rationalization exercise

Public Investment Authorization Section

A CDWP meeting was held on 26th December, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Reform / Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The forum considered Twelve (12) projects and three (3) position papers. Out of these, eight (8) schemes were approved

with estimated cost of Rs. 4.9 billion. Four (04) schemes with estimated cost of Rs. 33.6 billion were recommended to the ECNEC for approval being within the competency of the ECNEC.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting

was held on 31st December, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister. In this meeting ten (10) projects were approved. The approved schemes included five (5) projects of Energy Sector, three (3) of Water Resources and one each of Education and HEC Sector.

International Trade and Finance Section

This section performed the following major activities during the month:

- Updated data for the analysis of External Sector Performance of the economy. According to provisional data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statics (PBS), exports increased by 3.10% from same period in 2012 and stood at \$ 10,367 million during July-November, 2013. Imports decreased by 0.77% from the same period in 2012 and stood at \$ 18,110 million during July-November, 2013. The exchange rate during November, 2013 remained at Rs. 107.50/\$ against Rs.95.99/\$ during November, 2012.

- Prepared the 1st draft of the chapter on Balance of Payments for the 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18
- Organized a meeting of sub group on trade facilitation for the Working Group of Strategic Regional Initiative
- Prepared a compilation of feedbacks received from the sub group on trade facilitation
- Prepared a brief on Balance of Payments 2012-13 for the Standing Committee Meeting
- Selected research topics and prepared their write up for National Defense University
- Prepared a write up of

- deliberations in D-8 Summit
- Prepared a brief on Pak-Afghanistan Bilateral Trade Relation
- Prepared a Summary for ECC
- Preparation for 15th Session of Pak-China Joint Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation (JEC)
- Prepared Summary for PM on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
- Prepared Agenda for Plenary Session for Chinese Delegation to visit Pakistan from 6-12 January, 2014

Plan Coordination Section

Following major activities were carried out by the section during the month of December, 2013:

- Regarding ECC (Economic Coordination Committee) meetings held on 11th & 17th December, 2013, summaries for the meetings were circulated, briefs collected for discussion in the meetings.
- Material regarding Year Book 2012-13 was consolidated and draft of the same were circulated among the members of review committee constituted for this task. Suggested changes were incorporated and final draft was put up for approval of the competent authority.
- Chief, Plan Coordination remained engaged in the following major activities:
 - Performed monitoring visits to Lodhran and Lahore
 - Attended workshop of Top Management Forum on “ICT in SMEs for Innovation and Productivity Growth” held in Seoul, Korea

- Attended a review meeting of 21st & 22nd Combined Periodic Report on International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of racial Discrimination (ICERD) held in Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

- Regarding Norwegian Project, this section worked on ongoing and new projects.
- A seminar on “Lessons from Korean Development Experience” was organized and attended by the section. It was chaired by



Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform. The session was attended by the Secretary, Ambassador of Republic of Korea Prof. Song Jong Hwan and larger number of officers from Federal Ministries as

well as researchers. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Jwa Sung Hee.



Science & Technology Section

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 20th February 2013 under the chairmanship of Member (S&T), Planning Commission to discuss the projects to be considered in CDWP meeting.

1. The section processed the following working papers which were approved by CDWP in its meeting held on 21st February 2013:

- Development of Probiotic Laboratory
- Strengthening of Engineering Programs at

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore and Sahiwal

- Establishment of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, at Gujar Khan
 - Strengthening and up-gradation of University of Engineering and Technology Taxila and its Sub-Campus
2. The PC-1 of the project titled “Strengthening of Existing Earthquake Engineering Centre in the University of

Engineering and Technology, Peshawar (Revised)” has been examined and working paper was prepared.

3. A PC-I of the project “Up-Gradation of Fan Development Institute (FDI), Gujrat has been examined and comments / views were forwarded to the concerned Section.

Governance Section

During the month of December, 2013 following major activities were carried out:

- PC-I of the project titled “Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance” was finalized and Working Paper of the said project was prepared and presented in the CDWP meeting. Minutes of the CDWP meeting were prepared.
- A Pre-CDWP meeting on the project titled “Project for Improvement of Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA Phase-II -Revised)” was arranged, working paper and minutes were prepared.
- A meeting of the committee constituted by CDWP to review/rationalize cost of trainings and equipments of the project titled “Strengthening Pakistan Urban Disasters Capacity” was organized and its minutes were prepared.
- Response of Economic Affairs and Statistics Divisions on the project titled “Technical Support Unit for Pak-Italy Debt SWAP Agreement (PIDSA- II Revised)” was examined and forwarded to PIA Section.
- Comments on the proposal of Finance Division regarding extension in the Project life of Institutional Strengthening of Finance Division Project (ISFDP) were prepared and forwarded to Finance Division.
- The second meeting of the Working Group on “Institutional Reforms and Governance” and 1st meeting of its Sub-Working Group “Civil Service Reforms” on preparation of Pakistan’s Vision-2025 and 11th Five Year Plan were arranged and its minutes were prepared and circulated to its members.
- Chapter on “Institutional Reforms and Governance” for Vision 2025 and the 11th Five Year Plan in light of deliberations/recommendations of 1000+ National Conference was drafted and forwarded to Macroeconomics Section.
- Meeting of National Steering and Coordination Committee (NSCC) for selection of Young Development Fellows under the Project titled “Young Development Fellows Programme” was arranged and minutes were prepared.
- Draft KPIs for Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform were prepared and submitted to the competent authority.
- Comments on preparation of 21st and 22nd combined Periodic Report on International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) were prepared and forwarded to Plan Coordination section.
- Concept Note on partnership between Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Institutional and Structural Reforms was examined and forwarded to competent authority.
- A proposal on suggestions for Development of Pakistan with Short to Mid Term Planning was examined and comments were forwarded to Macroeconomic Section. An updated report on performance of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform was forwarded to Plan Coordination Section.

Industries and Commerce Section

Following activities took place in Industries & Commerce Section during the month of December.

- Prepared project profiles of Development projects of Ministry of Textile and Commerce, Ministry of Industries & Production and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources
- Prepared brief for Minister/ Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform on ECC Summary titled “Ghee Export to Afghanistan”
- Prepared Presentation and Final draft of 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 of Ministry of Industries & Production, Ministry of Textile & Commerce and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources (Mineral Sector)
- Prepared comments on PC-I of the project titled “NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology (Naushahro feroze) Sindh”

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Food & Agriculture Section

Following major activities were carried out during the month;

- Collected physical progress regarding following on-going schemes/ development projects:
 - Establishment of “Animal Quarantine Station” at Gwadar
 - Establishment of “Horticulture Research Insitutite” at Khuzdar, Balochistan.
 - Establishment of “Horticulture Unit for Nursery Fruit Plant and Vegetables Seed Certification System in Pakistan (2010-11)”
 - Establishment of “Livestock Research Institute (LRI)” at Turbat, Baluchistan.
- Collected data from stakeholders for Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan
- Provided data to the section concerned for “Research Topics-2014/15” for National Defense University.
- Prepared and submitted material regarding “Meeting of conveners of Working Groups with Dr. Khalid Ikram, ADB consultant” on preparation of Pakistan Vision 2025.
- Prepared and submitted chapter “Agriculture Development” for 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18.
- Attended consultative workshop regarding launching of Scaling-up-Nutrition (SUN) held on 16-18, December 2013 at Bhurban, Murree.
- Presentation about the project “Application of

Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS Technology for Crop Forecasting and Estimation” was attended and suggestions were communicated to the SUPARCO by representative of Food and Agriculture Section.

- Pre-CDWP Meeting on project “Capacity Development of Agriculture Extension Services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Province” was arranged and issues related were discussed for further processing.
- A meeting regarding Sindh Agriculture Growth Project (Modified) was arranged under the Chairmanship of Member (F&A) for further discussion and clarification regarding the Modified PC-I.

Education Section

Prepared and submitted working papers of the four development projects pertaining to Education Sector which were considered in the CDWP meeting held on 29-11-2013.

- Construction of buildings, Provision of furniture and equipment for 09 intermediate colleges of district Kotli, Azad Kashmir (Revised) was considered & approved by CDWP at a cost of Rs. 543.844 million. The project aims at strengthening & upgradation of intermediate colleges in the District Kotli, AJ&K. The scope of project envisaged provision of furniture & equipment and construction of additional classrooms to strengthen these institutions.
- The IDB assisted project titled Basic Education for All (BEA) in AJ&K at a cost of Rs. 1224.093 million was approved by ECNEC. The project aims at provision of access to free quality basic education services for children in un-served, under-served poor and disadvantaged communities by increasing access, retention, learning achievement & completion rates at primary level and strengthen school management structures of already functional 60 primary schools in AJ&K.
- The Project titled reconstruction & Rehabilitation of 277 flood damaged school buildings in 10 districts of AJ&K assisted by Islamic Development Bank costing Rs. 3893.518 million was also

considered by the CDWP. The project aims at reconstruction / rehabilitation of 277 flood damaged school buildings to make these institutions fully functional.

- The project of establishment of F.G College of Home Economics, Management Sciences & Specialized Disciplines, F-11/1 Islamabad was approved in principle at a cost of Rs. 500.00 million. The College shall aim at provision of educational opportunities in specialized subjects and general scheme of studies may be minimized. The project will be provided funds in PSDP 2014-15 being non-provision of funds during the current financial year.

National Fertilizer Development Centre

Following are the major developments/news with respect to fertilizer sector of Pakistan:

- Total fertilizer nutrient offtake during November 2013 was about 558 thousand tonnes, which increased by 55 percent as against November 2012.

Nitrogen offtake was 350 thousand tonnes which increased by 57.7 percent and phosphate offtake was 207 thousand tonnes which increased by 51.4 percent. Potash offtake decreased 11.7 percent as compared to November 2012.

- Urea offtake during November 2013 was 551 thousand tonnes, which increased by 68.6 percent, while DAP offtake was 406 thousand tonnes, which increased by 63.4 percent over November 2012.

Nutrition Section

Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform/Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, launched Pakistan Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Movement on 17th December, 2013 to overcome malnutrition problem which is prevalent in the country. In the launching ceremony, stakeholders participated from all over the country: Federal/Provincial Government and Non Government Departments/ Organizations, UN Agencies, Donors, IN-

GOs/ NGOs, Civil Society, Researchers etc. and Dr. David Nabarro, SUN Coordinator (UN SUN Secretariat) through Skype. The Banner was signed by all the participants as a souvenir. Planning Commission being apex body in the country is the focal institute in Pakistan SUN Movement and coordination is important component of SUN initiatives with the following focus:

- Bring people together to work effectively through

functioning with multi-sector, multi stakeholders platforms

- Putting policies and laws in place to establish a coherent policy and legal framework
- Implementing and aligning the programs with common objectives and an agreed framework for results
- Mobilizing resources from domestic resources supplemented with external assistance

Projects Wing

Meetings

- Director General (Social Sector) Projects Wing held a meeting with HEC regarding processing and its approval of the remaining cash/work plans for the year 2013-14.
- DG (SS) held another meeting with project authorities of the projects being executed by UET Peshawar, regarding improvement in the civil work and HRD of the Jalozai campus of UET project.
- DG (SS) Projects Wing held a meeting with the Agriculture University Peshawar regarding improvement in the Funds allocation and releases

and completion of the remaining civil work in the 15% permissible limit of the approved Cost.

Trainings

- In the endeavor to bring all the federal ministries online in the loop of Project Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES), Ministry of National Food Security & Research was brought online by conducting a two days training session at Islamabad on 2nd and 3rd December, 2013
- A refresher training session was conducted for Project Directors / Officers of Ministry of Industry & Production on the use of Project Monitoring

& Evaluation System (PMES) at Islamabad on 16th and 17th December, 2013.

Monitoring

Social and Infrastructure sections of the Projects Wing have monitored 29 development projects during the months of December; 2013. However the Other Sector has not undertaken the monitoring exercise due to not approval of the monitoring program.

Cash/Work Plan (2013-14)

Projects Wing has vetted and cleared 21 Cash/work Plans received from different Ministries/Divisions during the month of December, 2013.



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