

Newsletter Planning Commission

Macroeconomic Section

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The economic outlook for September was formulated, which highlighted state of economic indicators during this month. Moreover, a report was generated to show adverse effects of floods on the agriculture of the affected areas, and the Gross Domestic Product. The report indicated that 0.2 per cent of the GDP was lost due to the last floods.

In connection with the preparation of the 11th Five Year Plan, a meeting was held to review the Plan. Comments and suggestions of the meeting have also been incorporated.

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal gave presentation to Prime Minister Muhammad

Nawaz Sharif regarding performance of the PD&R. This Section also gave valuable contribution to the presentation about key economic indicators for the first quarter of 2014-15 along with identification of challenges and opportunities for achieving targets.

Economic Sections

For a meeting of the Monetary and Fiscal Policies Coordination Board, the Section prepared material about 'Impact of Monetary Policy on Investment and Growth'.

Further, this Section out-

lined salient features of the Pakistan Vision 2025, which was to be presented to a Standing Committee of the Senate. This Section provided comments on minutes of a meeting of the PAK-EU Joint Commission – held on June 24 this year related to 'Political and Economic Developments in Pakistan and the EU', and 'Trade & Investment'. The 10th World Islamic Economic Forum held in Dubai on October 28-30, 2014. This Section prepared material about 'Pakistan's Economic Development. Challenges and Prospects' which was to be discussed and presented in the WIEF.

This Section has been assigned responsibility to provide secretariat services for the project 'Pakistan Vision 2025 – Management and Performance Delivery unit'. Short-listing and selection process of candidates for the Project was also assigned to this Section in October.

Plan Coordination Section

Preparation of the Year Book 2013-14 of the Ministry for onward submission to the Cabinet Division is in process. This Section collected material from sections/wings concerned of the Ministry, and forwarded to the Committee Members for review and checking consistency of the content. For the purpose, several meetings - under the chairmanship of Member (Development Communication) Ayesha Javed

Eirabie – were arranged, and coordination was carried out with all the members. Moreover, received chapters were also forwarded to the Editor for consolidation of the draft Year Book.

Newsletter of the Planning Commission is consolidated by this Section. During October, material was collected from all sections/wings of the Ministry for the newsletter of September, consolidated and uploaded on the offi-

cial website after approval from the competent authority.

Framework of the Institutional Cooperation Programme (FICP): A progress review meeting on the FICP was arranged under the chairmanship of Chief Plan Coordination section/Project Director Dr Muhammad Afzal to review the ongoing projects, and new projects were also discussed.

Public Investment Authorization Section

In October, three meetings of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and one meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) were held

The first meeting of the CDWP, held on October 3, under the chairmanship of Minister PD&R/Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Prof Ahsan Iqbal considered eleven proiects. Out of these, nine schemes worth an estimated cost of Rs 9041.30 million were approved. One scheme was deferred, while another was withdrawn by its sponsors. The priority areas were higher education, governance and health sector projects.

The second meeting was held on October 20 with Prof Ahsan Igbal in the chair. The forum considered seven projects. Out of these, five schemes with an estimated cost of Rs 3464.317 million were approved. One scheme pertaining to the health sector was recommended to the ECNEC, while another was deferred. Health and infrastructure sector projects were given priority.

The third meeting, held on October 27 under the chairmanship of Prof Ahsan Igbal, considered eight projects. Out of these, three were deferred. projects to cost Rs 5.8 billion were approved, while four projects of an approxi-

mate worth Rs 124 billion were recommended to the ECNEC for approval due to cost competency, whereas one project was deferred. The T&C and Governance sectors were accorded priority. The ECNEC met on October 2 and considered four projects worth approximately Rs 131.664 billion. Only one project, relating to the infrastructure sector, was ap-

proved. Position paper of

a project regarding the

health sector was con-

sidered for modification.

Remaining two projects

Public Investment Programming Section

The first quarter review meetings with other ministries/divisions regarding the Public Sector Develop-

2014-15 were held on Oc- gress of the budgeted tober 27^h and 29 with Prof projects in the PSDP Ahsan lobal in the chair. These meeting assessed ment Programme (PSDP) financial and physical pro-

2014-15.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section

The MP&FP Section carried following major tasks:

- Prepared two updates on the 'Stock Market Developments', and inflation highlighting reasons/causes for increase and decrease in the prices of major food and non-food items
- Updated and finalised chapter 'Fiscal, Monetary and Stock Market Developments' for the 11th Five Year Plan in the light of discussions/ decisions taken in a meeting - held on October 21 - with Chief Economist Dr Muhammad Nadeem Javaid
- Prepared monthly review on 'Monetary Development and Growth' for July -October 2014
- · Carried out a review of the Consolidated Fiscal Developments July-September based on the information released by the Finance Division, and prepared a report o n t h e 'Consolidated Federal and Provincial Budgetary Operation for July-September, 2014'
- Prepared brief/summary regarding 'Review of Key Economic Indicators' for Secretary PD&R Hassan Nawaz Tarar for the Eco-

- nomic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet
- Tracked trends in the regional prices of essential commodities, monetary aggregates, fiscal and stock market developments
- Chief (MP&FP) attended a training session 'PIFRA System for Monitoring of PSDP Projects, conducted by the FAPS Directorate. Islamabad, held on October 17 in the Planning Commission

International Trade and Finance Section

Updated data for an analysis of the External Sector performance of the economy: According to provisional data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports decreased by 10.16 per cent and stood at \$6,015 million during the first Quarter of the FY2014-15. Imports increased by 12.01 per cent and stood at \$12,519 during million July-September 2014. The exchange rate during September remained at Rs 102.34/\$ against Rs 105.24/\$ in September, 2013.

- Prepared a brief about the Pak-Afghan bilateral trade relations
- Attended two interministerial meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the Pakistan -Afghanistan relations. and the 19th session of the Pak-Iran Joint Eco-
- nomic Commission (JEC) in the Economic Affairs Division
- Developed a write-up about the External Sector performance, and prepared a brief for the Pak-Iran Joint Commis-Economic sion (JCE)
- Worked on the modalities visit of the Turkish Experts to Pakistan

Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section

National Coordination Committee on MDGs: A meeting of the National Coordination Committee on the MDGs was held on October 17 in the Auditorium of the Ministry. Convener of the parliamentary task force on MDGs/SDGs Ms Marriyum Aurangzeb chaired the meeting along with Member Social Sector -Zafar. Representatives from the federal and provincial governments, development partners, donor agencies and think-tanks also attended the meeting. The MDGs Acceleration Framework (MAF) regarding MDG 2 'Achieving Universal Primary Education' was discussed in detail. The key features of the MAF included crosssectoral focus and deter-

mining priorities and appreciating provincial diversities. Important findings regarding MDG 2 included difference of endowments among provinces, unavailability of uniform data, improvement in the financial allocations and provinces having planning framework and sector plans.

Consultative Workshop on & Devolution Dr Naeem-uz Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in Karachi and Lahore: Building on the national consultation, the Ministry of PD&R and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) are jointly holding a series of provincial consultations (one in each province) with the technical experts and policymakers on the pro-

posed dimensions, indicators, cut-off points and weight to be assigned to each indicator of the MPI. Objectives of the workshop included:

- MPI can help align federal-provincial policy tools, for example, for better resource flow, N/PFCs;
- Introduction to the construction of the MPI - with a view to seek feedback of policymakers. academicians and researchers; and
- How to tackle capacity issues in analytical challenges and their implications in methodological terms.

Economic Appraisal Section

-C of the working paper regarding economic and financial analyses/ appraisal for 22 projects

This Section prepared Part for consideration of the presented required view CDWP.

It also participated in about 10 pre and post CDWP meetings as a member and

point.

Employment, Research & Foreign Aid Section

This Section participated and raised labour-related issues in a meeting, held on October 16, regarding 'Developing Social Protection Policies for Provinces/Special Areas'. The meeting has provided an opportunity to learn from the Brazilian experience of policymaking in social

protection, service delivery and financing.

Following instructions of Chief Economist Dr Muhammad Nadeem Javaid, a restructured draft chapter of the Five Year Plan 2013-18 on Employment and Skill Development was prepared.

The zero draft of 'ADB

Country Partnership Strategy 2015-19' has been reviewed, and comments have been sent to the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) following directions given in the consultative meeting, held on October 16, amongst the ADB and all stakeholders.

Technical Sections

Governance Section

Working papers for the **CDWP** meetings on 'Project for Security Improvement in Karachi Port and Port Qasim for Installation of Three Fixed and One Mobile Scanners by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)' of the Revenue Division; 'Public Sector Enterprise Reforms (PSER)' of the Finance Division; 'Up-graduation of the Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre 3rd Revised' of the Ministry of PD&R' and 'Pakistan Social, and Living Standard Measurement (PSLM) Survey-2nd Revised' of the Statistics Division were prepared and presented in the CDWP meeting. Also minutes of the meetings were drafted.

Working papers for the pre -CDWP meetings on pro-'Establishment of Emergency Service Rescue-1122 Centers in ICT, Islamabad' of the Interior Division, a n d 'Development of Integrated Transit Trade Management Systems (ITTMS) under ADB's Regional Improving Border Service Project' of the Revenue Division were prepared, and minutes of the meetings were issued accordingly.

- The first meeting of the Committee on Regulatory Framework in Pakistan was arranged, and report of its findings was prepared.
- The orientation sessions for senior management of the Planning Commission on 'Project to Improve Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA)' systems as well as for the Principal Accounting Officers of ministries/divisions were arranged.
- Information about meeting of the Standing Committee of the Senate on Ministry of PD&R, and the National Assembly un-starred question was prepared, and forwarded to the Plan Coordination Section.
- Comments on the ADB's Country Partnership Strategy 2015-19 Zero Draft for consultation were prepared, and forwarded to the Foreign Aid Section.
- Working group recommendations for the Pakistan's Second Universal Periodic Review Report United Nations were examined, and comments were forwarded to the Poverty Alleviation &

- MDGs Section.
- View/comments on Pakistan joining the Open Government Partnership (OPG) Network were solicited from ministries/ divisions concerned, and provincial departments.
- Meetings about the first quarter review of the PSDP 2014-15 were attended.
- Brief for 17-monthperformance of the government, the UNDP conference on challenges faced in using technology for strengthening democratic governance, the 'Role of Youth in Democracy and Development' (for the Minister) was prepared.
- Meeting on 'Civil Services Reform' was arranged, and presentation was made.
- Cases for payment of monthly stipend amount to the Young Development Fellows (YDF) and Interns under the National Internship Programme (NIP) placed in the Ministry were finalised, and processed with the AGPR.

Nutrition Section

A planning meeting for the formulation of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network (SBN) in Pakistan was held on October 24 in Islamabad, which was organised by the Nutrition Section with the collaboration of the World Food Program (WFP), Micronutrient Initiative (MI) and Global Alliance Against Hunger (GAIN). More than 70 participants of various organisations, including federal and provincial government, business, UN donor and NGOs attended the meetina.

The Human Resource Development Network

arranged a pre-congress interactive talk on the 'Climate Change, Adaptability & Food Security' regarding International HRD Congress 2014 and Pakistan Development Expo in Islamabad on October 30. Chief Nutrition Section participated as the SUN focal person. A regular activity of estimation of cost of the Food Basket - based on the minimum calories requirement (2150 calories) at the national and provincial levels - for October was carried out. showed that the cost increased by 1.4 per cent at the national level, 4.0 per cent in Balochistan and

0.8 per cent in the Punjab. while it decreased by 1.2 per cent in Sindh, 1.1 per cent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 0.7 per cent in Islamabad as per Monthon-Month (MoM) comparison to September, 2014. A significant change was found when cost of the basket was compared to October, 2013. This showed an increase of 7.0 per cent at the national level, 11 per cent in Balochistan, 6.0 per cent in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3.0 per cent in Islamabad and 1.0 per cent in Sindh.

Industries and Commerce Section

Detailed report was prepared regarding development projects in Balochistan; progress report of project 'Establishment of turbines and power plant manufacturing at HMC Taxila' and submitted to the Member S&T; brief of the ECC summary on 'Textile Policy 2014-19'; presentation for the Prime Minister of Pakistan to highlight sector-wise initiatives in the manufactur-

ing, textile and commerce Sectors; working paper on the PC-I of project 'Geo-technical Appraisal & Assessment of the Known Mineral Prospects (GAAKMP)' of Gilgit-Baltistan Region and the PC-I of project 'Cluster Based Development Initiative'.

Attended the 13th board meeting of the National Productivity Organization (NPO)

Prepared comments on import of dextrose, monohydrate from India under the SRO 1274 and SRO558; the Business Climate Plan, and PC-I of project 'Promotion of olive cultivation on commercial scale in Pakistan'

Modified chapters of the 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 of the Section

Science and Technology Section

The CDWP in its meeting, held on October 3, approved three projects – 'Strengthening of the University of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJ&K', 'Establishment of University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore subcampus at Narowal' and 'Establishment of Seerat Chairs in Public Sector Universities (HEC)' –

which were prepared by this Section. Another project 'Essential Needs for Strengthening and Development of Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, ZA Bhutto Campus, Khairpur Mirs' – processed by this Section – was approved by the CDWP in its meeting held on October 20. Moreover, minutes of the meeting for

projects these were drafted, and circulated. Section finalised/ The amended the material for Year Book (2013-14) in respect of Science Technology and Higher Education sectors, by incorporating changes suggested by the review committee and issued to the Plan Coordination Section.

Science and Technology Section (Cont...)

Examined concept clearproposal ance 'Procurement of operational equipment (imported) for King Abdullah Campus, University of Chattar Kalas, AJK, Muzaffarabad', and prepared concept clearance paper of the project proposal for consideration of the Concept Clearance Committee (CCC)

Comments on the Special Development Package for Provinces and Special Areas in respect of the Higher Education Commission were drafted, and a recommendation letter was sent to the PIP Section.

The Section attended various meetings, which included: As member of Inquiry Committee for Munda Dam Project with chairman of committee Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology on October 21 and 24, 7th meeting of the Steering

Committee for the PM laptop scheme in HEC, Travel Grant Award Committee meeting at the PSF representing Ministry of PD&R, and the Director, NIBGE regarding 'New initiatives of the Government in their Manifesto for Biotechnology'.

The Section also prepared four working papers for the pre-CDWP.

Food and Agriculture Section

Following tasks were carried:

- Comments were forwarded to the quarters concerned on 'Asian Development Bank Country Partnership Strategy 2015-2019'.
- Detailed working paper of project 'Promotion of Olive Cultivation on Commercial Scale in Pakistan' was prepared for holding pre-CDWP meeting.
- Information about agriculture and food sector related to PM's directive/s for Gilgit-Baltistan, was compiled.
- Working paper of project 'Value Addition in Agriculture-Cluster Development Approach' was drafted.
- Project profile/ comments of project 'Application of Satellite Remote Sensing for Monitoring of Mountain Ecosystems' were drafted.
- Views on 'the Brief' circulated by the PIP Section on subject issue

- 'Special Development Package for Provinces and Special Areas in PSDP 2014-15', were furnished.
- Views/comments regarding project 'Capacity Building of National Gene Bank of Pakistan' were offered.
- Representations made in meetings of the Federal Committee of Agriculture (FCA) at the P-Block, Pak Secretariat and the Financial Market & SMEs with a US delegation held on October 14 and orientation session on the PI-FRA for senior level management of the Planning Commission, Ministry of PD&R held on October 16 at the JACC, P-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.
- The Ministry was represented in the DDWP meeting, held on October 22, regarding different projects at the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R).

- Letters were sent to the Additional Chief Secretaries (ACSs) of the four provinces, and three regions for collecting data regarding 'Allocation of Funds to Agriculture Sector for the Year 2014-15'.
- Project brief on the 'National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) (Revised PC-I)' was prepared.
- Comments were forwarded to the quarter concerned regarding two summaries about cotton for the ECC meeting.
- Comments regarding 'Follow-up of the Secretary General OIC Meeting with the AJK Leadership' held on October 5at the Kashmir House, Islamabad' were prepared, and sent to the quarter concerned.

Women Development and Manpower Section

Following tasks were performed by this Section:
Prepared working paper for project 'Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gawadar' for the CDWP meeting, held on October 20

Submitted material regarding 'Skill Development' for preparation and circulation of the Year Book 2013-14 to the Plan Coordination Section.

Attended review meeting of the 11th Five Year Plan

2013-18, the first quarter review of the PSDP (July-Sept) 2014 and the DDWP meeting held on October 13 in the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training

Water Resources Section

Following major activities were carried out:

- Consultation meeting and coordination with all executing agencies for the 2nd Quarter releases of the PSDP 2014-15
- 1st Quarter review of the PSDP 2014-15 (Water Sector)
- Disposal of PM/ President directives, Cabinet decisions and Supreme Court cases
- Follow-up action for the implementation of different CDWP decisions

- Monthly desk monitoring and evaluation of all on-going Water Sector's development projects
- Scrutiny and evaluation of bidding process and other necessary documents for the Darawat Dam and Kachhi Canal Project
- Review meeting for flood management in Pakistan and technical scrutiny, and approval of different flood schemes
- Attending DDWP meeting of Water & Power and ICT and international workshop on 'Surface Water' at Lahore, organised by the International Water Management Institute
- Three working papers for the CDWP meeting were prepared.
- Official correspondence with other ministries, departments, executing agencies and international organisations concerned

Projects / Wings

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

Production of all fertilizer products during September 2014 was about 564 thousand tonnes. Out of this, urea production was about 407 thousand tonnes (72.1 per cent share in total production). Other products were: DAP 68 thousand tonnes. CAN 35 thousand tonnes. NP 37 thousand tonnes, SSP 5 thousand tonnes and various grades of NPK 12 lmthousand tonnes. supplies ported comprised 153 thousand tonnes of DAP, 1.0 thousand tonnes of SOP, 2.0 thousand tonnes of MOP and 1.5 thousand tonnes of AS.

Total nutrient offtake during September, 2014 was about 280 thousand tonnes, which was 26.6 per cent less than September 2013. Among the nutrients, nitrogen offtake was 224 thousand tonnes which decreased by 22.5 per cent, phosphate off-

take was 52 thousand tonnes which dipped by 65.2 per cent and potash offtake was 3.8 thousand tonnes, which surged by 50.0 per cent over September 2013.

Urea offtake during September 2014 was 420 thousand tonnes, which decreased by 16.7 per cent, while DAP offtake was 88 thousand tonnes which decreased by 48.1 per cent over September 2013.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

Two training courses – one regular and one customised – were conducted by the PPMI. 13 officers from federal/provincial govern-

ments and public sector organisations attended the course. Brief of the training course is as under:

Gender and Development

(October 28-31, 2014)

The objective of this training course was to develop a greater understanding of gender and develop-

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (Cont...)



ment, the nature and importance of gender roles and gender relations in development processes, role of gender in all aspects of life, gender development issues as well as to give awareness to the participants about gender mainstreaming, gender mainstreaming as a strategy, historic overview of gender mainstreaming. concept of gender mainstreaming, approaches to gender mainstreaming and integration, methods and strategies of gender mainstreaming, role of men in gender mainstreaming, challenges to effective gender mainstreaming, gender monitoring and evaluation and achievements regarding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Participants of training course were also apprised of gender analysis. variables used in generating data,

gender analysis framework, gender analysis tools, and gender and policy development. Director General PPMI Dr Muhammad Ali Noor felicitated the participants for successful completion of the training course, and awarded certificates to them.

Training course for newlyinducted Research Officers (ROs) of Ministry of PD&R/ Planning Commission of

Pakistan (October 14– December 6, 2014)

Eight weeks training course for newlyrecruited Research Officers (BPS-17) of the Economist Group is in progress. Three modules have been covered so far. which include: functions of the Ministry of PD& R. Macroeconomic Planning and Management and Project Planning and Management (one week).

Participants of the Course also visited Peer Mehar Ali Shah University, Rawalpindi (Arid Agriculture) for overview and monitoring of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) funded projects. Controller of the University briefed about the institute and its ongoing projects. Worthy Vice-Chancellor presented a shield and souvenir to the team.



Projects Wing

Member (I&M) Muhammad Shahid Chaudhry reviewed development projects with the executing agencies during his visit to Lahore in October. These included: doubling of train tracks Lodhran (two) from Khanewal to Shahda Raiwind (revised), and Mainline Shahdara to Lalamusa; Pakistar replacement of old and obsolete signal gear from Bank); Irri

Lodhran Khanewal-Shahdara Bagh Mainline section of the Pakistan Railways (Islamic Development Bank); Irrigation System





P-BLOCK, PAK SECRETARIAT, ISLAMABAD.

Projects Wing (Cont...)

Rehabilitation Punjab (Phase-I) (all over Punjab); enhancement in exhibition halls and additional technology works (Expo Centre Lahore phase-II); purchase of equipment, furnishing, curriculum development and training of the Pakistan School of Fashion Design, Lahore, and Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS) (China).

Member (I&M) also held a meeting with Director General (P&D) Higher Education Commission Dr Mazhar Saeed on October 14 to discuss issues related to releases of funds and the

HRD.

The Projects Wing has monitored 30 development projects (22 of the Social Sector, five of the Infrastructure and three of other Sector).

Cash/Work Plan (2014-15): The Wing has received 86 cash/work plans of different development projects. Out of these, nine plans have been cleared, while the remaining are either under process or returned to the executing agencies for corrections.

Management Information System (MIS):

This Section of the Projects

Wing has been assigned the task of preparing monthly-progress report and updates for the Prime Minister's office regarding the PSDP projects. In this connection, a progress report is being compiled for the month of September.

This Section is also facilitating the Project Directors by providing them technical support on the use of the PME System for preparation of cash and work plans for FY 2014-15.

Energy Wing

Working papers for four 132 KV Grid Stations at Zard Ghulam Jan, Sui, Ballozai and Dera Bugti, while equal number of transmission lines — 132 KV SDT Mangocher-Zard Ghulam Jan and Kashmor-Sui (revised), 132 KV IN & OUT Ballozai and 132 kV Sui-Dera Bugti — were prepared, and for these, working papers have been issued already on September 18 this year.

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on October 27in which the projects were discussed in detail, and the costs were reviewed and rationalised.

At another pre-CDWP meeting, held on October 23, Tarbela 5th Extension Hydro Power Project and Bunji Hydro Power Project were discussed.

Comments and briefs for the ECC summaries regarding Gas pipeline infrastructure development plan for upcoming LNG & anticipated indigenous supplies, Gawadar–Nawabshah LNG terminal and pipe line project, Review of the oil marketing companies and dealer margins on petroleum products and Amendments in the OGRA Ordinance 2002 to monitor/establish prices of all refined oil products.

The Wing also prepared brief/working paper on the POL product import for the Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reform.