

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic

During the month of October, 2013, Working Groups were formulated along with Conveners regarding Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan. All Conveners were asked to hold up series of meetings and discuss the issues, challenges and remedial measures to be incorporated in the national documents of Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18. Furthermore, all Working Groups were asked to submit their first draft regarding these national documents by 30th November, 2013. To take Ministries / Divisions on board, all Secretaries were asked to nominate a focal

person who will coordinate with Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform regarding preparation of these national documents. On October 9th & 14th, 2013, Macroeconomic Section convened two meetings of all focal persons with the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform to discuss way forward regarding Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18. The first meeting was followed by a lecture on Science of Service Delivery by Sir Michael Barber an Educationist from UK. Macroeconomic Section arranged another meeting under the Chairmanship of

Minister for Planning, Development & Reform on October 12th, 2013 to discuss and assign the responsibilities for organizing the "Conference of 1000+" at Convention Centre, Islamabad. Consequently after this meeting a notification was issued to constitute Committees for logistic arrangements for organizing this Conference. This Section also prepared a concept note for approval of the Prime Minister to hold and to address the "Conference of 1000+" along-with time schedule.

International Trade & Finance Section

International Trade & Finance Section performed the following major activities during the month of October, 2013.

- Updated data for the analysis of External Sector's Performance of the economy. According to provisional data released by PBS, exports increased by 9.23% and stood at \$ 6,712 million during 1st quarter of Fiscal Year 2013-14. Imports Increased by 2.99% and stood at \$ 11,177 mil-

lion during July-September, 2013. The exchange rate during September, 2013 remained at Rs. 105.24/\$ against Rs.94.58/\$ during September, 2012.

- Offered comments on the report of the working group of sustainable development goals.
- Write up of External Sector Performance
- Prepared a brief for ECC (Economic Coordination Committee) on the Summary "Withdrawal of Conces-

sion of Customs-Duty on Import of Bopet Film-SRO 565(1)/2006"

- A progress/follow up report on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has been prepared and forwarded to Prime Minister's Office.

Public Investment Authorization Section

CDWP meetings were held on 1st and 28th October, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Reform / Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The forum considered eighteen (18) projects with a total financial outlay of Rs. 254 billion. Out of these, 13 projects were approved and five

(5) schemes with estimated cost of Rs. 249 billion were recommended to the ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council) for approval being within the competency of the ECNEC.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council's (ECNEC) meeting was held on 7th October,

2013 under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister. In this meeting thirteen (13) projects were considered with estimated cost of Rs. 43 billion and were approved. The approved schemes included five (5) projects of Energy Sector, four (4) from Water Resources and one each from Education, HEC, Health and T&C Sectors.

Plan Coordination Section

Following major activities were carried out by the section during the period under consideration:

- The 1st meeting of Advisory Committee was arranged by the section in the Auditorium of P-Block. The meeting was chaired by Minister for Planning, Development & Reform. Minutes of the meeting were prepared and circulated among the concerned.
- Material regarding United Nation's Annual

Parliamentary Meeting received from relevant sections was consolidated and forwarded to the Senate.

- Consolidated material provided to Senate Standing Committee on Water & Power for the meeting to be held on 30th-31st October, 2013.
- Regarding ECC (Economic Coordination Committee) meeting held on 2nd October, 2013, agenda of the meeting was circulated,

briefs collected and minutes of the meeting were circulated to the concerned.

- On 9th October, 2013 Chief (PC) attended the meeting chaired by Minister Planning, Development & Reform. (Lecture on Science of Service Delivery by Sir Michael Barber, British Education and Chief Education Advisor, Pearspon, UK).

Industries and Commerce Section

Following are the major activities regarding this section during the month:

- Prepared Terms of Reference (ToRs) of Industry, Mineral and Textile Sectors for Vision 2025
- Attended various meetings on Vision 2025
- Arranged meeting of Group facilitators of Industry, Mineral and Textile Sectors for nec-

essary arrangements for Conference of 1000+ on Pakistan Vision 2025

- Prepared Concept Paper of Industry, Mineral and Textile Sector for Vision 2025
- Attended the meeting on "Private Sector Lead Growth"
- Prepared a brief for Secretary Planning, Development & Reform

for meeting with UNIDO Mission.

- Prepared Concept Paper on Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for Vision 2025
- Provided comments on BESROCK mining Company
- Provided comments for domestic Commerce

National Fertilizer Development Centre

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

- Urea offtake during July, 2013 was 466 thousand tonnes, which increased by 19.8 per cent over July, 2012 (389 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was 81 thousand tonnes, which registered a decrease of 19.6 per cent as compared to July, 2012 (101 thousand tonnes).
- Total fertilizer nutrient offtake during July, 2013 was about 291 thousand tonnes compared to 271 thousand tonnes of July, 2012, showing an increase of 7.3 per cent. Among nutrients, phosphate offtake decreased by 21.9 percent while nitrogen and potash offtake increased by 15.1 and 51.3 per cent respectively.
- Participated in the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research

and provided a comparative analysis of fertilizer prices & subsidy situation of Pakistan with India.

- Assisted Ministry of Industries & Production in assessing the opportunity cost of providing natural gas to fertilizer industry vis-à-vis power sector along with estimating the impact of removing the un-budgeted feed stock gas subsidy on manufacturing of urea.

Employment & Research

The major activities of the section for the month of August are as under;

- Provided feedback to the Plan Coordination Section on Indicators and Data Sources for the 2014 HDI and Related Indices.
- Furnished comments on the concept paper "Formulation of District Development Index (DDI)" to Poverty Alleviation Section.
- Prepared comments on Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for further transmission to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Provided material for

Statistical Supplement of Pakistan Economic Survey for the Year 2012-13 for further transmission to Economic Advisor's Wing, Ministry of Finance.

- Preparation of material for Year Book 2012-13 is under process.

Education Section

During the month, observations / comments have been offered on the following Projects / Programs:

- Establishment of Residential College in Kharan, Balochistan
- ADB Funded Country Partnership Review and Country Operations Business Plan (2014-16)
- Establishment of two Residential Model Colleges (Boys & Girls) at Remount Depot, Mona
- Transfer of Inter-Provincial Education Minister's Conference Secretariat
- Signing of the Second Sindh Education Sector Project (SEP-II) and Punjab Health Sector Reform Project (PHSRP), Commonwealth Secretariat new Strategic Plan 2013/14-2016/17
- Pakistan – Country Portfolio Review
- Portfolio Review of First Half of 2013 and Country Operations Business Plan 2014-16
- First Pakistan-Russian Dialogue 2013
- Provision of Inputs:
 - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2013
 - Annual Report on the Ob-

servance and Implementation of Principles of Policy

- Purchase of land for Lahore College Women University at Kala Shah Kaku
- Improving Human Development Indicators in Pakistan with focus on MDGs relating to Education and six Education for All, (EFA) Goals
- Indicators and data sources for the 2014 Human Development Index (HDI) and related indices.

Nutrition Section

An International Conference on “Emerging Issues in Nutrition and Food Safety” from 21-23 October, 2013 was convened by the Institute of Food Science and Technology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, in collaboration with Pakistan Society of Food Scientists and Technologists. The inaugural session of the conference was co-chaired by Secretary, M/o Planning, Development and Reform, while Chief, Nutrition Section participated as well.

The main objective of the event was to create awareness in various stakeholders about current advances in the field of nutrition and food safety in the country and abroad. The deliberation

of the conferences was helpful to find out possible measure to ensure safe, wholesome and nutritious food for Pakistani people. Health professional nutritionists, food scientists and home economists participated in the conference. Besides local experts from the industry, academia and research institutions, the conference was also attended by international experts from USA, France, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman and some other countries.

Estimated cost of minimum food basket for the month of October, 2013 was compiled, which highlights national, provincial and regional estimates and comparisons, which are:

- Cost for October 2013 compared with the previous month i.e. September 2013, increased by 5% in Federal Areas while 4% at National level and in all provinces.
- Cost comparison for October 2013 compared with the same month of last year October 2012, has increased by 15% at Federal Area, while 13% at national level and in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 11% in Baluchistan.

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Science & Technology Section

The major activities of Science & Technology Section for the month are mentioned below:-

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 24th October, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Chief (S&T), M/o Planning, Development & Reform and the following projects were discussed:

- Strengthening of University of Gujrat
- Establishment of Poultry & Dairy Training and Research Centres at New Campus, Pattoki (Revised)
- Strengthening of Infrastructure of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur (Revised)
- Establishment of Pak-Korea Capacity Building Centre for Agriculture & Livestock Technology at Arid Agriculture University Rawal-

pindi

- Establishment of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Permanent Campus Abbottabad
- Minutes for the above mentioned projects were prepared and issued.

The Section processed the working paper and concept clearance proposal of the following projects;

- Prime Minister's (National) Program for Provision of Laptops to Talented Students (HEC)
- Proposal for Establishment of Forensic Investigation Labs and Data Centre for Federal Investigation Agency

The CDWP in its meeting held on 28th October 2013, recommended the Laptop

project to ECNEC for approval, while concept clearance proposal was approved. Minutes of the meeting were also prepared in respect of these projects and issued.

A progress report on “Strategic Economic Projects with China, Turkey and Afghanistan” was prepared and furnished to China-Pak Economic Corridor Secretariat.

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

Urea offtake during September, 2013 was 504 thousand tones, which increased by 91.4 percent over September, 2012 (264 thousand tones). DAP offtake was 169 thousand tones, which registered a decrease of 19.0 percent as compared to September, 2012 (208 thousand tones).

Total fertilizer nutrient offtake during September, 2013 was about 382 thousand

tones compared to 273 thousand tones of September, 2012, showing an increase of 39.9 percent. Among all major nutrients, offtake of nitrogen fertilizer has increased by 72.4 percent, while offtake of phosphate and potash fertilizers has decreased by 11.7 and 20.1 percent respectively.

Arranged the second meeting of all the stakeholders involved in urea imports

under the Member (Food Security & Climate Change), Planning Commission to review the problems / issues / hurdles being faced in import of urea fertilizer and its distribution to the end users; and suggested a way forward in the light of ECC Decision in respect of Case No. ECC-123/15/2013 (d) dated: 15th August, 2013.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

During the month of October 2013, one (1) training workshop on "Fundamentals of Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation" from 22-25 October, 2013 for M&E (Monitoring & Evaluation) Professionals was Organized by Pakistan Evaluation Network (PEN) and Malaysian Evaluation Society (MES) in collaboration with PPMI. Main objective of this training workshop was to introduce the concept and main components

of IRBM (Integrated Result Based Management) model to the professionals involved in monitoring and evaluation of development projects. This workshop programme covered following topics:

- Introduction to IRBM.
- Application of Results Language and M&E terms.
- Introduction to Program Logic & Program Results Planning.

- Outcome Hierarchy Analysis (OHA).
- M&E Framework & Preparing a M&E Plan.
- Information Management & Decision Making.

DG, PPMI awarded the certificates to the participants upon successful completion of the course.

Sr. #	Course Name	Days	Dates
November - December, 2013			
1.	Managing Public Private Partnership Projects	4 Days	18 -21 Nov,2013
2.	Public Policy and Strategy Formulation	4 Days	26-29 Nov, 2013
3.	Statistical and Mathematical Tools for Policy Making: Quantitative Analysis	4 Days	2-5 Dec , 2013
4.	Financial Management: Procedures in Public Sector	5 Days	16-20 Dec, 2013
January - March 2014			
5.	Millennium Development Goals / Achievements, Challenges and Efforts Needed	5 Days	6-10 Jan, 2014
6.	Public Procurement Management	4 Days	21-24 Jan, 2014
7.	Project Preparation / PC-I - PC-V / Monitoring and Evaluation Techniques / Development of KPIs	5 Days	10-14 Feb, 2014
8.	Time Management	2 Days	24-25 Feb, 2014
9.	Urban Management: Techniques and Tools	5 Days	10-14 March, 2014
April - June, 2014			
10.	Results – Based Management (RBM)	4 Days	1-4 April, 2014
11.	Contract Management	4 Days	21-24 April, 2014
12.	Project Identification, Appraisal and approval, Implementation Methodologies / MS Project / Development of KPIs	12 Days	5-16 May, 2014
13.	Change Management	4 Days	9-12 June, 2014

PROJECTS WING

A refresher training session was conducted for Project Directors / Officers of Ministry of Communication/NHA at National Highway Authority Headquarters, Islamabad on Project Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES) during the month of October, 2013.

An officer of the Infrastructure section attended the training workshop titled "Fundamentals of Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation" (22-24 October, 2013) at PPMI.

Evaluation:
Director General (Evaluation) chaired the meeting with the Project Director of the Project "National health Information

Resource Centre" of Cabinet Division, to discuss the Evaluation Report of the subject project.



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