

Planning Commission Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy Section	2
Industries & Commerce	2
Pakistan Planning and Management Institute	2
National Fertilizer Development Centre	3
Employment & Research	3
Education	3
Governance Section	4
Food & Agriculture	4
Administration	5

Macroeconomic

Following were the major activities during the month of September, 2013 regarding this Section:

- A consultative workshop on the preparation of Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five year Plan 2013-18 was conducted by Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform in collaboration with McKinsey and Company Dubai on 5th September, 2013. Senior officers of the Federal Government Ministries and attached Departments attended the workshop. McKinsey & Co. has vast experience in economic development strategy formulation. The Workshop focused on the country transformation with special emphasis on transformation of State Own Enterprises (SOEs), energy policy formulation, internal resource mobilization and value addition in agriculture.
- A delegation of Pakistan Business Council, led by Mr. Sikander Mustafa Khan, Chairman Pakistan Business Council (PBC) and prominent business leaders in Pakistan visited Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform for consultative meeting on Pakistan Vision 2025 on 24th September, 2013. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Devel-

opment & Reform chaired the meeting which also included Mr. Hassan Nawaz Tarrar, Secretary for Planning, Development & Reform and numerous other senior officers from the Ministry. In his opening remarks, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal lauded the role of private sector in improving and enhancing the economic productivity of Pakistan. He said "Building a robust, vibrant and competitive private sector is pivotal in government's future economic plans. Pakistan Vision 2025 is a programme for transforming Pakistan into a developed country through an inclusive process of engaging all the relevant stakeholders. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, in his remarks, emphasized, "Our economic vision is built on self reliance and innovation. In past, growth resulted from foreign aid and loans but we want to mobilize domestic resources and promote exports. We seek to transform our low value product base to high value products by using technology, innovation and better management." He further said that the role of Governments in the contemporary world was only to provide a

platform to private enterprises, which are the major actors in the development of Pakistan's economy. The government's focus is on job creation by creating opportunities for greater investment in the country. Government has assigned high priority to fixing the energy crisis. Our development model places social development in the centre to build strong human resource base." Pakistan is an undermanaged country and PBC is the 'Management Capital' of Pakistan. We want partnership of private sector in the endeavors of developing Pakistan. Hardware of development is 50% of the story and software/social capital is the equal part of development equation. This software was missing in our development calculus, which we want to append.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section

During September 2013, Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy Section performed following activities:

- Carried out a Review of Consolidated Fiscal Developments during 2012-13
- Prepared a Review of Monetary Developments during 2012-13
- Provided material on 'Taxation' for the Working Group on 'Internal Resource Mobilization' constituted for preparation of Pakistan Vision 2025
- Prepared a Brief for Secretary, M/o Planning, Development & Reform on ECC of the Cabinet

Summary titled 'Report on Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)' made by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in consultation with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Board of Investment (BOI).

- Provided a Comparison of prices of Essential Items in Neighbouring Countries to Finance Division regarding the meeting of 'National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC)' held on 12-09-2013 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Finance. A brief for Secretary, M/o Planning, Development &

Reform was also prepared. The meeting was attended by Joint Chief Economist (Macro) and Chief (Money, Prices and fiscal Policy)

- Carried out consultative process with Ministries/Agencies and Provinces for the preparation of 11th Five Years Plan 2013-18 and Implementation Matrix on fiscal development, financial sector development and price stability.
- Compiled Regional Prices information
- Tracked trends in Prices, Monetary Aggregates, Fiscal Policy and Stock Market

International Trade & Finance Section

International Trade & Finance Section performed the following major activities during September, 2013:

- Updated information regarding External Sector of the economy. According to data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports increased by 4.75% and stood at US\$1,996 million during August, 2013, imports decreased by 3.07% and stood at US\$3,572 million. The average exchange rate in the month of August, 2013 remained at Rs.102.93/US\$ against Rs.94.46/US\$ in August, 2012, showing a depreciation of 8.23 % for the same period last year.

- Prepared presentation on chapter of Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR) 2013
- Prepared comments on Independent UNIDO Country Evaluation in Pakistan.
- Prepared comments for the Secretary, M/o Planning, Development & Reform on Article in Daily Express Tribune.
- Prepared Talking Points for the Finance Minister for the Commonwealth Meeting as well as IMF/World Bank Annual meeting in October, 2013
- Brief was prepared for the Minister, Planning, Development & Reform on Saudi Arabia.

- Another brief was prepared on Pak-Sweden and sent to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Prepared comments on new agreement of WTO on Trade in Services Agreement
- Finalized list of Focal Persons for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

National Fertilizer Development Centre

Following are the recent major activities carried out with respect to fertilizer sector of Pakistan.

- Urea offtake during August, 2013 was 515 thousand tonnes, which increased by 59.9 % over August, 2012 (322 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was 84 thousand tonnes, which registered an increase of 57.6 % as compared to August, 2012 (53 thousand tonnes).
- Total fertilizer nutrient offtake during August, 2013 was about 318 thousand tonnes compared to 206 thousand tonnes of August, 2012, showing an increase of 54.1 %. All major nutrients like nitrogen, phosphate and potash offtake increased by 54.9, 48.2 and 177.0 % respectively over August, 2012.
- NFDC arranged a meeting of all the stakeholders involved in urea

imports under the Chairmanship of Secretary, M/o Planning, Development & Reform to review the problems / issues / hurdles being faced in import of fertilizer and its distribution to the end users; and suggest a way forward in light of ECC Decision in respect of Case No. ECC-123/15/2013 (d) dated: 15th August, 2013.

Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section

- Third meeting of Technical Group on Poverty was held on 6th September, 2013 in the Committee Room, 2nd Floor, M/o Planning, Development & Reform. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, chaired the meeting. The Minister made it clear that controversy over poverty estimation methodology needs to be discussed amongst the experts. It is necessary to resolve these issues for the sake of policy making. We do not believe in number-driven growth, which benefits only a certain class of people, rather a growth that is a broad-based and which drastically reduces poverty. Focus of our policies would be on vertical as well as horizontal poverty reduction. In today's case, the poor, who do not have access to knowledge and information, are at disadvantage. He emphasized to bridge the digital divide in order to realize the dream of pov-

erty alleviation. Mr. Shahid Naeem, Deputy Chief, Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section made a detailed presentation on Poverty Estimation-Methodology and Measurement. Meeting was attended by the eminent economists/poverty experts. It was decided to organize a workshop on poverty estimation methodologies in near future.

- Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform prepared a draft of Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report with the technical assistance of UNDP. A meeting to peer review the draft Report was held on 19th September, 2013 in Planning Commission. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA/Convener of Parliamentary Task Group on MDGs, chaired the meeting. The report will document Pakistan's experience in terms of successes and challenges in the journey towards

MDGs, narrate Pakistan's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda and will motivate a final push for the MDGs in Pakistan. Meeting was attended by representatives of the Federal and Provincial Ministries/Departments, and representatives from civil society organizations, academia and development agencies.

Industries & Commerce Section

- Prepared working paper for enhancement of exports and development plan for the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.
- Provided comments to Ministry of Commerce for “Indian demand at WTO for rice subsidy”.
- Evaluated project Completion Report (PC-IV) of PSDP project “Review/up-dation of National Mineral Policy”.
- Prepared a proposal for promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Sweden for “Pakistan –Sweden dialogue, September 2013.
- Prepared comments for draft “Framework for Economic Cooperation and to enhance trade-investment linkage between Government of Pakistan and Government of France”.
- Provided material for preparation of Annual Report on the Observance & Implementation of Principles of Policy 2012-13.
- Provided material for preparation of 11th Five Year Plan in respect of Industries, Commerce & Mineral sectors.
- Prepared brief on auto industry for Honorable Minister for Planning, Development & Reform.
- Prepared brief on Privatization Commission for the Secretary, M/o Planning, Development & Reform.
- Prepared a brief on Pakistan Steel Mills for Honorable Minister for Planning, Development & Reform.

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Public Investment Authorization (PIA) Section

During the reporting period, one meeting each of CDWP and ECNEC were held to strengthen the development activities and to minimize the development schemes backlog. The priority area remained energy and infrastructure sector projects. Details are as below:

- A CDWP meeting was held on 6th September, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Minister for P&D / Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The forum considered fifty four (54) projects and approved twenty-five (25) projects costing Rs. 15.154 billion. Four (4) schemes pertaining to Water Resources Sector, costing Rs.1638.366 million were approved and four (4) schemes with an estimated cost of Rs. 41.129 billion were recommended to the ECNEC for approval being within the competency of the ECNEC. In the Transport & Communication (T&C) Sector, four (4) schemes were approved at a total cost of Rs. 3421.872 million whereas same number of schemes were recommended to the ECNEC with estimated cost of Rs. 32.854 billion for approval. The CDWP deferred 10 schemes for further scrutiny whereas eight (8) schemes were withdrawn from the agenda due to various reasons.
- The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting was held on 13th September, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister. The forum considered fourteen (14) projects out of which ten (10) projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 55.355 billion were approved and two (2) were deferred whereas two (2) projects were withdrawn from the agenda. The approved schemes included seven (7) projects of Transport & Communication Sector, two from Water Resources and one from Devaluation & Area Development Sectors.

Education Section

During the month of September, 2013, observations / comments have been offered on following Programmes/Projects:

- Concept Clearance Proposal for Foreign Assistance for Gilgit-Baltistan Education Project (GBEP) Phase-II (2011-16)
- Strengthening of institute of Space Technology (IST) Islamabad (Revised)
- Establishment of COMSATS Institute of IT Permanent Campus, Abbottabad
- Construction of 50 Rooms Boys Hostel at Civil Services Academy, Walton, Lahore
- Modification / Re-appropriation of PC-I

Scheme “Capacity Building of Teachers in Training Institutions and Training of Elementary School Teachers in ICT, FATA, Gilgit-Baltistan and AJ&K

- Examined working paper of Prime Minister’s Youth Skill Development Programme 2013-14.

Science & Technology Section

Science & Technology Section processed the following 07 schemes of Higher Education Sector and 01 scheme of Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) for consideration of CDWP. The CDWP, in its meeting held on 6th September, 2013 approved all the projects of Higher Education Sector except the project “*Uplifting Program of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Gujrat*” which was withdrawn by the sponsoring agency (MoST).

- Enhancement of Infrastructure at IM (Institute of Management) Sciences, Peshawar
- Provision of Academic and Research Facilities at Government College University, Faisalabad
- Strengthening of Faculties of Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), Lahore
- Establishment of Main Campus of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology at Islamabad
- Strengthening of Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering Science & Technology (QUEST), Nawabshah.
- Strengthening of Existing Earthquake Engineering Centre in the University of Engineering & Technology, Peshawar (Revised)
- USAID Merit and Needs Based Scholarships Program Phase-II.

Prepared and issued minutes of the CDWP meeting for the above projects.

The section also analyzed PC-Is of the following projects and prepared working papers for CDWP:

- Establishment of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Permanent Campus Abbottabad.
- Establishment of Poultry & Dairy Training and Research Centres at New Campus, Pattoki (Revised).
- Strengthening of University of Gujrat.
- Strengthening of Infrastructure of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur (Revised).

Summary and presentation for ECNEC in respect of the project titled “*USAID Merit and Needs based Scholarship Program (MNBSP), Phase-II*” was prepared and issued.

Material for preparation of Year Book 2012-13 regarding Science & Technology and Higher Education sectors was finalized and furnished to Plan Coordination Section.

Food & Agriculture Section

Following major activities were carried out during the above mentioned month; The update on calling the meeting on Working Groups on various sub-sectors of Agriculture Sector i.e., Food Security and Agriculture Development, Agribusiness; Livestock including Dairy, Poultry and Fisheries; Agricultural Inputs and Services was conveyed to Macroeconomic Section.

The request for obtaining and compiling data on per acre cost of production of major crops like Wheat, Rice, Cotton etc; along with parameters was conveyed to Agriculture Policy Institute (API), Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Side Comments on "Gomal-Zam Dam's Command Area

Development and On-Farm Water Management for High Value and High Efficiency Agriculture Project (GZD-CADP) with estimated cost: Rs. 4300.796 Million, were drafted and submitted accordingly.

Brief/talking points for the inaugural session of the international poultry expo, 2013 were drafted and submitted to higher quarters accordingly.

Letters for meeting of the Main Committee for Clearance of Liabilities of "White Revolution – Doodh Darya Project / Pakistan Dairy Development Company were issued.

Nominations of officers of Agriculture and Food Section were conveyed to Training Section.

The requisite information received from Ministry of Ports & Shipping and Interior Division (ICT) Islamabad regarding Final Review of PSDP 2012-13 was forwarded to Public Investment Programming (PIP) Section.

The material/data relevant to the Section regarding "Preparation and Circulation of Year Book 2012-13 in Pursuance of Rule 25 of the Rules of Business 1973 was conveyed to Plan Coordination Section.

View/comments regarding Report on Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) were conveyed to Plan Coordination Section.

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Nutrition Section

The launching Ceremony of National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2011 was held on 17th September 2013 in P-Block, secretariat, Islamabad, chaired by the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform and co-chaired by state minister, M/o National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination (NHS, R&C). The NNS 2011 indicated little change over the last decade in terms of core maternal and childhood nutrition indicators. With regard to micronutrient deficiencies, iodine status had improved nationally, while vitamin A status had deteriorated and there had been little or no improvement in other indicators.

Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, emphasized the

need to announce a nutrition emergency across Pakistan in view of the deterioration of nutritional services in the last 10 years. The absence of these services has had an adverse impact on the physical and mental growth of our children, he remarked, while reaffirming the government's commitment to assume a stewardship role in streamlining nutrition interventions at the provincial level. Announcing the formation of the National Task Force on Nutrition, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal said, the ministries; PD&R, PC, NHSRC, National Food Security and Research (NFS&R), will also be closely involved in rolling out nutrition interventions, with the provinces being fully on board to achieve result-oriented out-

comes. He invited the media to offer inputs towards the development of a comprehensive communication plan, which will soon be deployed in local languages at the grassroots level.

A meeting of Universal Salt Iodization (USI) partners/ technical committee on USI was held at Micronutrient Initiative (MI) office in Islamabad on September 19, 2013 in which Chief, Nutrition Section participated to review, discuss and endorse the TORs for "Potassium Iodate Stability Study" in edible salt. Estimated cost of minimum food Basket report for the month of September, 2013 was compiled, which highlights national, provincial and regional estimates and comparisons, which are:

Education Section

- Cost for September 2013 compared with the previous month i.e. August 2013, remained almost same at national level, however increased 1% in Punjab and Baluchistan, while decreased by 1% in Federal Area, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Cost comparison for September 2013 compared with the same month of last year September 2012, has increased by 8% at national level and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 9% in Federal Area and Sindh, 7% in Punjab and Baluchistan.

Pakistan Planning & Management Institute (PPMI)

During the month of September 2013, two (02) training courses were conducted by PPMI. Officers from Federal/Provincial Governments and Public Sector Organizations participated in these training courses. The brief of the training courses is as under:-

Public Procurement System (4-6 September, 2013):

This training course was designed to give awareness of Public Procurement System and to familiarize the participants with the efficient, transparent system of procurement and procedures to ensure that procurement in public sector is made competitively and contracts are awarded and managed in

a manner that promotes the paramount objective of value for money in government expenditure. Sixty Nine (69) officers participated in this training course. Mr. Muhammad Anwar Hussain Ch, D.G, PPMI awarded the certificates to the participants.

MS Project and SPSS (23-26 September, 2013):

This training course was designed to give awareness to the participants of the concepts of project planning using Microsoft Project. How to identify, organize and manage the tasks and resources required to complete a project under the constraints of time and cost to achieve a final project target

by using different techniques of Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), Gantt Chart, CPM,/PERT. As well as to improve understanding of the participants to work with SPSS, use of new features of SPSS and how to enter and reorganize information within SPSS and to enable them to use SPSS (Software) to produce scientifically sound research reports. Forty Five (45) officers participated in this training course. Mr. Muhammad Khurshid, Joint Secretary (Admin), Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform awarded the certificates to the participants.

Activity Report by JACC

The JACC regularly maintains website of Planning Commission/ Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform and updates its contents. Under guidance and direction of the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, the website has been revamped to portray the Planning Commission's initiatives for the revival of Pakistan's economy through long term economic agenda, 'Vision 2025' and medium term economic programme 11th Five Year Plan (2013-

18). The improvement of the website is aimed at depicting the better image of Pakistan to visitors of the website within country and outside world. The website has been restructured from static to dynamic for online information sharing and

more productive uses. The new website www.pc.gov.pk was formally launched by the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform which was also attended by Secretary, Planning, Development & Reform along with Chiefs/



Activity Report by JACC

heads of sections at “P” Block Auditorium on 27th September, 2013.

Y.B. Senator Dato’ Sri Idris Jala, Minister in Prime Minister Office, Malaysia’s visit of Planning Commission



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Consultative Workshop on Vision 2025

A Consultative Workshop on ‘Vision 2025’ jointly organized by M/o Planning, Development & Reform and McKenzie & Company was held at “P” Block Auditorium on 5th September, 2013. Audio/visual coverage of the event was arranged by Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre. Recorded DVDs and still photographs of the proceedings are available at JACC for reference and record.

Malaysian Delegation visit

JACC provided audio/visual coverage of the international seminar “Big Fast Results (BFR)” organized by Planning Commission at “P” Block Auditorium on 11th September, 2013. The seminar was moderated by Y.B. Senator Dato’ Sri Idris Jala, Minister in Prime Minister Office, Malaysia. Recorded DVDs and still photographs of the proceedings are available at JACC for reference and record.



Activity Report by JACC

Integration of M/o Planning, Development & Reform offices:

A proposal for integration of M/o Planning, Development & Reform offices through NTC at estimated cost of Rs 1.600 million forwarded by JACC has been approved in principle. Minister for Planning, Development & Reform had directed that computer networks of various wings/sections of Ministry housed in the buildings outside "P" Block, Pak Secretariat may be integrated in order to save precious time and minimize paper based correspondence. The integration is aimed at ensuring internal data sharing through Local Area Network between the three office locations i.e. "P" Block Pak Sectt., PPMI Building and Energy Wing Shalimar Plaza. Execution of the work will commence as soon as necessary funds are made available.



2013. IT support in preparation of presentations, updation of record of hiring residential accommodation Management System, user complaints of troubleshooting computer hardware/software was also provided on need basis. Moreover, numerous IT services including formatting, designing, printing, scanning and spiral binding of documents and printing of monthly Newsletter were also provided.

ment Service Wing, Establishment Division has cleared 12 posts for regularization out of 24 requested posts. Request is being made to the Finance Division for sanction of posts.



IT Services

JACC's personnel ensured presence for IT support e.g. multi-media operation, audio recording of the proceedings, functioning of public address system and still photography during all meetings held at "P" Block Auditorium and committee rooms during September,

Extension of Project

The project Upgradation of JACC was allowed extension for six months upto 31st December, 2013 and service existing contracts of the project staff have been extended for three months as their services are necessarily required till sanction of regular posts. The Manage-