

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic

A meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission was convened on 26-04-2013 to discuss economic outlook of Pakistan. Leading economic practitioners and academicians from all over the country participated in the meeting and shared their insight on economic challenges faced by the country and possible solutions to overcome these issues. The meeting was attended by prominent professionals and technocrats including Dr. Salman Shah, Dr. Hafeez Pasha, Dr. Ishrat Husain, Secretary P&D Division, Secretary Finance

Division, Additional Secretary P&D Division, JCE (Operations) and Members of Planning Commission. It was emphasised that "Everything hinges on power sector revitalization". Political parties may be taken on board to reform process and an Inter-Ministerial board may be formulated under the chairmanship of Prime Minister to implement the reform agenda. It was also highlighted that domestic consensus is the key to success of reform process.

Comments on Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) between Government of Pakistan and Re-

public of Korea were consolidated. It was observed that priority areas identified in the proposed CPS fall within the ambit of the "Framework for Economic Growth" and MDGs being pursued by the Government of Pakistan. It was advised that Result Based Management (RBM) may be followed during the implementation enabling Pakistan to take the optimum advantage out of CPS and Korean development experience.

Money Prices & Fiscal Policy

Monthly update on inflation for the period July-March 2012-13 and Stock Market Development for March 2013 were prepared. Briefs for

(i) meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) and (ii) trend in prices, monetary aggregates, fiscal policy and stock market were pre-

pared. Moreover, information on regional prices was compiled.

International Trade & Finance

Information regarding external sector of the economy was updated. According to data released by PBS, exports increased by 5.36 % and stood at \$ 18,017 million during July-March 2013. In the same period, imports declined by 0.39 % and stood at \$ 33,414

million. Average exchange rate in March 2013 remained at Rs. 98.06/\$ against Rs. 90.71/\$ in March 2012 showing a depreciation of 7.5 %.

Activities relating to follow-up of MoU between Pakistan and Turkey to enhance cooperation

based on mutual interests, MoU on Pak-China trade relationship, bilateral consultations between Pakistan and Hungary and progress on second annual review of Pak-UK enhanced strategic dialogue (ESD) were carried out.

Food & Agriculture

Briefing on Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) was organized at Planning Commission to discuss the role of PARC as an apex body in national agriculture research system of Pakistan. Deputy Chair-

man, Planning Commission chaired the briefing.

Project proposal "Agriculture Development Project in Swat-Gender, Cooperative and Hill Orchards (ADP-SWAT-2-GECOHO)" was scrutinized.

A meeting was arranged with the stakeholders to settle the issues relating to clearance of liabilities of the project "White Revolution – Doodh Darya Project/Pakistan Dairy Development Company".

Industries & Commerce

PC-Is of the following projects were examined for their consideration/approval by the competent forum:

- Red Chillies Processing Centre at Kunri, Sindh
- Hygienic Protein Industries (HPI), Kasur
- Mosaic, Handicraft &

Inlay Centre, Sargodha

- Skill Development, Training & Research Project Empowering Pakistan of M/s Southern Punjab Embroidery Industries (SPEI), Multan
- Furniture Pakistan, Lahore

Moreover, I&C Section arranged a meeting to monitor progress of the project "Faisalabad Garment City Company, Faisalabad".

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

Total fertilizer nutrient offtake during March 2013 was about 259 thousand tonnes compared to 180 thousand tonnes during March 2012, showing an increase of 43.9 percent. Among nutrients, offtake of all major nutrients including nitrogen, phosphate and potash increased by 45.2, 36.6 and 54.1 percent respectively.

Urea offtake during March 2013 was 405 thousand tonnes, which increased by 53.7 percent over March 2012 (263 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was 65 thousand tonnes, which registered an increase of 41.8 percent as compared to March 2012 (46 thousand tonnes).

Kharif 2013 has started with 220 thousand

tonnes of opening inventory of urea fertilizer. With the expected domestic production of 2,600 thousand tonnes and 190 thousand tonnes of imported supplies, total available urea would be about 3,010 thousand tonnes. The estimated offtake during Kharif 2013 is around 2,800 thousand tonnes, leaving behind an inventory of 210 thousand tonnes for next Rabi season. The domestic production of urea is estimated on the assumption that urea plants at SNGPL network will operate on 40 percent of their capacity.

As regards DAP, total availability is estimated to be 562 thousand tonnes for Kharif 2013, which includes opening inventory of 197 thousand ton-

nes and domestic production of 365 thousand tonnes. Expected offtake is 600 thousand tonnes. Hence, a deficit of 38 thousand tonnes of DAP will be covered through imported supplies by private sector.

The Center provided an update on fertilizer prices along-with causes of increase and estimated subsidies in recent years to Ministry of Industry in response to Senate question/query.

Moreover, the Center provided technical comments to Ministry of Industries on export of crop supplements which may be used as fertilizers.

Nutrition

Ms. Dora Panagides, manager Food Fortification Program of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), visited Planning Commission on 11th April, 2013. Purpose of the visit was to discuss Food Fortification Program in Pakistan, especially expanded program of wheat flour fortification to overcome widely prevalent anemia problem.

Planning Commission organized a workshop on "Road Map/Action Plan on Bridging the Gap at Implementation Level in Nutrition" in collaboration with WHO-EMRO and UN

partners during the month. The workshop first reviewed current development process for nutrition and identified the critical gaps, especially the linkages and coordination issues and proposed plan of action at Provincial and National level.

A national program on management of acute malnutrition and surveillance has been initiated under the auspices of Planning Commission with collaboration of World Health Organization-Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO-EMRO). In this regard, a meeting under

the chairmanship of Secretary P&D Division was organized on 26th April 2013 participated by Director and Advisor (Nutrition) WHO-EMRO and representatives from UN agencies, Federal and Provincial Governments. At the end surveillance equipments were handed over to provinces and "Nutrition Coordination Policy Strategy and Surveillance Facility (NCPSF)" was jointly inaugurated by Secretary P&D Division and Director WHO-EMRO.

Governance

Different activities were performed in the Governance Sector as highlighted below:

- A conference on modernization of public services was organized.
- Material for meeting of Priority Committees with regard to line Ministries was prepared for consideration by the Committee.
- Report on One UN Programme for Pakistan

(2013-17) and Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) between Government of Pakistan and the Republic of Korea were examined.

- Pre-CDWP meetings on concept clearance proposals of Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) were conducted.

In addition, eight (8)

nominations for local and twenty (20) for foreign trainings/workshops/conferences were processed out of which six (6) local and nine (9) foreign nominations were finalized. One meeting of the committee on foreign training was arranged whereas 3 officers attended foreign training/seminar/workshop during the month.

Science and Technology

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 2nd April 2013 under the chairmanship of Member (S&T), Planning Commission to discuss the following projects:

- Strengthening of Existing Earthquake Engineering Centre in the University of Engineer-

ing and Technology, Peshawar (Revised).

- Establishment of Information Technology & Management Sciences and Telecommunication Institutes at Islamabad.
- Establishment of Headquarters NUST and Hi-Tech Postgraduate Science & Technology In-

stitutes at Islamabad (Revised).

Chief, S&T Section attended DDWP meeting of Ministry of Science & Technology held on 17th April 2013 where total five projects were discussed out of which four were approved.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI)

During the month, the Institute organized following training courses:

Macroeconomic Planning and Management (8-12 April, 2013): The training course focused on the macroeconomic planning and management in Pakistan and looked at financial crisis and political change. It highlighted the demand management measures adopted by the various economic institutions and also explained the social safety nets required to protect the poor from the fuel, food and financial crisis. Focus was on mac-

roeconomic policies used to explain the relationship between factors such as national income, output, consumption, inflation, savings, investment, national trade and national finance.

Socio Economic Policies (22-25 April, 2013): Objective of this short course was to help participants develop an understanding of key sectors of the economy of Pakistan. Contemporary issues in trade, industry, financial and social sectors were discussed. It also included discussion on the current policies of

trade, commerce, fiscal/monetary, industry and energy.

Workshop on Integrated Approach to Business Research (17-19 April, 2013): A three days workshop on integrated approach to business research was organized in collaboration with Asian Society of Management Research. Focus of workshop was to develop skills of the participants enabling them to conduct independent research and to publish findings of their research in peer reviewed research journals.

Education

Comments on the following education sector projects were consolidated:

- Assistance to Basic Education Improvement Programme-II for Repair/ Rehabilitation of Flood Affected Govt. Girls Schools in KPK (Norway Assisted) (Revised).
- Establishment and Operation of BECS in the Country.
- Construction of Buildings, Provision of Furniture and Equipment for 9 Intermediate Colleges of District Kotli, Azad Kashmir (Revised).
- Preparation of National Plan of Action for MDGs Acceleration Framework (MAF).
- Development Experience Exchange Partnership (DEEP) offered by Government of Korea.

Education Section provided input to meeting of the Priority Committees on project "Free Education to the Children of Shohdaa's in War against Terrorism upto Graduate Level." Further, meeting of working group for preparation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2013 was also organized.

Projects Wing

Meetings

A follow-up meeting under the chairmanship of Member (I&M), Planning Commission was held on 10-04-2013 with executing agencies of development projects being implemented by Mirpur University of Science Technology (MUST). After detailed deliberations, the EA was advised to de-

velop a clear roadmap envisaging logical sequencing of ongoing project activities and submit the same to HEC for their vetting and for further submission to the Pro-



jects Wing, Planning Commission.

After visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Quetta, a meeting was held on 19-04-2013 wherein the issues pertaining to implementation of mega development projects in Balochistan were minutely reviewed with particular emphasis on Kacchi Canal project

Projects Wing

Chairman, Planning Commission and was attended by all stakeholders.



Following decision of consultative meeting held on 18-04-2013 under the chairmanship of Member (Infra), Planning Commission regarding the project "Balochistan Effluent Disposal into RBOD (RBOD-III)", a meeting was held on 30-04-2013 under the Joint Chairmanship of Member (Infra) and Member (I&M), Planning Commission. After discussion, it was decided that the Government of Sindh will be requested to give their

viewpoint on the consultant reports without any further delay, so as to resolve the long outstanding issue of RBOD-III as well as RBOD-II, projects of national significance.



Evaluation

A meeting under the chairmanship of Member (I&M), Planning Commission was held on 11-04-2013 to discuss draft evaluation report of Pakistan Nuclear Regulation Authority (PNRA) of the project "Capacity Building of PNRA to Implement National Nuclear Security Action Plan". After detailed deliberations, evaluation report prepared by the Projects Wing was approved and subsequently issued to all concerned.

(Cont...)

Management Information System (MIS)

A refresher training session was conducted by MIS Section, Projects Wing for the Project Directors of Ministry of Railways at Railway Headquarters, Lahore on Project Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES).



Monitoring

Twenty eight (28) development projects were monitored during April 2013.

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Planning Commission

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