

Planning Commission Newsletter

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Governance | 2 |
| National Fertilizer Development Centre | 2 |
| Education | 2 |
| Energy | 3 |
| Science & Technology Section | 3 |
| Food & Agriculture | 3 |
| International Trade & Finance | 4 |
| Pakistan Planning & Management Institute | 4 |
| Industry and Commerce | 4 |
| Administration | 4 |
| Information & Communication Technologies | 5 |
| Information & Communication Technologies cont... | 6 |

Macroeconomic

In the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) for the year 2012, Korean Development Institute and Macroeconomics Section of Planning Commission of Pakistan are working on a research study titled "Creating Space for Urban Microenterprises". In order to present the Interim progress of the KSP research studies, a delegation of Pakistani officials visited Seoul, Korea during 1st to 8th December, 2012 under the leadership of Mr. Zafar Ul Hassan – Chief, Macroeconomic Section and Assistant Chief of Macroeconomic Section represented Planning Commission in the Interim Reporting Workshop. During the tour, lectures and study visits were also arranged by the Korean Institute of Development

Studies (KDS).

Two lectures on "Development Experience in Korea" and Korea's Technical & Vocational Education Training" were delivered by Dr. Dal Hyun Kim, Honorary Professor Graduate School of Pan-Pacific International Studies Kyung Hee University and Dr. Jeong-Yoon, Cho from Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education & Training.

Moreover, Study visits to Guro Digital Complex, Korea Small and Medium Business Corporation (SBC), Korea Institute of Industrial Technology, Korea Energy Management Corporation, Pakistan Embassy Seoul, KDI, Seoul National University and Ministry of Strategy and

Finance were also arranged. On 6th of December, Interim Reporting Workshop was organized and all the researchers from Pakistan presented the progress of their relevant studies. Assistant Chief, Macro presented the progress on the research study titled "Creating Space for Urban Microenterprises".

Mr. Shin Un, Senior Advisor of the KSP 2012 gave the concluding remarks and emphasized the need for more close cooperation of the two countries for rapid economic development. Head of the Pakistani delegation appreciated the Korean initiative of knowledge sharing and economic cooperation.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy

A brief for Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Secretary, Planning was prepared regarding procedure of issuance of fiscal SROs by various Ministries/Divisions for the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting held on 18th December, 2012 at Parlia-

ment House, Islamabad.

Monthly update on inflation for the period July-November, 2012 and Review of Consolidated Fiscal Development during July-September, 2012 were prepared. Reference material on analysis for Regional Prices of Critical Consumer

Items was prepared for the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet meeting scheduled to be held on 11th December, 2012. Monthly update on Stock Development for the month of October and November, 2012 was also prepared.

Governance

During the month of December, 2012, PC-I of project titled "Strengthening Pakistan Urban Response Capacity" was examined. Comments/ views on draft agreement "Public Financial Management Support Programme for Pakistan" and "Support to Democratic Institution and Promotion of Human Rights" were forwarded to PIP Section. Budget esti-

mates for financial year 2013-14 were forwarded to A&B Section. Meeting on Restructuring & Revamping of Planning Commission was attended.

Seven local and four foreign training opportunities were received and were circulated to all officers/officials of P&D Division. Wherein, 07 local and 12 foreign nominations have been received.

Against these training opportunities, 07 nominations for local trainings and 17 nominations for the foreign trainings were forwarded to the agencies concerned. Two meetings of the Committee on Foreign Training were convened whereas 07 officers attended the foreign training/seminar/workshop during the month.

National Fertilizer Development Centre

Total nutrient offtake during November, 2012 was about 360 thousand tonnes compared to 348 thousand tonnes of November, 2011, represented an increase of 3.4 per cent. Among the nutrients, nitrogen and potash offtake decreased by 14.5 and 20.5 per cent respectively, while, phosphate offtake increased by 57.8 per cent.

Urea offtake during November, 2012 was 327 thousand tonnes, which decreased by 28.2 per cent, over November, 2011 (455 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was about 248 thousand tonnes as compared to 163 thousand tonnes of November, 2011, showing an increase of 56.2 per cent over the same time frame of previous year.

In the month of December, 2012, NFDC actively participated in the meeting, arranged by Ministry of National Food Security & Research on "Inter Ministerial Coordination on Cotton Seed and other Issues". Chief, NFDC brief the meeting about fertilizer availability / demand situation in the country for current Rabi 2012-13 and coming Kharif, 2013 season.

Education

During the month, views/comments/recommendations for the following projects were forwarded to the concerned sections.

- Balochistan Projects funded by World Bank/IDA,
- Devolve 3rd National Program for prevention and Control of Blindness, Government of Punjab,
- Framework of International Cooperation Programme Phase II (Norwegian Grant),
- Project Implementa-

tion Plan 2012-15 Pakistan Canada Debt for Education Conversion Project,

- Social Protection Policy Support- Social Safety Net Project (SSNP-IV),
- Establishment of F.G. Degree College for Women at Bhara Kahu Islamabad,
- Establishment of Public School at Kehrora Pacca, District Lodhran,
- Provision of Computers/IT Education in 4286 Government Secondary / Higher Secondary Schools in Punjab (Revised),
- Establishment of Poul-

try and Dairy Animal Training and Research Centres at New Campus, Pattoki, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore (Revised),

- Establishment of Precision System Training Course (PSTC) at Jaffarabad Balochistan,
- Project Completion Report (PC-IV) of the Project titled "Debt for Education SWAP-II",
- Debt for education SWAP-II, elementary and secondary education department KPK (Phase-II)".

Energy Wing

A meeting regarding "Financing of Neelum Jhelum Hydro Power Project" was held on 17th December, 2012 under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the minutes were drafted.

Energy Wing proposed potential relevant to energy sector which can be involved to formulate project proposals to avail funding under the Norwegian grant assistance programme (Phase-II) through joint collaboration with Norwegian

counterpart institutes.

A revised summary for ECNEC for the project namely "Rehabilitation of Thermal Power Station, Jamshoro" was prepared.

Science & Technology

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 14th December 2012 under the chairmanship of Member (S&T), Planning Commission and following projects were discussed:

- In Country Training and Provision of Equipment for Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS).
- Enhancement of Infrastructure at IM Sciences, Peshawar.
- Construction of Offices/

laboratories of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) at Gulshan-e-Johar, Karachi.

- Development of Probiotic Laboratory.

Minutes of the pre-CDWP meeting for the above projects were prepared and issued.

In pursuance of CDWP decision, a meeting for discussion of the "Social Sector Development through Remote Sensing Satellite (RSS)" was held on 14th December 2012. The meeting was co-

chaired by Member (S&T) and Member (I&M), Planning Commission.

Comments on PC-IVs titled "Cloning of Cellulase Gene(s) for Ethanol Production from plant Biomass" and "Establishment of Cast Metals & Foundry Technology Centre Daska, Sialkot were prepared.

Deputy Chief, S&T Section attended the 1st meeting of Interferon Project Steering Committee (IPST) held at National Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology, Lahore on 22nd December 2012.

Food & Agriculture

Some detailed information was sought from respective institutions and points for discussion about "Review & Evaluation of Institutions and Development Projects" from Federal Seed Certification Department, PARC and RADP were prepared. Draft comments regarding "Oilpalm Development Project Sindh & Balochistan" were prepared for the Cabinet Division and were forwarded to Secretary, P&D Division for perusal and further orders.

Comments on PIP Section's Memorandum regarding regularization of services and payment of salaries to employees of devolved pro-

ject titled "National Program for the Control and Prevention of Avian Influenza" of defunct ministry of livestock & dairy development were conveyed to Public Investment Programming section.

Annotated reply from National Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (NAPHIS) Authorities on comments of Food & Agriculture Section regarding "Draft Bill to Establish National Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Authority" was analyzed and reported to higher quarters.

Agribusiness Development Project (Loan No. 2171-PAK-SF) Completion

Report forwarded by Economic Affairs Division was scrutinized and comments were conveyed accordingly. Potential beneficiary institutions in Agriculture Sector for Norwegian Grant (Phase II) Institutional Cooperation Programme 2013-14, were also identified.

Representation was made at Seminar on "Role of Soy in Human Health & Food Security" held on 6th December 2012 in Ministry of Food Security and Research arranged by USDA, American Soybean Association and World Initiative for Soy in Human Health.

International Trade & Finance

The information regarding External Sector of the economy was updated. According to data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports increased by 7.9% and stood at \$ 10,082 million during July – November, 2012. In the same period imports declined by 0.91% and stood at \$ 18,250 million. The average exchange rate in the November, 2012 remained at Rs.95.99/\$ against Rs.86.93/\$ in November, 2011, showing a depreciation of 9.44 percent.

A summary was put up for Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development, Economic Affairs & Statistics regard-

ing MoU on cooperation in the field of Planning between the Govt. of Turkey and the Govt. of Pakistan.

Comments on Establishment of Container Fright station & Customs Port application under Section 9 & 10 of the Custom Act 1969 were prepared and forwarded to the quarter concerned. Furthermore, the comments regarding Department for International Development (DFID)-UK grant for peace building support to Govt. of Pakistan's Post Crises Need Assessment (PNCA) and Sub-national Governance (SNG) Programmes were offered to Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Comments were

offered on Draft Commonwealth Consultation Recommendations for the Post 2015 Development Framework for Education to Economic Affairs Division.

Input was provided on proposed Research and Develop Technical Assistance (RTDA) on assisting the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute Knowledge Program (Phase-I) request for No Objection to Inclusion in the RDTA.

Hosting of 2nd ECO Youth Ministerial Meeting of Regional Planning Council (RPC) was also coordinated with Economic Affairs Division.

Pakistan Planning & Management Institute

During December, 2012 following training courses were organized:-

- Result Based Management, 3-5 December, 2012

- Implementation Plan of Framework for Economic Growth, 17-19 December, 2012

The purpose of the courses was to provide

clear understanding & skill of how to develop Results Base Management processes and create awareness about significance of New Growth Framework.

Industry & Commerce

A brief of the ECC summary "Approval for Corporate Purchase of Tullow Pakistan Developments Limited and Tullow Bangladesh Limited" was pre-

pared for Deputy Chairman Planning Commission. Furthermore, a summary for the ECC regarding "Review of the Working of National Tarrif Commission" was

prepared and three PC-Is of the Ministry of Production regarding Pakistan machine tools factory, were examined.

Administration

In the month of December, 2012 Admin-III has not made any promotion and appointment due

to ban on fresh recruitment. However, owing to shortage of staff, the unnotified posting / trans-

fers were made as a routine matter.

Information & Communication Technologies

In-House Computer Training

Short Term in-house training programme is in progress at JACC. A two-week duration training of Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint for the Sr. Private Secretaries was arranged. First batch of 11 candidates have been imparted training in the 2nd and 3rd week of December, 2012. Second batch of the training for the Stenographers of Planning Commission is expected to start in the 2nd week of January 2013.



Coding Scheme of PSDP Projects

A meeting was held with Additional Secretary for review of 'Tracking of PC-Is Application Software' and 'Coding Scheme of PSDP projects Application Software', developed by JACC. The feedback provided has been incorporated in the application. A meeting for the final review of the ap-

plications with the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, is expected in January 2013.

Website of Planning Commission

The website of Planning Commission is continuously being maintained and updated by JACC. In December, various activities were performed in this regard, "News and Updates" section, "Picture Galleries" of the events held during the month of December, 2012, weekly "Status of PSDP releases" "Local and Foreign Training" announcement, are continuously being updated. Furthermore, Reports forwarded by Nutrition section, PPMI and other sections, Newsletter for the month of November 2012 and Job Advertisements have been uploaded on the website of Planning Commission.

IT Services

Scanning of 40 office files (8000 pages approx.) of different sections of Planning & Development division has been done by JACC, and other documents scanning. A number of meetings were held at P-block. Audio Cable Testing of Auditorium Sound System, Recording, Photography at different events, Recording, Writing the files to CD, Color Printing of different Presentations, Installation of multimedia and operating presentation of different meetings held at P-Block are being provided by JACC, e.g. Meeting on Poverty, DAC Meeting on NLC, Meeting of National

Maternal Health, MNCH Meeting, Presentation on Pakistan Integrated Energy Modeling, meeting of Chiefs & Deputy Chiefs with secretary. NTCIP Meeting, Meeting on Financing Gap in Neelum-Jhelum Project 'conference on creative cities 27-11-2012'.

Furthermore, hardware experts attended daily routine complaints at P-Block and PPMI Building for computer hardware/Software Installation repair and troubleshooting. Provided Support for connecting Skype Conference and Operated Presentation during Pakistan Strategy Support Program held on December 13 - 14, 2012.

Other IT services provided during the month of December include Typing, formatting, scanning, designing printing and spiral binding of documents for different officers and officials of P&D. Scanning & Printing of Pictures. Composing and Printing of Security Pass, Downloading of PSDP Monitoring Reports, Video Editing. Providing technical assistance to all the sections of Planning. Formatting and Printing of Newsletter for the month of November 2012

Monitoring visit of Projects Wing

At the request of JACC, a monitoring team of Projects Wing comprising Mr. Rafiq Ahmed Hakro Director, Mr. Mujahid Khan Director, and Mr. Farhan Aslam Deputy Director, conducted a visit of project "Upgradation of Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre" on 14th December, 2012.

Information & Communication Technologies (cont...)

Director General, JACC made a presentation about physical and financial status of the project. The team was informed that project is on extension upto 31st December, 2012. The building completion works are at final stages and the JACC has no technical expertise for its inspection and evaluation of the work done. Therefore, Projects Wing may depute a suitable technical expert on priority basis for verification of items quality of work done and items fabricated/ installed on site. At the end, monitoring team also had a visit of newly constructed building.

Construction work of JACC building

Construction work of JACC building continued during December, 2012. Protective wall outside the building has been con-

structed. Electricity connection has been established. The kitchenette and baths are made operative. Linkage between the new building and existing JACC building will take place in next month as last item of work. Possession of the building may be handed over by the CDA in next month.



Working Paper for Pre-CDWP and CDWP of IT related projects

This month JACC has scrutinized the PC-1s and prepared the working papers for pre-CDWP and CDWP of four IT related projects as follows:

- i. Integrated Border Management Systems (Revised)
- ii. Automation Central Directorate Of National Savings (CDNS) Phase-II
- iii. Review And Integration Of Telecommunication Policies Of Pakistan
- iv. Machine Readable Passport/Visa (Mrp/ Mrv) Phase-II

These projects would be presented in the CDWP on 21st January, 2013. Moreover, work is also being done on the "Performance Of Public Sector Development Programme 2012-2013"

**We are on the
Web
www.pc.gov.pk**



Planning Commission

**P-BLOCK, PAK SECRETARIAT,
ISLAMABAD.**