

Planning Commission Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Governance	2
Energy Wing	2
Pakistan Planning and Management Institute	3
Food and Agriculture	3
Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre (JACC)	3-4
Nutrition	4-5
Manpower	5

Framework for Economic Growth

A team of specialists from French Development Agency (AFD) visited Planning Commission to discuss Pakistan's macroeconomic situation on 27th February, 2012. AFD is a French specialized financial institution, currently providing soft loans for Pakistan's energy sector. The agenda of the mission was to evaluate the growth dynamics and macroeconomic situation of the country. The meeting was chaired by Joint Chief Economist (JCE) and Chiefs of economic Sections of Planning &

Development Division participated in the meeting, while from AFD side Senior Country Risk Analyst, Senior Economist Asia Department and Project Manager AFD participated. JCE briefly discussed the agenda of the meeting and features of Pakistan's economy. Chief, Macroeconomic Section briefed on the recent macroeconomic situation of the country and also discussed prevailing energy crisis and its impact on the manufacturing sector of the economy. Assistant Chief, Macroeconomic Section pre-

sented the salient features of the Framework for Economic Growth (FEG). French mission showed keen interest in the themes of FEG and discussed in detail its implementation mechanism and measures to overcome the existing energy crisis in Pakistan. Both short run and long run measures for macroeconomic stabilization of the economy were discussed. JCE thanked the delegation and reiterated the need for prompt interventions to mitigate the energy needs of the country.

International Trade & Finance

According to provisional data released by PBS exports stood at \$ 13.2 billion during July-January of FY12, showing an increase of 0.25% over the corresponding period of last year. The imports registered a growth of 16.77% and stood at \$ 26.3 billion during July-January of FY12. Commodity-wise analysis shows that all export groups have shown positive growth, except textile group and Petro-

leum group. Commodity-wise analysis of imports revealed a mix situation. Food and Transport groups have shown negative growth, while others have registered positive growth. The trade deficit remained at \$ 13.7 billion during the period. Material was furnished to Economic Affairs Division for agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt. Furthermore,

input regarding ISFD Basic Education for the Poor (BEP) Program-consideration for Pakistan to boost the flagship for the BEP Program was forwarded to Economic Affairs Division. A brief was also prepared for Secretary, Planning & Development Division for meeting with Common Wealth delegation at President House.

Governance

During the month of February, 2012, rules for hiring an independent Project Director were formulated. A PC-I of new integrated project of Public Sector Capacity Building was prepared. Implementation Plan on Growth Strategy (Governance Sector) was prepared. Working Paper on Project

Allowance for PSDP funded projects was prepared. Comments/Views on "Task Force Report on Urban Development (Consultation with Stakeholders)" were prepared and forwarded to PP&H Section.

Twenty two (22) nominations for trainings/workshops/conferences were

processed. Two meetings of the Committee on Foreign Training were arranged whereas 01 officer attended the foreign training/seminar/workshop during the month.

Energy Wing

A meeting of Working Group on Energy Sector Issues and Reforms was held on 16th February, 2012 in the Energy House of USAID office. The group consisted on energy sector professionals from public and private sectors. The scope of the meeting was to present the issues and way forward in the energy sector and to formulate specific recommendations for the Cabinet. The governance problems, lack of resources for financing new projects, absence of proactive policies and vision for proper deregulation of the energy sector alongwith other issues were discussed in the meeting.

Planning Commission recommended a com-

plete review of energy pricing & tariffs, planning of new projects for meeting supply/demand gaps & efficiency and enhancement of the regulatory function. It was also recommended that a task force may be constituted to review and finalize selected short term measures and pursue their implementation. A special task force will be formed comprising of public and private sector representatives to develop a road map within eight weeks to address the Public private partnership, proper deregulation & market based pricing structure, energy security and affordable energy for consumers.

Planning Commission will formulate recommendations for approval of the Cabinet to form task forces, implement the short term measures and develop the long term road map, monitor & report progress and coordinate in resolving issues and bottlenecks to ensure implementation of the reforms.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

During the month of February, 2012, three (03) following training courses were organized.

- Managing Public Private Partnership Projects
- Project Planning (Customized),

jointly organized by PPMI and PARC

- Financial Management Concepts and Analytical Tools.

The civil works of both the PPMI and Hostel buildings have been completed. The Hostel Building has been

taken over by PPMI. Procurement of Information Technology and electronics equipment for the Institute building is under process with NESPAK.

Food and Agriculture

Following major activities were carried out during the month of February, 2012:

- Arranged a meeting on "Agricultural Planning / Policy Analysis: Review of Agriculture Statistics Compilation System" on 16-02-2012.
- Follow up of the decision adopted by the conference of the parties to the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Con-
- sent Procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade.
- Worked on technology foresight for agriculture in Pakistan under Pakistan Council of Science and Technology.
- Arranged a meeting with the Mission of the United Nations Environment Program on sustainable Consumption and Pro-

duction.

- Convened a meeting of Board of Governors of Agriculture Linkage Program.
- Continued working to attract investment (local and foreign) in Agriculture Sector under Board of Investment.
- Prepared papers on Status of Agriculture in Sindh and Balochistan.

Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre (JACC)

JACC finalized the training material and started the training of the first batch of the Stenographers/Steno Typists on IT. For this training total number of 98 candidates were nominated. Upon completion of this training, the certificate award ceremony was held in JACC. Secretary, Planning & Development Division very kindly distributed the certificates



amongst the trainees. Training of 2nd batch has been started on 20th February, 2012 and will be completed on 2nd March, 2012.

A presentation was made to cover all the



aspects in case of winding up of the project "Upgradation of JACC" i.e. appraisal/plan formulation of IT,

Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre (JACC) (Continued)

Telecom, Finance projects, which are presently handled by the project employees.

Tender for purchase of 70 Laptop and other accessories have been advertised in the national press. In response, the tender bids of different parties have been received. The objective of this purchase is to facilitate the higher management in per-

forming their duties more efficiently.

The matter of construction of additional office space adjacent to "P" Block secretariat has been taken up at the level of Additional Secretary, P&D Division and the Chairman, CDA.

The Planning Commission's website has been linked with HEC Digital Library and

PIDE Journals. All the events held this months also have been covered and placed their pictures, galleries on the website of Planning Commission.

Nutrition

Nutrition Section conducted a meeting on 14th February, 2012 on National Nutrition Program as follow up of D-10 forum, with wide participation from Provincial/Regional Government Departments of Planning & Development, Health, Food and UN agencies.

The bi-annual (July-December, 2011) report in the month of February, 2012 on the cost estimation and comparison of minimum food Basket, including national, provincial and regional comparisons with same food period of last year i.e. 2010 was completed.

The main findings of the report July-December, 2011 are as under:

- The cost of food basket registered cumulative increase of 3% at national

level, 4% in Federal Area & Sindh, 1% in Punjab & Balochistan and 6% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- The average cost of food basket has been higher in Federal Area (12%) and Sindh (2%), while lower in Punjab (5%), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (3%), and Baluchistan (1%), as compared to national average cost.
- Within Punjab, the average cost of Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot & Lahore is 7% higher, while it is 7% lower in Multan & Bahawalpur as compared with average cost in Punjab.
- In Sindh, the average cost of Karachi has been 2% higher, while 2%

lower in Hyderabad, Sukkur & Larkana, if compared with the average cost of Sindh.

Comparison of half year (July- December) average cost of food basket for 2011-12 and 2010-11:

- The average cost in 2011-12 has been higher by 8% at national level, by 7% in Punjab and Sindh, by 7% in Federal area, by 5% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and by 4% in Baluchistan as compared to previous year i.e.2010-11.
- In regions of Punjab, the difference between average cost of 2010-11 and 2011-12 registered the higher increase in Multan & Bahawalpur and lower in Faisalabad & Sar-

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



Planning Commission

P-BLOCK, PAK SECRETARIAT,
ISLAMABAD.

Nutrition (Continued)

godha by 11% and 6% respectively, whereas Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot & Lahore showed 7% increase in the cost.

- In regions of Sindh, the increase in average cost from 2010-11 to 2011-12, has been 9% for Karachi and 8% in Hyderabad, Sukkur & Larkana.

The report on monthly cost of food basket has been completed in February, 2012. The comparison with January, 2012 shows:

- The cost remained stable as compared to the cost of previous month i.e. December 2011, at national, provincial and regional levels.
- The cost for January 2012 compared

with the same month of last year i.e. January, 2011, has increased by 4% at national level and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by 6% in Federal Area and Punjab, by 5% in Sindh, while it decreased by 3% in Balochistan.

Manpower

The document regarding "Standardization of Rules Guidelines for Reparation/Approval/Implementation of Development Projects"

was examined and comments were offered to concerned Section. The task force report on urban development was analyzed and nec-

essary input was communicated to the quarter concerned.