



# DEVELOPMENT INSIGHT

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“International rating agencies are optimistic about Pakistan’s economic performance and are predicting the country will emerge as one of the fastest growing economies in the world

**Sartaj Aziz**

Deputy Chairman Planning Commission

## National Conference on Internal Security, Peace and Sustainable Development



Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform and Ministry of Interior co-organized a One-day National Conference on Internal Security, Peace and Sustainable Development at Pakistan Planning and Management Institute, Islamabad. The aim of the conference was to highlight a comprehensive policy framework to deal with all key aspects of National Security.

Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the opening session by stating that Pakistan had been facing security challenges for a long period of time and this has its roots in the geo-strategy of the region. Minister further maintained that along with the chaos

brought by western agencies, we as a nation have to deal with several security threatening-issues such as gun culture and menace of Drugs.

Field Experts and Renowned scholars like Lt.Gen (R) ,Nasir Janjua, National Security Advisor Ihsan Ghani, Mohsin Butt, Tariq Pervaiz, Dr.Asma Khwaja, Dr Ishtiaq Ahmed (NC NACTA), FasiZaka, Khawar Mumtaz, Musharraf Zaidi, Dr Anees Ahmed, Mr Peter Jacob and Dr Jamil Ahmad were invited as speakers. The interactive Forum served as an effort to involve a wider set of stakeholders for understanding the global evolution of the concept regarding security and peace.

## Provinces to focus on their natural endowments for SEZs Development under CPEC: Ahsan Iqbal



Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired a high level meeting to review progress on Special Economic Zones under CPEC. Secretary Planning, Mr. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Secretary Board of Investment Mrs. Samaira Nazir Siddiqui, Project Director CPEC, Mr. Hassan Daud and officials from provinces attended.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal stated that all the provinces must focus on their natural endowments and prepare bankable feasibility to attract foreign investors. Minister said that the main dividend of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is SEZs which would completely transform Pakistan's industrial sector.

He termed it as the best opportunity to attract foreign investment by ensuring relocation of Chinese labour intensive industry that would maximize job opportunities for our youth. Minister highlighted that SEZs development needs to be fast tracked in view of the decisions agreed to the Council of Common Interest (CCI).

Secretary Planning also elaborated that Chinese investors are keen to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan and all the provinces need to expedite preparations and procedures for early implementation of SEZs development.

## Inauguration of Day Care Centre at Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated a Day Care Centre at Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The initiative was taken to facilitate the working mothers and increase their convenience. In



order to refine the working environment in the Ministry, the initiative held a major significance. The Day Care centre will provide long-lasting social and economical benefits for working mothers and it will increase their productivity.

## Minister Ahsan Iqbal Inaugurates Centre for Social Entrepreneurship

The inaugural ceremony of Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CFSE) was held at Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI). Minister of Planning Development and Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, was the chief guest. The ceremony was attended by a group of dignitaries of Planning Commission, academia, government officials, social entrepreneurs, media and students.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal congratulated the team of CFSE and stated that Centre for Social Entrepreneurship is key development agenda of present government and would be instrumented for providing network opportunities to social entrepreneurs to link their ideas with best practices of the world and get optimum benefit from them. He highlighted that the Centre for social entrepreneurship is an initiative that reflects the mission of Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms to manage Pakistan's socio-economic development in strategic and sustainable manners.



## Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approves 34 projects worth Rs 365.492

Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved 34 projects worth Rs 365.492 Billion out of which 5 projects worth Rs 333.179 were recommended to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC).

The Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Mr. Sartaj Aziz chaired the meeting. Senior officials from federal and provincial governments participated in the meeting. The projects presented for approval related to Energy, Transport and Communications, Physical Planning and Housing, Science and Technology, Health, Commerce and Industry and Education.



## Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal launches Jazba-e-Tameer Campaign



A campaign on Jazba-e-Tameer was launched by the Ministry of Planning Development and Reform. In this campaign, all stakeholders of Pakistan, especially media was asked to join hands in Rising Pakistan program. Minister Ahsan Iqbal while launching the initiative of Jazba-e-Tameer, said that when it comes to branding of Pakistan, everyone must set aside their

differences and project 'Rising Pakistan' brand collectively as a nation.

"The idea of 'Rising Pakistan' Campaign was to instil positive energy among people of Pakistan so that we can jointly celebrate our successes and address challenges" said Minister Iqbal.

## Prof. Ahsan Iqbal witnesses the "China-Pakistan Contract Signing Ceremony of Pakistan Multi Mission Satellite Project"

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal witnessed the strategic contract signing ceremony of Pakistan Multi Mission Satellite Project at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. Minister Iqbal said that Pakistan highly values and appreciates the cooperation extended by our great friend China in the field of space technology. CPEC has already transformed the relationship between Pakistan and China into a strategic economic partnership.

Addressing the media and the stakeholders, Minister Iqbal said that space technology is the future frontier of human race. Pakistan is committed to harness the new technologies for development of our country under Pakistan Vision 2025 to turn Pakistan into an innovation economy. He said that the partnership between Pakistan and China would help in bringing innovation in the country and would start a new engine of growth in different areas and sectors of our economy.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal maintained that initiative of Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite and Pakistan Multi



Mission Satellite truly reflects the sincere efforts and keen interest of current government to bring new technologies and applications in the country.

## CPEC Vision 2025 and Belt and Road Initiative Conference



Under Development Communication project, an event on “CPEC: Vision2025 and Belt & Road Initiative” was organised in collaboration with NUML at Pakistan Planning and Management Institute. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest of the event who addressed the significance of CPEC in the context of One Belt One Road Initiative!

Discussing the development initiatives Minister Ahsan Iqbal appreciated the students studying CPEC & BRI as subjects. He said that development requires consistency and continuity of policies. Every successful reformer has brought reforms with

consistency of policy and clarity of vision.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal lauded the successful policies of the incumbent government saying that Its a matter of pride that our government in 5 years is able to resolve major problems being faced by the country in 2013-15, eradication of terrorism and energy crisis were two such major problems. He said in 2013, International Media painted Pakistan as the most dangerous country but with the successful policies of incumbent government, the world is recognising Pakistan as an emerging economy today.

## Central Development Working Party approved 33 projects worth Rs. 50.5 billion

Central Development Working Party approved 33 projects worth Rs. 50.5 billion out of which two projects worth Rs. 22.5 billion were recommended to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council.

CDWP meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Mr. Sartaj Aziz whereas Secretary Planning Commission Mr. Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui accompanied the deputy chairman. Senior officials from federal and provincial governments participated in the meeting. The projects presented for approval include energy, health, education, manpower, governance, physical planning & housing, transport & communications, water resources and mass media. In addition, two position papers were presented in the meetings.



## Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and British Council sign letter of intent to enhance Cooperation

A signing ceremony of Letter of Intent (LOI) between British Council, Pakistan and Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Ministry of Planning Development and Reform was held at P- Block. The signing ceremony was attended by the delegation of British Council headed by Rosemary Hilhorst and officers of the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship headed by Secretary Planning Mr. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui. Country Director, British Council Rosemary Hilhorst and Mr. Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui signed the letter of intent for enhancing cooperation between British Council and Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. This would be a missionary relationship for uplift of our youth.

The cooperation signed between Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform and British Council will



promote Social Entrepreneurship initiatives in the country for enhancement of the collaboration and cooperation in area of social Entrepreneurship.

This cooperation between two organizations will provide opportunities and help to benefit from each mutual experiences, training opportunities and initiatives within and outside the country.

## Professor Ahsan Iqbal chairs briefing session for senior civil officers of 108th National Management Course



A briefing session for the Participants of 108th National Management Course was organised at the Ministry of Planning Development and Reform. The purpose of this briefing session was to build capacity of senior civil officers for formulation and effective implementation of public policy, and to acquaint them with decision-making process at the federal level.

Talking to the participants, the Minister Iqbal stated that officers are the future custodians of Pakistan development journey. He further said that the political government and civil servants must align themselves to achieve the development agenda of Pakistan in the national interest. Rector NSPP M. Azmat Ranjha thanked the Minister.

## Media serves as an integral part of a Nation's Success: *Prof Ahsan Iqbal*



An interactive session of bureau chiefs, senior editors and journalists was held at a local hotel in Islamabad. Minister of Planning, Development and Reform, Ahsan Iqbal informed the bureau chiefs and media persons about the on-going development projects in different sectors especially under China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal also talked about the Priority areas of development in line with Vision 2025.

The Meeting was part of the initiative taken by Development Communication Project for the purpose to



create development discourse. The Initiative aims to take on board all the stakeholders such as media, academia and business community to create a positive development narrative.

The minister maintained that the goal of inclusive development can only be achieved when the scope of consultation is widened to the stakeholders. In today's world, media is integral part for the success of any initiative hence the policymaking would be incomplete if media role is ignored, he said.

## Social Media Conference (Building Development Discourse)



Development Communication Team organized a first of its kind workshop for digital and social media stakeholders at Pakistan Planning and Management Institute, Islamabad. Minister for Planning Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest whereas Secretary Planning gave the closing note and distributed certificates among the participants. Field experts and renowned social and digital media influencers like Badar Khushnood, Kamal Faridi and Rehan Allahwala were invited as speakers.

One day training workshop for the social media influencers and web bloggers envisaged to discuss various aspects of development initiatives and hold an interactive session inviting them to propound their viewpoint and provide valuable input on role of media, building media development partner and effectively advocate various development initiatives under and beyond CPEC.



Minister Iqbal stressed the significance of social media in today's age of information. He asserted that countries too have brands like commodities. Every country is struggling to promote and strengthen its identity. Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that we as a nation must adopt a responsible attitude towards building positive image of Pakistan across the world. To become an economic power, we have to present Pakistan as an attractive destination for investments, he advised.