



# Newsletter Planning Commission

## Economic Sections

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### Macroeconomic Section

In order to keep informed with the daily fluctuating macroeconomic indicators, the Section provides update of the indicators regularly to Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal and Secretary PD&R Hassan Nawaz Tarar. Moreover, a comprehensive economic outlook on monthly basis is circulated to different Sections of the Ministry. The monthly outlook describes trends of different macroeconomic variables and drivers of those trends during the month. To achieve objectives of the Pakistan Vision 2025, and review the state of various reforms, the Ministry organised 'Pakistan Governance Forum 2014' to develop innovative solutions and recommend plans for accelerated implementation of reforms in different areas by the federal and provincial governments. The Forum was held at the Jinnah Convention Centre (Islamabad) on December, 22 2014. The Section invited and coordinated with participants, who discussed and gave recom-

mendations for 'Performance Management Systems in Public Sector'. For this discussion, Mr Zubair Khurshid Bhatti from the World Bank was the focal person in the forum. The focal person and Director General Rescue 1122 Punjab Dr Rizwan Naseer, in collaboration with the Macroeconomic Section, submitted a comprehensive recommendatory to the Member Govern-  
ernance.

The Monetary and Fiscal Policies Coordination Board, headed by the Finance Minister, requested this Ministry to provide the progress on the measures taken for enhancement of investment and savings and also to suggest ways forward to overcome the issue of low savings and investment. In this regard, this Section received information from the Board of Investment State Bank of Pakistan and Public Investment Programming Section to provide a comprehensive report to the M&FPC Board. Further, in order to update the Macroeconomic Frame-

work and provide input to the Finance Division, this Section analysed information received from the China -Pakistan Economic Corridor, Food and Agriculture Section and Public Investment Programming Section to identify sources of growth and growth drivers. This information will be used for projecting sectoral growth rates and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the next four years.

The Section identified different areas of training of its employees for the Public Sector Performance Improvement Capacity Building Programme. Subjects of the training were: comprehensive macroeconomic framework, formulation and estimation of Public Savings, data analysis tools based on advanced econometric techniques, framework and modelling for forecasting of various macroeconomic variables and techniques for devising and analysing policy in the context of disaster and economic shocks management.

## Public Investment Authorization Section

A meeting of the ECNEC was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister/Chairman ECNEC in which eleven projects

were considered, which would cost Rs187.8 billion. Eight schemes, to cost Rs157.02 billion, were approved. Priority was accorded to transport and

communications, energy and governance sectors. Three schemes of the Transport and Communication Section were deferred by the forum.

## Plan Coordination Section

The Section participated in a training session designed to equip officers and officials of the Ministry with the E-office module. Three-day training was held in the JACC, and all officers/officials of this Section attended the session.

Chief and officers of this Section performed different tasks assigned to them for successful holding of the Pakistan Governance Forum. List of confirmed invitees were obtained from different group facilitators, and information was compiled for the senior management.

Preparation of the Year Book 2013-14 of the Ministry for onward submission



to the Cabinet Division is in process. Collected material from sections/wings concerned of the Ministry was forwarded to the Editor.

Newsletter of the Planning Commission is consolidated by this Section. During December, material for November was collected from all sections/wings of the Ministry consolidated

and uploaded on the official website after editing by the Editor, and approval of the competent authority.

Dr Saleem Mohsin joined the Section as Deputy Chief in place of Mrs Nighat Alam, who was transferred and posted in the IT&F Section.

## Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy Section

Prepared an update on 'Capital Market Developments', monthly review of 'Monetary Development and Growth' for November, update on inflation highlighting the reasons/causes for increase and decrease in the prices of major food and non-food items, a position paper on new monetary policy announced by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), successive briefs on privatisation of the Allied Bank Limited,

and its strike price (respectively) for the meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and brief on ex-post facto approval for funds injection in the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Bangladesh – operations by the NBP Pakistan – for the ECC meeting.

- Tracked trends in regional prices of essential commodities, monetary aggregates, fiscal and

stock market developments

- Chief (MP&FP) led the 'Effective Local Government Group' in the Pakistan Governance Forum 2014, and report on the findings of the Group was prepared.
- Circulated report on review of consolidated fiscal developments during July-September, 2014.

## International Trade and Finance Section

- Updated data for an analysis of the External Sector performance of the economy. According to the data released by the PBS, exports decreased by 4.18 per cent and stood at \$9,923 million during July–November 2014. In the same period, imports increased by 12.48 per cent, and stood at \$20,370 million. The average exchange rate in November 2014 remained at Rs101.78/\$ against Rs107.50/\$ in November 2013.
- Furnished data required for the update of Macro-economic Framework 2015-18
- Facilitated and organised discussion on the State-Owned Enterprises for the Pakistan Governance Forum 2014
- Examined the draft chapter on Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement 'Trade in Services', and provided views and comments to the Ministry of Commerce
- Examined the Pak-China FTA (services) and provided input to the Ministry of Commerce
- Attended a meeting in the Foreign Office on Pak-Bahrain relations, and provided a brief to the Office
- Provided views/comments on the WTO Trade Policy Review to the WTO wing of the Ministry of Commerce
- Material/brief on the Pakistan-US Strategic Dialogue-2015 provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- One-day training on BPM-6 attended by the Chief and Assistant Chief at the NI-BAF

## Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section

### *Consultative workshop on the Multidimensional Poverty Index in Quetta*

The Ministry of PD&R, in collaboration with the UNDP and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), has initiated a series of provincial consultations on the MPI, which is a measurement of poverty developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The Index reflects multiple deprivations that a poor person faces with respect to education, health, and living standards. The MPI looks at poverty through a 'high resolution' lens. By directly measuring the nature and magnitude of overlapping deprivations at the household level, the MPI provides information that can help in forming policies meant to reduce poverty. The MPI is the first meas-

ure to reflect the intensity of poverty – the number of deprivations that each person faces simultaneously.

A workshop with policymakers, researchers, academia and practitioners was held in Quetta on December 30, 2014, to gather feedback on the proposed MPI. The proceedings commenced with recitation from the Holly Quran, followed by a welcome note by Chief Foreign Aid Section Mujeebur Rehman, Planning and Development Department government of Balochistan.

Member (SS&D) Planning Commission Dr Naeemuz Zafar gave a presentation on the objective of workshop and its format. Research Economist PIDE Dr Shujaat Farooq delivered a detailed presentation on the concept of the MPI and its measurement. He shared initial findings of the

MPI at the national, provincial and district levels, which were based on the PSLM dataset.

During the break-up group work, the participants suggested indicators to cover relevant dimensions and suggested to revisit weights assigned to each indicator and dimension in the construction of the MPI. The participants proposed various alternative indicators and weighting schemes. The workshop ended with closing remarks by Mujeebur Rehman. Dr Naeemuz Zafar, Chief Zafar-ul-Hassan and Assistant Chief Dr M. Aman Ullah Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section represented the Planning Commission.

## Employment, Research and Foreign Aid Section

The figures and targets from the PSDP of 2014-15, relating to employment generation, have been estimated and provided to the Public Investment Programming Sec-

tion for onward submission to the Finance Division.

The comments and talking-points for the US Ministerial Strategic Dialogue have been sent to the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a meeting, scheduled to be held in January 2015 between Pakistan and the United States.

## Economic Appraisal Section

Analysed and examined PC-IIs of 23 projects, two PC-IIIs and one Concept Clearance Proposal, and undertook economic/financial analyses accordingly for the consideration of the Central Develop-

ment Working Party (CDWP).

The Section also participated in 13 pre and post CDWP meetings as a member, and presented the required point of view.

The Section coordinated and facilitated the Ac-

countability and Transparency Thematic Subgroup during its deliberations and discussions at the Pakistan Governance Forum, and submitted a draft report accordingly.

## Technical Sections

### Governance Section

To achieve the Pakistan Vision 2025 objectives and to review the state of reforms, develop innovative solutions, and recommend plans for accelerated implementation of reforms in 14 areas by the federal ministries and provincial governments, the Pakistan Governance Forum 2014 was organised. The areas are:

- i. Civil Service Reforms
- ii. Police and Criminal Justice Reforms
- iii. Education Sector Reforms
- iv. Health Sector Reforms
- v. Ease of Doing Business
- vi. Accountability and Transparency
- vii. E-Governance
- viii. State Owned Enterprises
- ix. Legal Reforms
- x. Post-18<sup>th</sup> Amendment Challenges and Opportunities

- xi. Service Delivery and Citizen Client Charter
- xii. Performance Management Systems in Public sector
- xiii. Regulatory Bodies
- xiv. Effective Local Government

- List of the intended participants was finalised, and invitation letters were dispatched and their confirmation was made online and telephonically.

- Logistic arrangements were coordinated with constituted committees of the Forum.

- All material, that is, templates, duty roster, speeches etc. for thematic areas of the Pakistan Governance Forum were prepared.

- The DDWP meeting on project 'Upgradation of IT infrastructure and Development of IT Human Resources' in the

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs was attended, and PC-I of the project was examined.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Cabinet Committee, constituted by the Prime Minister on the post-18<sup>th</sup> Amendment Restructuring, was organised and the Terms of Reference to conduct study on the devolution were prepared.

- Views/comments on Pakistan's joining of the Open Government Partnership (OPG) Network were processed with ministries/divisions/departments, and compiled.

- Attended a meeting of the Steering Committee on Implementation of Citizen Feedback Monitoring Programme in the Federal

## Governance Section (Cont...)

### Agencies

- Modified PC-I of project 'Security Improvement in Port Karachi and Port Bin Qasim for Installation of 03 Fixed & 01 Mobile Scanners by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)' of the Federal Board of Revenue, and project of the Finance Division 'Public Sector Enterprise Reforms (PSER)' was examined and processed.
- Proposal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance on Strengthening Financial Management in Asia and Pacific was examined, and com-ments were forwarded to the Foreign Aid Section.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the Multi Indicative Programme 2014-2020 was examined, comments were prepared and forwarded to the Foreign Aid Section.
- Comments on allocation and release of the federal government share of Rs496.779 million for project 'Raising of Balochistan Constabulary, Balochistan' were prepared and forwarded to the PIP Section.
- Meeting of the Performance Evaluation Committee was held to recommend continuation in the fellowship period of top five Young Development Fellows (YDFs) from the 1<sup>st</sup> Batch, and their extension was processed.
- Meetings of the short listing committee to shortlist applications received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of the YDF – under the Young Development Fellows Programme – were held, and list of the candidates was finalised.
- Cases for payment of monthly stipend amount to the YDF were finalised and processed with the AGPR.

## Water Section

- Consultation and coordination with all executing agencies for the Financial and Physical Review of the on-going development programmes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter releases of the PSDP 2014-15
- Preparation of presentation on the water sector's development programme (Federally-funded projects located in Balochistan and Sindh) for the Senate Standing Committee
- Disposal of directives of the Prime Minister, President and the Cabinet decisions
- Evaluation of the bidding process and other necessary documents for technical and financial audit of the Kachhi Canal Project
- Attended a meeting for technical scrutiny of the emergent flood schemes and approval
- Technically scrutiny and preparation of five working papers for approval from the CDWP
- Prepared one summary for the ECNEC on capacity building of the water sector
- Playing the lead role for submitting recommendations of the working group (Regulatory Bodies) formulated under the Pakistan Governance Forum
- Attended review meetings of the Naulong Dam, RBOD-I, II & III, Ghabir Dam Project, construction of 100 Delay Action Dams in Balochistan, Munda Dam, Raising of the Mangla Dam and Research Studies under IWASRI Project WAPDA
- Technical review of the Loan Agree for the Warsak Dam Rehabilitation Project, and LBDC Project Punjab
- Finalisation of visit of the Dutch Flood Mitigation Expert team
- A Pre-CDWP meeting was organised for discussion, and getting replies on all observations made in the five newly-submitted development PC-Is.

## Nutrition Section

Policy seminar on 'Poverty, Consumption, Food Security and Nutrition in Pakistan: what do we know and what can we do about it?' was organised by this Section in collaboration with the Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP) on December 8, 2014. Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal chaired the seminar, which was attended by more than 40 senior level representatives from various organisations, including Members of the Planning Commission.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) arranged donors' meeting for Zero Hunger & Family Farming Program on December 19, 2014. Chief Nutrition Section/SUN focal person attended the meeting.

A national conference on the Nutrition and Launch of Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance Pakistan (SUN-CSA, Pak.) was jointly organised by the Section and Save the Children, which was held on December 23 and 24. Prof Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Sikandar Hayat Bosan delivered inaugural and concluding speeches respectively. In the seminar, overall participation was of around

150 persons from all over the country, including Civil Society Organisations.

### Launch of the SUN Civil Society Alliance in Pakistan

A regular activity of cost estimation of the Food Basket – based on a mini-

country: in Punjab 8.4 per cent, at national level 6.3 per cent, Islamabad 5.8 per cent, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 5.6 per cent and Baluchistan 3.3 per cent.

A significant change was found when the cost was compared to December, 2013, which reduced at



mum of 2150 calories at the national and provincial level – was carried out by the Section, which showed following findings during December, 2014.

The cost Estimation as compared to the previous month revealed an overall decreasing trend throughout the

the rate of 8.0 per cent in Sindh, 2.0 per cent in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 1 per cent at the national level, Islamabad and Punjab.



## Industries, Commerce and Mineral Section

- Accompanied Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal to attend the first meeting at the Heavy Mechanical Complex, Taxila, on December 6, 2014.

Agenda was monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing projects at the HMC.

- Arranged and attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting about

two ongoing projects of the HMC on December 17, 2014.

- Arranged and attended the Pakistan Government Forum 2014

## Industries, Commerce and Mineral Section (Cont...)

- Prepared working paper of project 'Pak Korean Garments Technology Training Institute, Karachi' for the CDWP meeting
- Arranged and attended a meeting on the preparation of PC-I of project 'Value Addition in Industry-Cluster Development Approach'

## Food and Agriculture Section

- Information requested by the Finance and Accounts Section regarding 'Reports of the Auditor General of Pakistan Relating to the Federal Accounts of the Financial Year 2012-13 and the Reports of the Auditor General of Pakistan therein for the Audit Year 2013-14' was sent accordingly.
- Point of view on allocation of funds for a project 'Productivity Enhancement through Agriculture Land in ICT' in the current financial year 2014-15 was conveyed to the Public Investment Programming Section.
- Comments on statute regarding 'Establishment of OIC Food Security Institution in Kazakhstan' were conveyed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Brief descriptions regarding ongoing development projects and new initiatives related to the food and agriculture sectors for inclusion in the Year Book 2013-14 were prepared, and submitted to the Section concerned.
- Topics to the Training Section of this Ministry regarding areas related to Food, Agriculture and Allied Subsectors – in which training is required – were conveyed.
- Comments on the issue of 'Integrated Resource Management & Value Chain Development in High Value – Horticultural & Livestock System for Improvement of Livelihood in Rural Areas of District Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' were conveyed.
- Minutes of a consultative meeting on the 'Establishment of Rural Economy Centre', held on November 26, 2014, were prepared and conveyed to the participants.
- Comments on 'Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (SIAPEP)', assisted by the World Bank Assisted (estimated cost of Rs32,990.50 million) were drafted.
- Authorisation was granted to two DDWP level projects of the Ministry of Ports and Shipping after scrutiny of their modified PC-Is in accordance with the DDWP decision.
- Hearing of cases in the Wafaqi Muhtasib Court of the devolved projects was attended.
- Comments on project completion report PC-IV regarding project 'Establishment of Animal Quarantine Station Gwadar' were conveyed to the PIA Section for further necessary action.
- Comments were also conveyed to the PIP Section regarding releases for the PSDP projects of the Ministry of Ports and Shipping.

## Women Development and Manpower Section

- Meetings were held with stakeholders concerned, that is, NAVTTC, NTB and NISTE under the chairmanship of Member (SS) to review functions and performance of their departments.
- Participation in the Pakistan Governance Forum 2014
- Finalisation and submission of updated progress report of development projects pertaining to the skill development sector
- Submission of requisite information regarding skill development in response to questions, posed by the Senate Steering Committee

## Health Section

Dr Ghulam Asghar Abbasi retired on December 20 as Chief Health after almost 27-years service in the Planning Commission. The Section bade him farewell at a simple and graceful ceremony.

Dr. Abbasi, a medical

joined the Health Section as Assistant Chief in October 1988. He also worked on various assignments in different ministries. Having versatile experience of management and coordination, he contributed towards outlining policies,

and evaluation, annual development budget and health system research. As the focal person of the Pakistan Vision 2015, he managed human capital of the 'Vision 2015 and 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.



graduate having post policy planning and strategic planning, monitoring

## Projects / Wings

### National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

Production of all fertilizer products during November was about 613 thousand tonnes. Out of this urea production was about 436 thousand tonnes (71.0 per cent share in total production). Other products were: DAP 62 thousand tonnes, CAN 48 thousand tonnes, NP 52 thousand tonnes, SSP 13 thousand tonnes and various grades of NPK four thousand tonnes. Imported supplies comprised 75 thousand tonnes of DAP, two thousand tonne

of MOP.

Urea offtake during November was 467 thousand tonnes, which decreased by 15.2 per cent, while DAP offtake was 380 thousand tonnes which decreased by 6.4 per cent over November 2013.

- Monthly Fertilizer Review of mid-December, 2014, has been published and issued to all the stakeholders.
- Supplied brief report to the International Fertilizer

Industry Association (IFA) Paris regarding fertilizer offtake, future consumption and crop situation in Pakistan

- Prepared brief on urea supply demand and price situation during Rabi 2014-15 to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Ministry of Industry.

### Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

#### I. Complete Project Cycle Management (8 -19 DECEMBER, 2014)

Main objective of the training course was to improve the performance of participants by giving a better understanding of the whole project process, because it

has great importance in capacity-building and achieving sustainable development. It will develop understanding of basic concepts of project planning and management, equipping participants with project identification skills and how

to prepare and design projects, explaining the use of project appraisal techniques in project preparation and approval, train participants in implementation and managing projects as well as to develop un-

## Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (Cont...)



Understanding of the participants regarding the PPRA rules and MS Project. Sixty officers from the federal and provincial governments, and Public Sector Organisations participated in this course. Also five officers from the Ministry of PD&R participated in MS Project Module.

### II. Training course for newly-inducted Research Officers (ROs) of the Ministry of PD&R (14 October to 05 December 2014)

The eight-week training course for the newly-recruited research officers (BPS-17) of the Economist Group has been completed. Seven modules, that is, Functions of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Macroeconomic Planning and Management, Project Planning and Management, Secretariat Instructions, Organisations of Economic Research, MS Project/SPSS Software, PPRA Rules and Financial Management Procedures were covered to equip the officers under training with cutting edge information and knowledge.

Apart from this course Research Officers also vis-

ited the National Assembly on December 05, 2014, to learn about the parliamen-



tary form of government and working of the NA. Director General (Media) Mrs Naila Maqsood welcomed the team. She briefed about working of the parliament, which was followed by a visit to the NA gallery for observing the proceeding of the Assembly-in-Session.

The Poverty Alleviation Section intends to organise a series of training programmes on the 'Data Analysis for Better Social Development' with hands-on training on data analysis tools like 'stata' with actual micro data from the national and provincial surveys. The objective of the first one week training programme is to enable

policymakers and practitioners dealing with social sectors, like health, education, poverty etc., to be able to analyse the micro data of the PSLM, LF and PDHS Surveys. The proposal is underway for materialisation in col-



### III. Data Analysis Capacity Building Programme

laboration with the Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section.

## Projects Wing

### Visits

Member (I&M) Planning Commission Muhammad Shahid Chaudhry visited Bangkok and Thailand to attend the first working group meeting from December 22 to 23 on the 'Development of Seamless Connectivity' held at United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok.

### Monitoring

The Wing monitored 51 development projects (20 by social Sector, 19 by infrastructure and 12 by other sectors).

### Cash/work plan (2014-15)

The Infrastructure Section of the Wing has cleared 15 cash/work plans of different development projects.

### Evaluation

The Evaluation Section of the Wing has evaluated following two completed projects, which were sponsored by the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PINRA) during December, 2014.

National Environmental Radioactivity Surveillance Program (NERSP)  
Establishment of National Dosimetry and Protection level Calibration Laboratory. (NDCL)

### Management Information System

In an endeavour to bring all the federal ministries online in the loop of the Project Monitoring &

each ministry December 9 and 10, and 17 and respectively.

A refresher training session was conducted for the Project Directors



Evaluation System and Officers of Ministry (PMES), two ministries – Finance and Housing, and Works – were brought online by conducting a two-day training session for

of Statistics on the use of the PMES on December 29, 2014.



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