

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic

The third meeting of National Advisory Committee (NAC) of Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP) was held on 26th February, 2013 at Conference Room of Planning & Development Division under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

The meeting reviewed the first year performance of PSSP for facilitating the implementation of Framework for Economic Growth and also discussed next year's activity plan. Deputy Chairman showed some reservations on concentration of activities in some

areas and emphasized that in order to ensure inclusive growth, the activities of PSSP be extended to remote areas of Balochistan and KPK.

During 25th to 27th February 2013, a high level Korean delegation visited Pakistan for the Final Reporting Seminar of Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) 2012 and high level policy dialogue. Korean Delegation was headed by Advisor and Ex Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Shin Un and included eight Korean experts.

Final Reporting Seminar of KSP 2012 was held on

27th February 2013 at Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad. Representing Planning & Development Division, Assistant Chief (Macroeconomics Section) made a presentation on "Creating Space for Urban Micro-enterprises". The presentation highlighted the importance of urban micro-enterprises in promoting growth, employment and poverty alleviation. Korean participants provided their input for economic development of Pakistan in the light of Korean development experience.

Money Prices & Fiscal Policy

Monthly update on Inflation for the period July-January 2012-13 and Stock Market Development for January 2013 were prepared. Analysis of consoli-

dated Fiscal Developments during July-December 2012-13 and material for the meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) were prepared.

Moreover, information on Monetary Developments during July-February 2012-13 was consolidated.

International Trade & Finance

Information regarding external sector of the economy was updated. According to data released by PBS, exports increased by 7.24 % and stood at \$ 14,068 million during July-January, 2013. In the same period imports declined by 2.44 % and stood at \$ 25,685 million. The aver-

age exchange rate in the January 2013 remained at Rs. 97.47/\$ against Rs. 90.13/\$ in January 2012 showing a depreciation of 7.53 %.

A brief on follow up of decisions taken during the 8th session of Pak-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was pre-

pared. Moreover, Views/comments were offered on support for microfinance through risk participation and guarantee program-request for no objection. Similarly, comments were offered on the first meeting of board of approvals of special economic zones Act 2012.

Employment and Research

Comments on draft MOU being signed between SAARC Human Resources Development Centre and British Council to develop cooperation and collaboration for promotion of higher education and skill devel-

opment in SAARC member states in 2013 and 2014 were prepared. Moreover, material for Pakistan Economic Survey 2012-13 was compiled.

A brief on efforts made by the Government to re-

duce unemployment rate in the country was prepared so that consolidated brief for the National Assembly Special Committee on MDGs may be shaped.

National Fertilizer Development Centre

Total nutrient offtake during January, 2013 was about 293 thousand tonnes compared to 309 thousand tonnes of January, 2012, showing a decrease of 5.4 per cent. Among nutrients, nitrogen offtake decreased by 10.9 percent whereas phosphate and potash offtake increased by 91 and 5 percent respectively.

Urea offtake during January, 2013 was 517 thousand tonnes, which decreased by 15.2 percent over January 2012 (610 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was 53 thousand tonnes which registered an increase of 165.4 percent as compared to January 2012 (20 thousand tonnes). This high increase in DAP offtake during Febru-

ary 2013 with respect to same period of previous year in actual term is not reflecting the factual position as it was abnormally low in January 2012.

Statistics on fertilizer subsidy estimates along with data on fertilizer production, offtake, import and prices for last 10 years were provided to Finance Division.

Health

A high level meeting on saving the lives of mothers and children "Accelerating the Progress Towards Achieving MDG 4 and 5 in the Region" was held in Dubai, UAE, during 29th to 30th January, 2013. This was attended by Begum Shehnaz Wazir Ali, Advisor to Prime Minister on Social Sector and Chairperson of the Special Committee of Parliament on MDGs and Dr. Talib Lashari, Advisor (Health) Planning Commission. The theme of this meeting was to discuss slow progress towards achieving MDGs, high burden of mortality among mothers and children in

Pakistan and to develop a National Plan on MNCH Programme to improve the health indicators.

World Health Organization (WHO) organized a "Second Regional Health Diplomacy Seminar" in the Regional office Cairo, Egypt from 16-17 February, 2013. This was attended by Chief, Health Section Planning and Development Division. The event brought together experts and officials from Ministry of Health and Foreign Affairs from the Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to discuss various policy issues and challenges faced in the per-

spective of Global Health governance in the Member States and understanding the role of WHO in a multi-polar world.

The project named "Unit of Shredding, Sterilization and Disposal of Medical Waste at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad" was considered and approved in principle by the CDWP meeting held on 21-2-2013. The project aims to cater the needs of Public and Private Hospitals in the environment friendly disposal and management of hospital waste for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Food and Agriculture

Information on the following issues was consolidated:

- Five Year Repository for Chinese Aided Projects in Pakistan
- Status of "Pak China National Project for Controlled Atmosphere

Food and Agriculture

(CA) and Advanced Ventilated Cold Storage” and “Pilot Project for Sustainable Agriculture through Water Reservoirs in Tail End Areas of Non Perennial Canals in Sindh”

- Material for the Economic Survey 2012-13 regarding Agriculture Sector activities of the Planning Commission

Comments/briefs on the following matters were also

prepared:

- 2nd Meeting of Federal Committee on Cotton (FCC)
- Project titled “Up-gradation of Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) to the Level of Arid Zone Research Centre (AZRC), D.I. Khan and Establishment of New Satellite Research Institute at South & North Waziristan Agencies, FATA

(cont...)

and KPK”.

- Anticipatory approval of the project titled “Grain Storage Project-Construction of Steel Silos of 0.65 M.Ton”
- Submission of Modified PC-I by AJK Government as per agreed cost and scope of the project titled “Agricultural Research Institute Muzaffarabad”

Science & Technology

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 20th February 2013 under the chairmanship of Member (S&T), Planning Commission and the following projects were discussed:

- Strengthening of Engineering Programs at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology,

Lahore and Sahiwal

- Establishment of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, at Gujar Khan
- Uplifting Program of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Gujrat

Following working papers were also prepared

which were approved by CDWP in its meeting held on 21st February 2013:

- Development of Probiotic Laboratory
- Strengthening and up-gradation of University of Engineering and Technology Taxila and its Sub-Campus

Education

Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report (PMDGR) 2013 and Provincial updates on MDGs 2013 were prepared.

Comments / observations were prepared regarding following projects:

- Establishment of COMSATS Institute of I.T Campus at Gujar Khan
- Sun-National Governance (SNG) Program KPK
- Department for International Development (DFID)-UK Grant for Punjab Education Program

(PESP-II)

- Establishment of Post Graduate Blocks at Govt. College for Boys, Lodhran, Govt. Islamia College for Boys and Govt. Muslim College for Women, District Narowal (2nd Revision)
- Concept clearance proposal for foreign assistance for G-B Education Project (GBEP) Phase-II (2011-2016)
- Five Year Repository for Chinese Aided Projects in Pakistan
- Establishment & Opera-

tion of Basic Education Community Schools in the Country (Modified) (2006-2014)

In addition, para-wise comments were submitted to Litigation Section of P & D Division in a case filed by Mst. Musarat Shaheen and others vs. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)’s Secretariat, Lahore.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

The PPMI organized following two training courses:

- **Change Management, 6-8 February 2013:** The purpose of training course was to increase knowledge, enhance skills, bring positive change in attitude which contributes to the capacity building of the participants. Thirty five (35) participants/officers working in Federal, Provincial Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Organiza-

tions attended the course.

- **Macroeconomic Modeling, 18-21 February 2013:** The basic objective of this course was to develop the understanding of the structural and dynamics of Pakistan economy. It was also aimed to analyze the fundamental models of macroeconomics which are widely used and to analyze the fundamental features of some

macroeconomic models. The main focus was on macroeconomic indicators which are used to develop models that explain the relationship between macro variables. Twenty six (26) participants/officers working in Federal, Provincial Ministries/ Departments and Public Sector Organizations attended the course.

Manpower

The concept clearance proposal on "IDB Grant for Development of TEVT Sector in Pakistan" and "Pak Saudi Collaboration in Construction Sector (Establishment of Centre of Excellence in Construction)" sponsored by

NAVTC, M/o Education & Training were presented and approved by CCC/CDWP in its meeting held on 21-2-2013.

Information regarding achievements of skill development sector for 51st Section of the Commission

for Social Development (CSOCD) was consolidated. Technical comments regarding MOU with British Council on "Agreement on Skill Development Sector" were offered to the quarters concerned.

Energy Wing

Comments on following summaries for the ECC of Cabinet were offered:

- Amendments in Policy guidelines, LPG 2013
- Review of Oil Marketing Companies & Dealers Margins
- Formulation for fixation of Ex-refinery price of HSD
- Incentives for Relocated Refineries
- Guidelines for renewal of CNG marketing licenses
- Ban on CNG Cylinders and Kits

Summaries for ECNEC in respect of following power sector projects were prepared:

- Construction of 132 KV New substation and associated transmission line, Extension and Conversion subproject (Power Distribution Enhancement Investment Program (Tranche-3), HESCO Hyderabad
- Construction of 132 KV New Substations, and associated T/Ls, Extension and Augmentation Sub-projects (Power Distribution Enhancement Investment Program Tranche-3)
- Construction of 132 KV New Substations, conversion of 66 KV to 132 KV Sub-station and associated T/Ls,

Extension and Augmentation Sub-projects. (Power Distribution Enhancement Investment Program Tranche-3)

Working paper/concept clearance paper of following projects were also prepared for consideration of CDWP:

- Detailed Exploration of Uranium Resources in Bannu-Kohat, Phase-II
- Construction of new Grid Stations & Transmission Lines of HESCO/SEPCO
- Hydro Power training Institute Mangla (HPTI) availability of additional grant fund of Euro 2.5 million

Nutrition

UNICEF ROSA consultant Ms. Evelet Sequeria attended a meeting in Planning Commission for preparation of SAARC Framework for nutrition. The meeting was chaired by Member (F&A and Nutrition) Planning Commission.

Government of the Punjab disseminated Multi-sectoral Nutrition Policy

Guidance notes on 25th February at Lahore to overcome malnutrition problem in the province. P&D Division provided technical guidelines to prepare multi-sectoral strategy.

National Review and Planning meeting on Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs)/ Universal Salt Iodization (USI) was held on 27

-28 February, 2013 at Lahore.

The draft bi-annual report on the estimated cost of minimum food basket 2012-13 was completed. The report highlights national, provincial and regional estimates and comparisons.

Projects Wing

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Member (I&M) Planning Commission to review the implementation status of 05 development projects being implemented by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). Progress of the projects was found satisfactory. However, it was decided that one-page brief along with pictures of each project may be submitted to Planning Commission for reference and record.

First draft report on projects being implemented by HEC was discussed in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Member (I&M) on 18-2-2013. The report was based on 172 monitored projects of 49 Universities/ Institutions. All DGs of Projects Wing gave their inputs. The consolidated report was compiled and shared with all



stakeholders.

A monitoring team led by DG (OS), Projects Wing visited Karachi on 28-2-2013 to discuss the pending issues of development projects pertaining to Rangers of Sindh and Layari Package. Project Directors/Representatives from PAK PWD, attended the meeting and pre-



sented progress of the projects at site. All the pending issues were discussed and guidance was provided to their resolution.



A monitoring team of Projects Wing under the chairmanship of Director General (SS) visited Federal Drug Surveillance Laboratory Islamabad on 21-2-2013 to discuss the issues relating to execution of project and procurement of equipment. A comprehensive presentation regarding physical and financial progress of the project was presented by the Project Director, FDS Lab, Islamabad

An Evaluation team headed by DG (Eva) Projects Wing visited the "Gawadar Deep Sea Port Project" on 26-28 February, collected all the information to be used in evaluation exercise and



held meetings with all the stakeholders at the project site.

Management Information System (MIS)

MIS Section of the Projects Wing brought National Heritage & Integration Division online in loop with Project Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES)

during February 2013.

An orientation session was conducted by the MIS Section with new focal persons of line ministries (M/o

Human Rights, Inter Provincial Coordination, Finance Division, Railways Division, Petroleum & Natural Resources, and Communication) to bring them in loop with Planning Commission through PMES software during 2012-13.



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

Monitoring

Projects Wing monitored 32 development projects during February, 2013

Administration

- Mr. Hassan Nawaz Tarar, a senior DMG officer joined P & D Division as Secretary on 1-2-2013.
- Mr. M. Ayub, Senior

Chief Nutrition retired on 2nd February 2013 after serving more than 37 years in P&D Division.

- Admn-V Section of

Planning & Development Division promoted 4 Naib Qasids as Qasid and Daftar-ies.



Planning Commission

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