

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic

Macroeconomic Section being the focal point for Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 organized five consultative workshops at provincial capitals and Muzaffarabad to get the input of the provincial governments and to create buy-in for the Vision 2025 at sub-national level. The Provincial Consultative Workshop at Karachi was held on 4th January, 2014 in collaboration with Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh. While appreciating the inclusive planning mechanism initiative of the Federal Government, the CM termed it beauty of democratic process that two diverse political parties are sitting together for betterment of living standard and development paradigm for the people of Pakistan. He highlighted rich resource endowment of Sindh province such as oil and gas, coal, seaport, industry and strong agriculture base etc. He emphasized the need to develop synergy between federal and provincial government to harness resource potential of the province of Sindh for a better livelihood not only for people of Sindh but Pakistan at large.

Third Consultative Workshop was held in Muzaffarabad, AJK on 20th January and was chaired by Minister

for Planning, Development & reform. President and Prime Minister of AJK, Cabinet, Legislators, Academia and civil society was present at the occasion. Secretary-Finance, Government of AJK presented Vision 2025 for AJK in the light of national vision and Federal Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the salient features of Vision 2025.

Fourth meeting of the series was held on 23rd January 2014 in the Pearl Continental Hotel Peshawar to get the recommendations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for the preparation of "Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18". The meeting was organized by the "Governance Support Project" of the Planning & Development Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The civil society, academia persons, parliamentarians, and government officers from the province of KP have participated in the workshop. The Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired the meeting.

The Balochistan Provincial Consultative Workshop on Pakistan Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 was held at Quetta on 27th January 2014 started with recitation of Holy Quran.

The Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired the Workshop while presided by Dr. Abdul Malik, Chief Minister, Balochistan and also attended by Leader of the Opposition in Balochistan Assembly, Federal Secretary, Planning, Development and Reform, Provincial Ministers, Secretaries, Business Leaders, Members of the Academia, Scholars and NGOs representatives.

The Consultative Workshop on "Economic Revival and Growth" was held in Planning Commission on 24th January 2014 to formulate viable plan to steer the economy to higher growth trajectory with job creating ability in a business friendly environment. The representatives of the business community from all over the country participated in the workshop and contributed their valuable input for formulation of economic revival agenda. The recommendations of the workshop will be submitted to the Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan for consideration at the appropriate level. Important sectors which were invited for consultation included;

- Agriculture
- Dairy and Horticulture sectors

Macroeconomic (Contd.)

- Textile
- Export Sector
- Business leaders and Chambers
- Construction Sector
- Automobile
- Professional Bodies
- Poultry
- Financial Sector
- Telecom Sector
- Hospitality & Tourism Sector

The business community highly appreciated the initiative by the Planning Commission and showed its eagerness to contribute for the revival of the economy.

International Trade & Finance Section

International Trade & Finance Section performed following major activities during the month of January 2014:

- Updated data for the analysis of external sector performance of the economy. According to provisional data released by PBS during July-December 2013 exports increased by 5.11% over the same period in 2012 and stood at \$ 12,639 million. Imports stood at \$ 21,671 million during July-December 2013
- showing decrease of 1.14% over the same period of last year. The exchange rate during December 2013 remained at Rs. 106.97/\$ against Rs. 97.18/\$ during December 2012.
- Prepared a brief on Pak-Afghanistan Bilateral Trade Relations
- Prepared summary for Prime Minister on Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting held in China on 19-24 January 2014
- Prepared talking points for the Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting
- Prepared a summary for Prime Minister on 2nd Joint Commission Committee (JCC) meeting held on 17-18 February 2014 at Beijing, China
- Prepared a summary for Prime Minister on Regional Planning Council meeting (RPC) held at Tehran, Iran from 23-26 February 2014
- Prepared minutes of the preparatory meeting of 2nd Joint Commission Committee (JCC) held on 29th January 2014

Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section

Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section with the technical assistance of UNDP prepared Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2013. Minister for Planning, Development and Reform chaired the launching ceremony of the Report with Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Secretary General, UNDP, which was held on 22 January 2014 in Planning Commissions' auditorium. Ms. Mariyum Aurangzeb, MNA/Convener of Parliamentary Task Group on MDGs, Mr. Timo Pakkala UN Country Representative and Mr. Marc Andre Franche, Country Director UNDP Pakistan also attended the launching cere-

mony.

The report is the fifth National MDG Report for Pakistan. The report aims to assess progress towards achievement of the MDGs, galvanize for a final push on these, document successes and challenges, and share initial thoughts on the post-2015 development agenda for Pakistan. For the first time, this PMDGR includes a review of sub-national and district level status and trends. The MDGs are a set of 8 goals adopted by 189 countries, including Pakistan in 2000 and to be achieved by 2015. The MDGs provide concrete, numerical benchmarks for tackling extreme poverty in its many dimen-

sions. Pakistan has adopted 16 targets and 41 indicators against which progress is measured and reported. According to the MDG Report 2013, Pakistan is likely to reach to ten of the indicators, while the progress on many others indicate that additional and more focused efforts are needed in order to be able to reach close to these.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister of Planning, Development & Reform thanked the UN and other development partners for their support in pushing the National development agenda forward and for driving progress on the Millennium Development Goals,

Poverty Alleviation & MDGs Section (contd.)

which are in fact Pakistan's National Development Goals. He stressed that had the level of support from the development partners been according to the plan, Pakistan would have performed much better in terms of achieving most of the MDGs. He said MDGs are in reality National Development Goals, which are critical for development of the country. Pakistan 2025 puts human development at the top of development agenda. He underscored the need for collective efforts led by the provincial, regional and federal government together with civil society, academia and other development part-

ners to expedite progress on achieving the MDGs. Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDPs' Director for Asia/Pacific highlighted the setbacks Pakistan has encountered in the form of natural disasters, a deteriorating law and order situation and the global financial crisis in spite of which progress on some MDG indicators has been made. He commended the efforts of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform for prioritizing some of these issues in the Vision 2025 and the 11th Five Year Plan and creating synergies and closing links between the policies and strategies at

the national and sub-national level.

Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Parliamentary Secretary for Interior and Narcotics Control and Convener of the Parliamentary Task Force on MDGs elaborated on the objective of the Task Force and the formation of similar groups at the provincial level. These groups have oversight on the implementation of the Millennium Acceleration Framework on Education and Pakistan's Priorities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, coordinating with the provinces and the national government.



Public Investment Authorization Section

During the reporting period, one meeting of CDWP was held on 16th January 2014 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Reform/Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The forum considered fourteen (14) projects and one (01) concept proposal.

Out of these, six (6) schemes were approved with estimated cost of Rs. 4 billion and five (5) schemes with estimated cost of Rs. 997.781 billion were recommended to the ECNEC for approval being within the competency of the ECNEC. Two schemes were deferred whereas one project

was withdrawn. The proposal for concept clearance was agreed by the august forum.

The priority areas remained the Higher Education, Energy and Water Resources Sector's projects.

Projects Approved by the CDWP on 16-01-2014

- Application of Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS Technology for Crop Forecasting & Estimation (Chinese Grant Assistance)
- Capacity Building & Up-gradation of Selected Departments at University of the Punjab
- Establishment of COM-SATS Institute of Information Technology Permanent Campus, Abbottabad
- Establishment of UET Sub Campus at Narowal
- Establishment of Pak-Korea Capacity Building Centre for Agriculture & Livestock Technology at Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi
- Establishment of FM Radio Station and a TV Production House in the Department of Media & Journalism, University of Balochistan, Quetta

Economic Appraisal Section

The Section prepared Part-C of the working paper regarding economic and financial analysis/appraisal for 16 projects considered by the CDWP in its meeting held on 16-01-2014.

Moreover, the Section participated in pre & post CDWP meetings as a member and presented required comments arranged for following projects on different sectors:

Energy

- i. Rehabilitation of Thermal Power Station Guddu Unit 5,7 & 8
- ii. Replacement of 100 KW MW Transmitter at Khairpur
- iii. Jamshoro 2x600 MW (Net) Super critical Units using Blends of Sub-Bituminous Coal and Domestic Lignite
- iv. 34.5 MW Harpo Hydro Power Plant
- v. Acquisition of land re-settlement & pre-

construction activities of Dasu Hydro Power Project

- vi. 1 MW Galetar Hydro Power Project
- vii. 1.75 MW Sandoa Cross Hydro Power Project
- viii. 1 MW Bhedi Doba Hydro Power
- ix. Replacement of Depleted Material at existing Grid Station of NTDC System
- x. 3 MW Up-Gradation of Kundal Shahi Hydro Power Project

PP&H

- i. Construction of Hostel Building for 100 persons at BTB Complex, Islamabad (Revised)
- ii. Construction of SM Barracks, Ors married accommodation etc for HQ GB Scouts & 113 Wings at Gilgit (Revised)
- iii. Construction of Non-residential buildings and other facilities for force HQ, GB scouts &

113 Wings at Gilgit (Revised)

- iv. Construction of Wing Office, Quarter Guard, JCO's Mess, Officers Mess & accommodation

T&C

- i. HQ NA Scouts and 113 Wing at Gilgit
- ii. Improvement & Reconditioning of Noseri Lesawa bypass Road
- iii. Improvement, Metalting & Black Topping of Authmuqam Karen Bypass Road

Health

Establishment of Safe Blood transfusion, ICT, Islamabad

Education

Reconstruction & Rehabilitation of 277 Flood Damages Schools/College Business in 10 Districts of AJK

Water Resources

Gomal Zam Dam

Food & Agriculture Section

Following major activities were carried out during the month:

- Brief for the Deputy Chairman, on Agriculture and Livestock sec-
- Provided details of Employment Creation in the Development Pro-

tor for Five Year Plan and Vision 2025 was drafted.

jects of Agriculture and Livestock sector approved by CDWP in the period July-December 2013.

Food & Agriculture Section (Cont...)

- Attended DDWP meeting on the Development Projects of the Ministry of Ports and Shipping.
- Working Papers on two development projects were sent to PIA Section for consideration of the CDWP.
- Reply of National Assembly Un-starred Question No. 05 (“Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization for the projected growth estimates of agriculture for the year 2013-14”?) Moved by Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA was prepared and submitted for approval.
- 2nd Meeting of National Technical Working Group on Integrated Food Security Phase Classification held by World Food Programme was attended.
- Correspondence regarding Implementation Status on Decisions of National Price Monitoring Committee Meeting (NPMC) held on 20.11.2013.
- Suggested improvement/Revision of PC-I Format.
- Correspondence regarding meeting of the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA).
- Prepared and submitted Views on Issue of Price Increase of Fertilizer (Urea).
- Comments were offered regarding Sindh Flood Emergency Reconstruction Project for Bunds and Canals- (Revised Pc-I) Estimated Cost of Rs.26, 905.00 Million (ADB Loan).
- Case regarding National Programme for Improvement of Water Courses in Pakistan was processed.
- Comments were offered on Biotechnology Driven Economic Growth (Estimated Cost Rs. 985.516 Million including FEC Rs. 333.321 Million)

Science & Technology Section

Major activities during the month are mentioned below:

- A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 15th January 2014 under the chairmanship of Chief (S&T), Planning Commission and the following projects were discussed:
 - Capacity Building & Up-gradation of Selected Departments at University of the Punjab
 - Strengthening of Kohat University of Science & Technology (KUST), Kohat (Revised)
 - Strengthening the Engineering Programs at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore and Sahiwal.
- Another meeting was held on 15th January 2014 under

the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Asif Sheikh, Advisor (Dev. Budget), Planning Commission in which release of funds to COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Jaffarabad and transfer of bus from NPSL to COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Vehari Campus was discussed.

Nutrition Section

Following activities were carried out during January 2014:

- A Tele-conference regarding Pakistan Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement along with development partners was held on 28th January 2014 in the office of Chief, Nutrition Section.
- The conference title was sharing Information Systems (thematic guidance among SUN countries). Dr. David Naborro, SUN Coordinator (UN SUN Secretariat) remained focal person and hold discussion among six regional countries. The information was shared on the following topics:
 - Availability of nutrition data and nutrition situation in the country
 - Program implementation and functioning of nutrition sensitive approaches and nutrition specific interventions
 - To use and dis-

Nutrition Section (Cont...)

- seminate both types of information
- The regular activity regarding estimation of cost of food basket based on minimum (2150 calories) at national and provincial level for the month of January 2014 was carried out which showed that:
 - Cost of food basket during January 2014 decreased by 5% at national, Federal Area & Punjab level, 3% in Sindh and 6% at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan, as compared to December 2013
 - A significant change was found when compared to January 2013 which increased at 8% at National & Federal Level, 7% in Punjab, 10% in Sindh & Baluchistan and 6% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Industries & Commerce Section

Major activities include:

- Preparation for 15th session of Pak-China joint committee on economic trade, scientific and technical cooperation (JEC)
- Provision of requisite information pertaining to minutes of the meeting to review progress on formulation of Vision 2025 & 11th Five Year Plan
- Brief for Minister for Planning, Development & Reform on textile sector
- Material relevant to SME sector regarding present situation of sector, reasons of the present situation, strategy to improve this situation, quantifiable targets/goals for the year 2025 and best practices in other countries relevant to SME sector has been prepared for Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan
- Prepared brief on ECC summary titled "Restructuring of Pakistan Steel Mills"
- Prepared brief for honorable Minister on automobile industry in Pakistan
- Prepared brief for Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform on ECC summary titled "Approval for Equity Investment in Domestic Republic of Congo Incorporation of Joint Venture Company-Establishment of Cement Manufacturing Plant"

Governance Section

During the month of January 2014, PC-I of the project titled "Reform and Innovation in Government for High Performance" was processed for approval of the competent authority. Placement of Young Development Fellows (YDF) hired under project titled "Young Development Fellows Programme" was finalized. Case for payment of monthly stipend to YDF was processed with AGPR for payment. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) prepared by Governance Section were discussed with relevant heads of the Sections. Modi-

fied PC-I of the project titled "Strengthening Pakistan's Disaster Response Capacity" was examined. Working Paper of the project titled "Project for Improvement of Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA Phase-II)" was finalized on the basis of modified PC-I. Steering/Inter-Ministerial Committee draft Pakistan's obligatory reports on two human rights conventions were examined and comments were prepared. Review meeting on formulation of Vision 2025 and 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) was attended and information on thematic area

"Institutional Reforms and Governance" was forwarded to Macroeconomic Section.

National workshop on Millennium Development Goal Acceleration Frame Work Action Plan was attended. NLTA meeting on establishment of One Stop Shop (OSS) for business registration project was attended. Bilateral political consultations between Pakistan and Norway, provision of inputs; Pak-UK annual aids talks-indicators to be report at talk-2013 and delay on Pakistan side in finalizing

Governance Section (Cont...)

agreements/protocols/MoU countries were examined etc. forwarded by other and forwarded to quarters concerned.

Plan Coordination Section

During January 2014, the Section performed following activities:

- The Section Coordinated and arranged 2nd meeting of Advisory Committee of Planning Commission/Ministry of P,D&R. Agenda of the meeting was to discuss:
 - Presentation on Vision 2025
 - Presentation on Energy Issues
 - Up-dated status of ECC decision on fertilizer related issues was communicated to the Cabinet Division.
- Coordination/arrangement of briefs for the Secretary and Minister for P,D&R was carried out for ECC meetings held on 08-01-2014, 16-01-2014 and 28-01-2014.

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Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI)

During the month of January 2014, two training courses were conducted by PPMI. The brief on the training courses is as under:

1. “Millennium Development Goals/Achievements, Challenges and Efforts Needed” from 6 - 10 January 2014

The objective of the course was to assist the participants to develop and implement the MDGs based national development strategies, develop skills to help integration of the MDGs into national development plans and strategies, to assess progress on implementing the MDGs in the region and discuss the constraints, challenges, prospects and way forward for achiev-

ing the MDGs. It was also aim to provide the participants with an opportunity to share experiences, best practices and propose policies and programs to achieve these goals with the help of development partners. Thirty Nine (39) officers from Federal/Provincial Governments and Public Sector Organizations participated.

In the end Ms. Maryum Aurangzen, MNA, Convener Task Group on MDGs awarded certificates to the participants.

2. Public Procurement Management from 21 - 24 January 2014

This course was designed to give awareness of all the key

areas required for anyone working within the procurement area and to familiarize the participants with the efficient and transparent system and procedures to ensure that public procurement is conducted competitively and contracts are awarded and managed in a manner that promotes the paramount objective of value for money in government expenditure. Forty two (42) officers from Federal/Provincial Governments and Public Sector Organizations participated.

In the end, Mr. Muhammad Anwar Hussain Ch, Director General, PPMI awarded certificates to the participants.

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

Following are the recent major developments/news with respect to fertilizer sector of Pakistan:

- Urea offtake during December 2013 was 674 thousand tonnes, which recorded a decrease of 29.3 percent
- Total fertilizer nutrient

over December 2012 (953 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was 173 thousand tonnes, which registered an increase of 36.5 per cent as compared to December, 2012 (126 thousand tonnes).

- Total fertilizer nutrient

offtake during December 2013 was about 461 thousand tonnes compared to 566 thousand tonnes of December 2012, a decrease of 18.5 per cent. Among all major nutrients offtake of nitrogen and potash fertilizer has

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC) (Cont...)

decreased by 25.3 and 49.9 percent respectively, while offtake of phosphatic fertilizers has increased by 29.5 percent.

- Gathered the comments of all relevant stakeholders on the draft summary and report prepared in compliance

of ECC decision in Case No. ECC-123/15/2013, dated: 15th August, 2013. In addition to this, the approval of competent authority (Secretary and Minister for PD&R) was also obtained in respect of final summary and report for ECC.

- NFDC fully contributed in rationalizing / reducing the prices of locally manufactured urea (to a level of Rs. 1,786/- per 50 kg bag) in collaboration with Ministry of National Food Security & Research.

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Projects Wing

Meetings

Director General (Social Sector) Projects Wing held a meeting with HEC regarding cash/work plan of Federal Urdu University Karachi for the year 2013-14. DG (SS) also held another meeting with Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication for preparation of cash/work plan.

Trainings

On the direction of Minister of Planning, Development & Reform, an orientation session was arranged for Young



Development Fellows to brief them about the methodologies being used for monitoring of development projects. MIS section elabo-



of Narcotics Control” has been undertaken by the officers of the evaluation section on 24-01-2014. A presentation was given by the executing agency covering all aspects of the project achievements.

Cash/ Work Plan (2013-14)

Social sector of Projects Wing has vetted and cleared 13 cash/work plans received from different Ministries/Divisions during the month of January 2014.

rated the significance of Projects Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES) and its role as an aid in monitoring process.

Evaluation Section

Evaluation of the project titled “Establishment of Planning and Monitoring Unit (PMU) in the Ministry

Other Activities

All three sectors of the monitoring sections of Projects wing have collected the information from their re-

spective Ministries/ Divisions regarding the cost/ time overrun and reasons for delayed in implementation/

completion of development projects and provided to Public Accounts Committee as they required.