

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic Section

During the month of June, 2014, two officers of the Macroeconomic Section won the award for the research study on the topic of "Improvement of Investment Estimates in Pakistan". This will be jointly presented by Chief (Macro) Mr. Zafar UI Hassan and Deputy Chief (Macro) Dr. Haroon Sarvar Awan, "Third Round of Grants Selections of Competitive Grants Program" from all over the country under "Pakistan Strategy Support Program" funded by USAID. Moreover, out of total eight candidates nominated by different Ministries/Divisions, Mr. Zeeshan Inam, Assistant Chief of this section, was

selected by "Korean International Cooperative Agency (KOICA)" for "Masters Degree Program in Global Leaders in Economic Policy" from "Korean Development Institute (KDI)".

This Section prepared a project document on the subject of "Knowledge sharing program between Pakistan and South Korea". In addition, Brief for Minister for Planning, Development & Reforms on "Economic Performance and Prospects for FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15" was prepared. A report on "Post Budget Analysis of Budget 2014-15" was prepared. Another report including "Material for Pakistan's Day supplement"

was outlaid for Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The section attended the training in "Pakistan Computer Bureau (PCB)" on the "Implementation of E-Office system in government departments". The section also prepared daily macroeconomic indicators report for the information of the Secretary & Minister for M/o Planning, Development & Reforms. Macroeconomic Section was involved in the launching campaign of Pakistan Vision 2025 which is in process these days. The first draft of "Eleventh Five Year Development Plan 2013-18" was finalized in the month of June, 2014.

International Trade & Finance (IT&F) Section

This section performed the following major activities during the month of June, 2014:

- Updated data for the analysis of External Sector Performance of the economy. According to provisional data released by PBS during July-May, 2014 exports increased by 3.71% over the same period last year and stood at \$23,112 million. Imports stood at \$40,777 million during July-May, 2014 showing decrease of

0.57% over the same period of last year. The exchange rate during May, 2014 remained at Rs. 98.59/\$ against Rs. 98.37/\$ during April, 2013.

- Comments on 20% reduction in sensitive lists of SAARC member states under SAFTA (Phase=III).
- Revised the One Year Performance Report of the initiatives accomplished by the section according to latest developments.

- Prepared brief on Pak-EU bilateral trade relation.
- A meeting attended on Pak-EU bilateral trade relation in EAD.
- Prepared brief on Pak-Qatar trade relation.
- Attended the National Assembly Budget Session on 6th June, 2014 and report submitted accordingly.

Plan Coordination Section

Following are the major activities with respect to Plan Coordination Section

Pakistan, June 5, 2013- June 4, 2014” to be submitted to Pakistan Insti-



during June, 2014:

- Annual Plan 2014-15 was printed and circulated before budget session.

tute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT). In this regard, Plan Coordination section convened (3)



- Implementation status on NEC Meeting decisions held on May 29, 2014 was carried out by this section.
- Material for Standing Committee of Senate on P,D&R was consolidated and provided to concerned quarter.
- Prime Minister's office forwarded proformas on "Request to Share Federal Government's Data for Assessment of the Quality of Governance in

meetings. Chairman PILDAT was invited to brief the participants. Response from P,D&R was forwarded to PM Office.

- One day workshop on "An Overview of Project Management" was conducted by Chief PC at Armed Forces Postgraduate Medical Institute, Rawalpindi.
- Chief PC attended budget session held on June 6, 2014 at Parliament House, Islamabad.
- A farewell party was given to Mr. Shahmeer Ali Sial, Deputy Chief, Plan Coordination Section, on his retirement. Farewell speech was delivered and an honorary shield was presented by Chief PC.
- Mr. Shafique joined Plan Coordination Section as Accounts Officer in the month of June.



Public Investment Authorization (PIA) Section

Following activities were carried out in the section during the month:

- During the period, two CDWP meetings were held. First CDWP meeting was held on 5th June, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development & Reform/Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to consider 11 projects. Out of these, 7 projects were recom-

mended to the ECNEC pertaining to Energy, Transport & Communication, Higher Education and Culture Sports and Tourism Sectors costing Rs. 811 billion. Three projects were deferred and one project was withdrawn by the sponsors.

- Second meeting of CDWP was held on 25th June, 2014 under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Planning, Devel-

opment & Reforms/ Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The CDWP approved 9 projects and recommended 6 projects for consideration of ECNEC. The projects were relating to Energy, Health, Transport & Communication and Water sectors.

Public Investment Programming Section

During the month of June 2014, following major activities took place in PIP Section.

- Completed printing of PSDP 2014-15 docu-

ment and circulated to all stakeholders including Provincial and Special Areas Governments.

- Coordinated with the Provincial Governments re-

garding collection of Annual Development Programmes (ADPs) documents for consolidation of National Development Outlay.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section

The MP&FP Section during June, 2014 remained engaged in following assignments:

- Chief MP&FP attended Senate Session on Finance Bill 2014-15 held on 06-06-2014 and prepared synopsis of the session.
- Prepared material related to MP&FP Section regarding one year performance of the government.
- Chief MP&FP attended Review Meetings held on

04-05 June, 2014 regarding progress of questionnaire received from PM's Office relating to Data Sharing of the Federal Government for Assessment of the Quality of Governance.

- Chief MP&FP attended National Assembly Session on Budget 2014-15 held on 21-06-2014 and prepared synopsis of the session.
- Prepared an update on inflation highlighting increase and decrease in

the prices of major food and non-food items.

- Prepared an update on Stock Market reflecting analysis.
- Prepared Monthly Review on Monetary Development and Growth for the period July-May 2013-14.
- Finalized chapter on 'Monetary and Fiscal Sector Development' for 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18.

Manpower Section

Activities during the month of June, 2014 are:

- Submission of one year performance report of Manpower Section to Plan Coordination Section.

- Submission of PC-IV & PC-V to M&E section for necessary action.
- Views/Comments on proposed goals and targets on sustainable development for post 2015 were

sent to Plan Coordination section.

Governance

During the month of June 2014, following activities were carried out:

- A summary for Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on review of functions of Ministries/Divisions was finalized and forwarded to ECC.
- Pre-CDWP meeting on the 2nd revised project titled “Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement (PSLM) Survey” was arranged and minutes were prepared.
- Chapter on Good Governance was finalized for Five Year Plan (2013-18) and forwarded to Macroeconomic Section.
- The project titled “Capacity Building of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs” was examined and meeting of DDWP held in Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs was attended.
- Comments on petition filed by employees of the project titled “Project for Improvement of Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA-II) on grant of project allowance to project employees funded from PSDP were prepared and forwarded to Federal Ombudsman Office.
- Proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post 2015 Development Agenda prepared by United Nation’s Working Group were examined and comments were forwarded to Plan Coordination Section.
- Details of list of Reforms with its progress undertaken by Planning, Development and Reform during current financial year were prepared and forwarded to Plan Coordination Section.
- Brief on Democracy, Governance and Socio-Economic Development for Pak-EU Joint Commission meeting was prepared and forwarded to International Trade and Finance Section.
- Information on execution of new projects included in PSDP 2014-15 were prepared and shared with line ministries and requested for preparation of PCIs of these project.
- Concept on Administrative Reform, Police Reform, Civil Services Reform, Biometric system and Senior Executive Service has been prepared.
- Meetings with UNDP have been arranged to extend cooperation in project titled “Reforms and Innovation in Gov-

ernment for High Performance”. A series of meetings to short list applicants for various positions under projects titled “Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance” and “Pak-China Economic Corridor Project” were attended.

- Meetings with World Bank and ILO have also been arranged to enhance cooperation between Planning Commission and UN agencies.
- Member, Governance has joined the Planning Commission during the month.

Case for re appropriation for payment of stipend amount to Young Development Fellows was finalized and payment of monthly stipend was processed with AGPR. Case for payment of monthly stipend to interns of National Internship Program, Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standard in Higher Education, placed in ministry was processed with AGPR for payment.

Poverty Alleviation Section

Dr. M. Aman Ullah, Deputy Chief, Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section represented Government of Pakistan in an Interview Panel for Australia Awards Scholarships for 2015 in-

take. The interviews were conducted from 17th to 30th June, 2014. Applicants were assessed for their professional and personal qualities, academic competence and, most impor-

tantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Pakistan.

Industries & Commerce Section

I&C Section performed the following major activities during the month of June, 2014:

- Prepared Working Paper on Project titled "Establishment of Garment Technology Institute Karachi Revised".
- Prepared brief talking points for discussing bilateral trade with Maldivian President.
- Prepared brief for the secretary for the ECC of Cabinet on "Reconsideration of Ban imposed on the import of live animal, from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Infected Countries".
- Prepared comments on registration of geographical indication.
- Prepared comments on the CDWP Project titled "Construction of East-bay expressway at Gwadar".
- Attended workshop in M/o Industries on "Development of SME and Sectoral Development".
- Attended Seminar on

"Cities and rural development".

- Attended meeting on water resources.

Nutrition Section

During the month of June, 2014 following activities were carried out:

- 14th round of Tele-conference calls on "Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN)" member countries was held in the office of Chief nutrition, the focal person for SUN in Pakistan on 19th June, 2014. Representatives of donors, UN agencies and other stakeholders participated in the call and shared information pertaining to activities of SUN in Pakistan on the following; **Engagement, Common planning & Results and Challenges.**
- Assistant Chief participated in one day sensitization workshop held on 26th June, 2014 organized by M/o law, Justice & human rights in collaboration with the 'helpAge international' on the human rights of senior citizens in Pakistan.
- The interim Steering Group organized national consultation of establishment of SUN civil society alliance in Pakistan on 19th June at Margalla Hotel, Islamabad. It was attended by more than 80 consultants with an overall participation of more than 100 participants from all the provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Chief Nutrition participated in the consultation and gave his introductory remarks.
- A Roundtable conference on "Improved access to quality health services" was attended by Chief nutrition in 'P-block Auditorium' on 27th June, 2014.
- A regular activity of estimation of the cost of Food Basket based on a minimum of 2150 calories at national and provincial level has been done by the section which showed following findings during the month.
- The cost of food basket sustained in the month of June, 2014 with slight

increase all over the country. National food basket registered an increase of 1.6 percent. Price of food basket in Islamabad shows a small increase of 0.8 percent, Sindh and Balochistan registered a price hike of 1.94 percent and 0.6 percent respectively. The price of food basket unlike the previous month increased by 2.6 percent in the province of the Punjab. However, Khyber pakhtunkhwa is the only province, where prices show a decline on Month on Month (MoM) basis with a negative growth of 0.5 percent.

Food and Agriculture Section

Following major activities were carried out during the month of June, 2014:

- The minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Committee constituted by the CDWP held on 28th May, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Director General (CPEC), for rationalization of the cost of the project "Up-gradation of Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) to Level of Arid Zone Research Centre (AZRC) D. I. Khan and Establishment of new Adaptive Research cum Demonstration Institutes at Seakach, WANA, South Waziristan Agency, Miranshah, North Waziristan Agency (FATA), Tank and Matora, Lakki Marwat – Khyber Pakhtunkhwa"
- Copies of Part C of "Working Paper" in respect of the project "Capacity Development Of Agriculture Extension Services In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province" were finalized and forwarded to Chief, Public Investment Authorization Section (PIA), M/o Planning, Development & Reform,
- "One Year Performance Report (Revised)" was prepared and sent to concerned quarter.
- Comments / views on PC -I titled "Agriculture Development and Water Management Project Killa Abdullah and Killa Saifullah Districts Balochistan (Estimated Cost

Rs. 857.597 Million)" were prepared and sent to concerned quarter.

- Participation was made in "Pakistan Cotton Consultative Conference".
- Participation was made in the meeting regarding "Request to Share the Federal Governments Data for Assessment of the Quality of Governance in Pakistan", held on 17th and 23rd June, 2014.

Water Resources Section

Following major activities were carried out during the month of June, 2014:

- Finalization of PSDP 2014-15 and replies of different executing agencies with respect to non-inclusion of different development projects.
- Submission of latest physical and financial progress of all water sector's projects for the preparation of presentation on development budget for Prime Minister's Secretariat.
- About eight (8) Working paper for CDWP meeting and Five (5) ECNEC summaries were prepared.
- Briefs of more than 70 water sector's project were prepared and updated.

- Latest status for 2-3 P.M/President Directives was submitted to P.M Secretariat.
- Actively participation for the preparation of Annual Plan 2014-15.

Education Section

In month of June, 2014, a project titled 'Capacity Building of Teachers Training Institutions and Training of Elementary School Teachers in Sindh (Revised)' was approved in CDWP Meeting held on 25th June, 2014 at a cost

of Rs. 1261.773 Million. The major thrust of the project is to improve the quality of Elementary Education in Province of Sindh. The project's major objectives are to strengthen Teachers Training Institutions, award of pre-service scholarships

and to impart in-service training to the teaching and administrative staff of primary and middle schools. The Project Management Unit (PMU) supervises the project.

Health Section

Young Development Fellows (YDF) in collaboration with the Health Section of Planning Commission organized a roundtable



conference on "Improved Access to Quality Health Services" on Jun 27, 2014. The Conference was chaired by Minister for Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and was attended by health experts from both public and private sectors. Organizations who participated in the conference included

provincial governments, insurance companies, donor agencies, national and international NGOs and academia.

The objectives of the conference were to discuss and formulate strategies on alternative modes of health financing i.e. through health insurance and public-private partnership for better health services, ensure sustain-



ability of national health programs in post devolution era by realigning them within the overall

health system and review current status of health related MDGs' and initiate debate on "MDGs Acceleration Framework (MAF)" and post 2015 Development Agenda.

Participants stressed on the idea to devise plan for integrated national health insurance forum with provincial governments pooling premium resources. Minister for Planning, development & Reforms emphasized the importance of socio economic development and highlighted that Vision 2025 focuses on human resource development and its effective utilization for economic growth of the country.

Projects Wing

- **Trainings:** MIS Section of the Projects wing conducted a series of refresher training sessions for Project Directors / Officers of the development projects being implemented by different universities, sponsored by Higher Education Commission.
- The training sessions on the use of Project Monitoring & Evaluation System (PMES) were conducted in Islamabad on 19th – 20th June, 2014, Karachi on 23rd – 24th June 2014 and Lahore on 26th – 27th June, 2014.
- **Monitoring:** Social Sector of the Projects Wing has undertaken following activities during the month of June,

2014:-

1. One project titled "Population welfare Ser-



vices in District Islamabad" was monitored.

2. Follow-up meeting for the projects implemented by Liaquat University of Medical & Health sciences Jamshoro Sindh (LUMHS) was convened by HEC on 18-6-2014 to stream

line the project Implementation. Representatives from HEC, projects Wing & Technical section attended the meeting. The university was recommended to complete the project in the approved cost and to conduct an inquiry for the officers

responsible for scope deviations in civil works without approval of competent forum. Moreover the litigation with contractor may also be resolved for completion of civil works & operationalize the buildings.

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National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

- Total fertilizer nutrient offtake during May 2014 was about 301 thousand tonnes, which represented a decrease of 2.9 per cent over May 2013. Nitrogen offtake was 235 thousand tonnes which decreased by 10.6 per cent. Phosphate offtake was 63 thousand tonnes during May 2014 which increased by 37.5 per cent over May 2013. Potash offtake was only 3 thousand tonnes which witnessed an increase of 129.7 per cent over previous May 2013.
- Urea offtake was 408 thousand tonnes against 485 thousand tonnes during May 2013, which exhibited a decrease of 15.8 per cent. DAP offtake was 108 thousand tonnes against 80 thousand tonnes during May 2013, which recorded an increase of 35.3 per cent over May 2013.
- Production of all fertilizer products during May 2014 was about 537 thousand tonnes. Urea production was 375 thousand tonnes, which is 70.0 per cent of total production. The DAP production was 71 thousand tonnes. Imported supplies during May, 2014 were 94 thousand product tonnes which included 62 thousand tonnes of Urea, 28 thousand tonnes of DAP and 4 thousand tonnes of MOP.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI)

During the month of June 2014, one (01) training course was conducted by PPMI. Thirty (30) Officers from Federal/Provincial Governments and Public Sector Organizations participated in training course. Brief of the training course is as under:-

- Main objective of this training course was to increase knowledge, enhance skills, and bring positive change in attitude which contributes to the capacity building of the partici-

pants. It was also aimed to develop understanding of the core concepts of the change management such as, how to manage change by Information Communication Technology (ICT), initiate and sustain change in Public Sector Organizations in Pakistan. Awareness was given regarding creative options and importance of continues improvement vs radical change. Eminent scholars from

Public/Private Sector made presentations on important topics of Change Management.

- Dr. Muhammad Ali Noor, Director General, PPMI congratulated the participants for successful completion of training course in the concluding session and awarded certificates to the participants.

Economic Appraisal Section

During the month of June 2014 following activities were carried out:

- Prepared Part-C of the working paper regarding Economic and Financial analysis/appraisal for 23 projects in the area of Mass Media, Transport & Communication, Education, Higher Education Commission, Devolution & Area Development, Health, Physical Planning & Housing, Water and Agriculture & Food for consideration of the CDWP.
- Economic Appraisal Section participated in various pre & post CDWP meetings as a member and presented required view points.

- This section also participated in meetings of Azad Kashmir Development Working Party (AKDWP) & Balance Score Card Committee.

Employment, Research and Foreign Aid Section

The input/material for the month of June 2014 in respect of Employment and Research section is given below:

- An assignment on data collection and estimation pertaining to overall and

youth unemployment rate for the management of unemployment to assess the quality of governance in Pakistan was carried out on the request of Prime Minister's office.

- Comments/views were

provided on Social Media Strategy proposed by the Young Development Fellow.

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