

# Planning Commission Newsletter

**Inside this issue:**

Microeconomic Section	2
Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section	3
Public Investment Authorization Section	3
Public Investment Programming Section	4
Governance Section	4
Plan Coordination Section	5
Nutrition Section	5
Science & Technology Section	6
Health Section	6
Economic Appraisal Section	6
Education Section	7
International Trade & Finance Section	7
Manpower Section	7
Food & Agriculture Section	8
Projects Wing	8
Administration Section	9

## Minister for PD&R's Activities



• Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, inaugurated Dental, Intensive Care and Neonatology wards in District Headquarter Hospital, Narowal equipped with state of the art equipment to match the best hospitals in country with free treatment for poor patients on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.

• The Minister also inaugurated 1<sup>st</sup> International Rehabilitation Sciences Conference in Lahore organized by Riphah University on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REFORMS, PROFESSOR AHSAN IQBAL, CHAIRING A MEETING TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF PSDP PROJECTS IN ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 25, 2014

• In a review meeting held on 25-03-2014, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal directed speedy implementation of ongoing foreign assisted projects worth RS. 670 billion.



• Prof. Ahsan Iqbal with Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif inspected progress of work at New Islamabad International

Airport on March 20, 2014.

• The Minister for PD&R made an inaugural address on 'Pakistan Water Summit 2014' convened by Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform in collaboration with Ministry of Water and Power, Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and Ministry of National Food Security and Research for formulating country's first National Water Policy on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. He said that our failure to formulate and implement an effective En-

ergy Policy in last decade triggered the Energy crisis, which, along with causing sufferings to the people, caused threats our food security, economy and development. Further delay in formulating and implementing an effective water management



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Prof. Ahsan, Iqbal delivering an inaugural speech at Pakistan Water Summit 2014 in Islamabad on March 20, 2014. Federal Ministers Sikandar Hayat Bosan, Riaz Pirzada and Special Assistant to PM for Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatimi are also present.

policy, would lead towards a disaster.

- Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, addressed Women Day's



function in Narowal on Jashan-e-Baharan from 7 to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. He said that no religion or system gives women rights like Islam gives. Women are entitled to same rights as men. Girls should be given education like boys. No nation can develop by keeping half of its population out of the development process.

## Macroeconomic Section

- The Pakistan Vision 2025 is in the final stages of its preparation and Macroeconomic Section is consistently attending the review meetings regarding the Vision. Consequently a meeting on Pakistan Vision 2025 was held on March 11, 2014 which was chaired by the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform. The meeting mainly focused

on composition and preparation of the vision document. In that meeting, it was decided to prepare a summarized version of the final document of Pakistan Vision 2025. The Macroeconomic Section prepared and circulated the minutes of this meeting.

- During March 2014, this section prepared an update on Pakistan's Economy for the period July-

Feb, 2013-14. Another brief was also prepared based on the report of Overseas Investors of Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (OICCI) Business Confidence Index (BCI) survey conducted in Feb-Mar 2014. The section also consolidated 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan 2013-18. During the

## Macroeconomic Section

month of March, this section also prepared daily macroeconomic

indicators report for the information of the Minister and Secretary, Minis-

try of Planning, Development & Reform.

## Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy Section

During March 2014, this section mainly performed following activities:-

- Prepared Monthly Update on Inflation for February 2014.
- Prepared Monthly Monetary Developments report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
- Prepared comments on Aide Memoire of ADB on Pakistan: Technical Assistance Loan for Public Sector Enterprises Reforms.
- Initiated work on preparing chapter on 'Fiscal and Monetary Development' for Annual Plan 2014-15. In this regard, coordination with relevant federal and provincial agencies has been carried out.
- Prepared brief and comparative statement of Prices of Critical Items in

Regional Countries for the meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) held under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister on March 25, 2014. Also prepared a brief on price situation for the said NPMC meeting.

## Public Investment Authorization Section

During the reporting period, three meetings of the ECNEC and one meeting of the CDWP were held. Details of these meetings are as under:

- **ECNEC:** Meetings of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) were held on 06-03-2014, 15-03-2014 and 28-03-2014 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Finance. In these meetings three (03) projects pertaining to Energy Sector were considered and two of them costing Rs. 747.229 billion were approved whereas one (01) project was deferred. Four (04) projects of Water Sector were considered costing Rs. 73.867 billion approximately and approved. The project titled "Rawalpindi – Islamabad Metro Bus" (Islamabad por-
- tion)" was approved at a cost of Rs. 23.84 billion.
- **CDWP** (Central Development Working Party) meeting was held on 13<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development and Reform / Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The forum considered Twenty (20) projects and two (02) concept proposals. Out of these, four (04) schemes were approved with estimated cost of Rs. 2.796 billion and ten (10) schemes with estimated cost of Rs. 50.842 billion were recommended to the ECNEC for consideration/approval being within the competency of the ECNEC. Moreover, both the proposals for concept clearance were agreed by the august forum whereas four (04)

schemes were deferred by the CDWP.



## Public Investment Programming Section

Following are the major activities of PIP section during the period under consideration:

- 8-Month Review Meetings on PSDP 2013-14 were held with the Ministries / Divisions from 25 to 27 March, 2014 under the chairmanship of the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform and Secretary, M/o Planning, Development & Reform Division to assess financial and physical progress of the budgeted projects in PSDP 2013-14.
- A Special meeting to review foreign funded projects in PSDP 2013-14 was held on 25.3.2014 under the chairmanship of the Minister for Planning, Development & Reform which was attended by the delegations of development partners i.e. World Bank, Asian Development Bank, US Aid, Japan and DFID (Department for International Development).
- The process of formulation of PSDP 2014-15 has been initiated. The initial meetings with Ministries / Divisions are underway. The Indicative Budget Ceilings (IBC) of Ministries / Divisions were communicated during March, 2014.

## Governance Section

Following activities were carried out during the period under consideration:

- A meeting was organized with National Internship Programme Unit, Ministry of Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education to resolve the issue of placement of interns presently working in Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform.
- Working Paper for 8-Months Review of PSDP 2013-14/foreign aided projects implemented by line Ministries/ Divisions was prepared and meetings were attended. Minutes of the Meeting were prepared.
- Draft concept paper/criteria to monitor development projects during the next financial year was devised.
- Advertisement to seek project proposal along with guidelines etc under the project titled "Reform and Innovation in Government for High Performance" has been prepared and published in the newspapers.
- Demands for PSDP 2014-15 from Ministries have been obtained. Details of Project Directors of PSDP Projects were obtained from line Ministries/ Divisions and forwarded to PIP section.
- Working Paper on the functions of Devolved Divisions allocated to other Divisions at Federal level was prepared.
- Comments/inputs on Pakistan's 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Combined Periodic Report on International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) were obtained for onward submission to Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights.
- The Aide Memoire on Asian Development Bank's Technical Assistance loan to Pakistan for Public Sector Enterprises Reforms and information on meeting with Federal Ministries for Japanese Request Survey for JFY 2015 were examined and forwarded to Foreign Aid & ER Section.
- Case for payment of bills regarding publication of advertisement of Young Development Fellows Programs was processed. Case for payment of monthly stipend to Young Development Fellows was processed with AGPR for payment.

## Plan Coordination Section

Following are the major activities with respect to Plan Coordination Section during March, 2014:

- Initiation of working for preparation of Annual Plan 2014-15 and constitution of the Review Committee
- Timeline was prepared for preparation of Annual Plan 2014-15.
- Conducted meeting with the Committee Members on 20-03-2014
- Chief, Plan Coordination Section visited Norway during 22-30 March, 2014 concerning Framework of Institutional Cooperation Program (FICP).
- A meeting was held with all project directors of FICP.
- This section also provided details of major projects to the Cabinet Division for incorporation in the Annual Report of NEC (National Economic Council).
- Collected and consolidated material for the Meeting of the Standing Committee of National

Assembly on Planning, Development and Reform on the following issues:

1. Follow-up of the recommendations made by the Committee in its meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 respectively
2. Briefing on Lowari Tunnel and Access Roads
3. Briefing on Tarbella Fourth Extension Hydro Power Project

## Nutrition Section

Following are the major activities of this section during March, 2014:

- A two day workshop to review universal salt iodization program in Pakistan was held on March 14-15, 2014 at Lahore, in which chief of the section participated.
- An "International Conference on Innovation in Nutrition" was held at Lahore on March 19-20. Chief, Nutrition Section along with UN Development partners participated in the conference being SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) focal person.
- A global conference on Bio-fortification under the title "Getting Nutritious Foods to People" held on March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014, at Kigali, Rwanda was organized by Harvest plus. Chief of the section attended the conference along with high level Pakistan delegation.
- A teleconference regarding to Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement activities Communication & Advocacy for Scaling Up Nutrition held in the office of the Chief, Nutrition Section on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014. Mr. David Nabro, Coordinator of the SUN Movement addressed via Telephone. The conference was chaired by the Assistant Chief, Nutrition Section and was attended by Development partners WB, WHO, Save the Children, FAO, UNICEF, GAIN, MI, WFP etc.
- The regular activity regarding estimation of cost of Food Basket based on minimum (2150 calories) at national and provincial level for the month of March, 2014 was carried out which showed that;
  - Cost of Food Basket during March, 2014 decreased 2% at national level, 9% in Punjab, 3% in Sindh and 1% in Baluchistan and remains unchanged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as compared to February, 2014.
  - A significant change was found as compared to March, 2013 which increased at the rate of 2% at National Level, 4% in Sindh & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 8% in Baluchistan while 4% decreased in Punjab.

## Science and Technology Section

The major activities of Science & Technology Section for the month of March, 2014 are as under:

- A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 under the chairmanship of Chief (S&T), and the project "Award of Scholarships to 3000 Students from Afghanistan under Prime Minister's Directive" having a cost of Rs 6200.234 million was discussed. The project was then considered in the CDWP meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.
- A meeting under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development & Reform was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 and the following matters were discussed.
  - Establishment of Skills University, Islamabad
  - Establishment of Women University, Islamabad
  - Khutbat Development
- The section prepared working papers of the following projects:
  - Strengthening of Existing Departments at

Islamia University, Bahawalpur

- Biotechnology Driven Economic Development
- Minutes of the meeting on "Eighth Month Review of PSDP 2013-14 / Foreign Aided Projects" in respect of following sectors were prepared and sent to PIP Section:
  - Higher Education Commission (Held on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2014)
  - Ministry of Science & Technology (Held on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014)

## Health Section

The major activities of Health section during the period are as under:

- World Health Organization hosted the Joint Inter-Ministerial Policy Dialogue on E-Health Standardization and Interoperability at WHO headquarters in Geneva on 10-11 February, 2014. Chief Health Dr. Ghulam Asghar Abbasi attended this meeting for adoption of these guidelines and standards in Pakistan.
- A group of 27 Trainee Officers of M.Sc Medical Administration from Armed Forces Post-graduate Medical Institute (AFPGMI) made a study visit to Planning Commission. Mr. Asif Sheikh, Advisor (Development Budget) welcomed the participants. Dr. Ghulam Asghar Abbasi, Chief, Health and Dr. Fazal e Hakim Mian made a detailed presentation about various functions of the Ministry including status of Health in the post-devolution scenario. On this occasion, Maj. Gen Viqar Ahmed, Commandant, AFPGMI graciously announced allocation of one seat fully funded by

AFPGMI in MSc Program to officers of Health Section.

- A team of Health Section visited site of various projects in Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, PIMS, Islamabad to check the progress of various important projects including 'Cardiac Surgery Facilities at PIMS'. Chief, Health lauded the efforts of sponsors to complete the project by June, 2014.

## Economic Appraisal Section

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

- Prepared Part-C of the working paper regarding Economic and Financial analysis/appraisal for following 09 (nine) projects of Agriculture & Food, En-

ergy, Transport & Communication, Higher Education Commission, Health and Manpower Sector for consideration of the CDWP.

- Economic Appraisal Section participated in different pre & post CDWP meetings as a member and pre-

sented required view points on 24 projects related to sectors like Education, Health, Water, Energy, Transport & Communication, Mass Media, PP&H, Culture, Sports & Tourism.

## Education Section

The CDWP Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 considered two (2) projects regarding education.

- Establishment and Operation of Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) in the country: This project aims at providing access and quality education through non-formal education. 12204 Basic Education Community Schools are functioning all over the country with

enrolment of 5,50,000 students. The BECS are established with the help of local community to provide Basic Education Facility at the doorstep. The CDWP recommended the project for approval of ECNEC.

- Improving Human Development Indicators in Pakistan with focus on MDGs relating to Education and Six Education for All (EFA) Goals: This project aims at

strengthening the efforts of the Govt. to achieve MDGs relating to education and 6 Education for All (EFA) Goals. Under this project 20,000 adult literacy Centers shall be established in the country. 6,581 Feeder School Teachers shall also be provided salary. The scope of the project covers all the provinces”.

## International Trade & Finance Section

International Trade & Finance section performed the following major activities during the month:

- Updated data for the analysis of External Sector Performance of the economy. According to provisional data released by PBS during July-March, 2014 exports increased by 6.06% over the same period last year and stood at \$ 19,107 million. Imports stood at \$

33,038 million during July-March, 2014 showing increase of 0.86% over the same period of last year. The exchange rate during January, 2014 remained at Rs. 99.9/\$ against Rs.98.06/\$ during March, 2013

- Furnished comments on UNESCAP Draft Report.
- Prepared summary for ECC on export and import of Gold, Gold Jew-

ellery and Gems.

- Prepared reply for assembly question regarding China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.
- Prepared material for Pak-EU strategic dialogue and attended a meeting in this regard.

## Manpower Section

- Preparation and finalization of working paper (Part-II) for concept clearance proposal regarding “Korean Soft Grant Development Assistance for the year 2015: Development of Competency Standards & Curricula” for consideration of forthcoming CDWP/CCC (Concept Clearance Committee).
- Preparation and finalization of material for PSDP 2014-15 and pro-

jection for 2015-16 and 2016-17 is under process.

- Preparation and Submission of information regarding 8-Month Review of PSDP 2013-14/ Foreign Aided Projects
- Processing of case to get approval of Competent Authority i.e DCPC (deputy Chairman, Planning Commission) / Chairman, CDWP for administrative approval for the project” **Train-**

**ing of 5750 Youth of Balochistan under Aghaz-e-Huqooq –e-Balochistan** at cost of Rs.333.256 and subsequent issuance of administrative approval through PIA Section to the concerned.



## Food & Agriculture Section

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

- Prepared “News Proposals related to Agriculture and Allied Sectors regarding “19<sup>th</sup> Session of Pak-Iran Joint Economist Commission (JEC) to be held on 15-16 March, 2014 at Tehran, Iran”.
- Reviewed the devolution schemes and proposals and sent feedback to concerned section about “Functions of Devolved Divisions Allocated to other Divisions of Federal Secretariat”
- Prepared Brief and Talking Points on the subject of “Inputs on Pakistan-Sri Lanka Bilateral Consultations”.
- Furnished input on recommendations / observations of the Committee on the Subject of “Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee of Senate on Planning, Development & Reform”.
- Provided updated information / material in respect of “Review of Pending Projects”.
- Offered views / comments regarding the scheme (PC-I) “Promotion of Pulses Cultivation in Punjab (cost Rs. 370.140m)”.
- Attended a meeting on the subject of “Public Private Dialogue on Enhancing Competitiveness and Exports of Kinnow and Mango” which was held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore.
- The case regarding “Faculty Board in the National Institute of Food Science and Technology University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF)” was put up for consideration of higher authorities.

## Projects Wing

**Meetings:** Director General (Social Sector), Projects Wing has conducted a meeting on 17.3.2014 with the executing agencies of three projects being implemented by Islamia University, Bahawalpur. Vice Chancellor of the University also attended the meeting.

Projects Wing played a proactive role in organizing the international conference on Pakistan’s First Internationals Conclave on National Evaluation Capacity Development jointly organized by the Planning Commission of Pakistan, UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development and Reform chaired the last session of this conference. Speakers from all over the world participated

in this event. Mr. Shahid Mahmood, Director General (MIS), Projects Wing delivered a presentation on Government Perspective on National Evaluation Capacity Development in the

regarding monthly progress updates. In this connection, a meeting of the Focal Persons of all the federal ministries/divisions was convened in ‘P Block’ in



conference.

### **Management Information System (MIS)**

MIS Section has been assigned the task by Secretary, PD&R for preparing a report for Prime Minister’s office on the PSDP projects

which the participants were briefed about the mechanism of requisite data collection for preparation of the desired report.



## Projects Wing (continued)

**Monitoring:** Social Sector of the Projects Wing has monitored 03 (three) projects during the month of March, 2014.

ment projects on one pager format costing Rs.5000 million and above. This exercise was meant to appraise

information is being gathered on the prescribed format for onward submission to the Prime Minister Office.

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**Planning Commission**

P-BLOCK, PAK SECRETARIAT,  
ISLAMABAD.



### Other activities:

- Compilation and transmission of data pertaining to the development projects reflected in PSDP 2013-14 for Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
- Information was collected for the ongoing and completed develop-

the cost and time over run and also encompass the project completion since 2000 to June, 2013 (PM directive).

- For conducting an International Conclave on National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD), data/

This is a regular exercise which would be provided to the PM office on monthly basis. In this regard, Projects Wing is in constant touch with all the ministries/divisions for collecting the information of the ongoing development projects.

## Administration Section

- Mr. Samiullah Khan and Mr. Shoaib Bashir Khan, Chiefs of Economist Group BS-20 have been promoted as Joint

Chief Economists BS-21.

- Mr. Zafar ul Hasssan and Mr. M. Salim Khan Khattak, Deputy Chiefs

of Economist Group BS-19 have been promoted as Chiefs BS-20.