



DEVELOPMENT INSIGHT

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CPEC'S BIG 7

28th Annual Meeting of Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the ECO Countries

Pakistan hosted the 28th Annual Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Countries from 11-14 December, 2017.

The Regional Planning Council (RPC) is the principal planning committee of ECO that comprises all the Heads of Planning Organizations of the member states, as well as the officials and experts from national sectoral ministries and development agencies.

The annual meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and Secretary General, ECO, Mr. Hilal Ibrahim Akca to review the progress and implementation of all approved ECO projects for the year 2017.

In the eight committee sessions that followed on the sidelines of RPC, deliberations were held to evaluate proposals for new projects to be commenced in 2018, focusing on areas such as trade, bilateral investments, transport, communications, energy, minerals, environment, agriculture, tourism, economic research statistics, human resource, drugs and organized crime coordination among ECO regional institutions.



The President Hosts Delegates of 28th RPC Meeting

The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency, Mamnoon Hussain, hosted the reception dinner for delegates of the 28th Regional Planning Council Meeting and celebrated ECO Day. Secretary General, ECO, Mr. Hilal Ibrahim Akca and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Mr. Sartaj Aziz were in attendance.



Mr. Sartaj Aziz elected as Chairman of 28th RPC Meeting of the ECO

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission was unanimously elected as Chairman of the 28th RPC Meeting. In his brief remarks, the Deputy Chairman thanked the participants on reposing confidence in him. He hoped that the decisions and recommendations generated during the Review Committees' Meetings will generate fruitful outcomes for strengthening regional economic cooperation among the Member States.



Mr. Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui elected as Chairman Senior Official Segment of 28th RPC Meeting

The Secretary Planning, Mr. Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui, who headed the Pakistani delegation at 28th RPC Meeting was elected as Chairman of the Senior Official Segment. The Chairman, in his address to the delegates expressed his gratitude to the participants underlining the importance of Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meetings. He called for greater cooperation and policy reforms to strengthen regional economic cooperation among member states to finalize a road map for execution of the ECO Vision 2025.

CPEC Long Term Plan (LTP) Launched

CPEC Long Term Plan (LTP) 2017-2030 was unveiled by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Yao Jing at a launch ceremony held at the ministry on December 17, 2017.

Addressing the occasion, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said that launching the Long Term Plan of CPEC will turn China-Pakistan bilateral relations into a long term strategic economic partnership. Highlighting its importance the Minister elaborated on how CPEC will help the country harness its true economic potential by intensifying industrialization and sustainable urbanization in the country.

The CPEC Long Term Plan intends to expand the scope of investment from its key economic areas to focus on social upliftment of Pakistani citizens' through investments in human resource, higher education, healthcare and other social sectors of the economy.



“LTP is a conceptual framework for CPEC. This plan is a national plan approved by both the Chinese and Pakistani Governments to provide macro guidance for implementation of CPEC.”

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning, Development & Reform





CPEC's Big 7



The \$59 Billion Investment Overlay



Connectivity



Energy Related Fields



Finance



Trade & Industrial Parks



Tourism



**Agriculture Development
& Poverty Alleviation**



**Cooperation in Areas Concerning
People's Livelihood**

Pak-China Landmark Moments Inked in History



2013

Chinese President Xi Jinping visits Pakistan to lay the foundation of CPEC – One Belt One Road



2016

Expansion of scope of CPEC to raise investment overlay to \$59 Billion



2017

Long Term Plan for CPEC 2017-2030 launched



2018

Celebrating 5th year of CPEC

Conference in Focus:

Redefining Prosperity Paths in Changing Global Economy

A conference titled “*Redefining Prosperity Paths in Changing Global Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Pakistan*” was organized by the Pakistan Society of Development Economists on December 12, 2017.



Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Mr Sartaj Aziz, delivered the keynote address at the conference expressing his optimism on Pakistan’s emerging socioeconomic outlook. He stated that “*international rating agencies are optimistic about Pakistan’s economic performance and are predicting Pakistan to emerge as one of the fast growing economies in the world in the coming years*”. The conference was attended by senior members of the political leadership, members of civil society and social policy leaders, researchers and economists.

“**People of Gwadar top the Priority List of CPEC**”

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning, Development & Reform



A high level meeting on Gwadar Projects under CPEC was chaired by the Minister of Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, at this Ministry on December 26, 2017. In attendance were Secretary Planning, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Aurangzeb Haque and senior government officials.

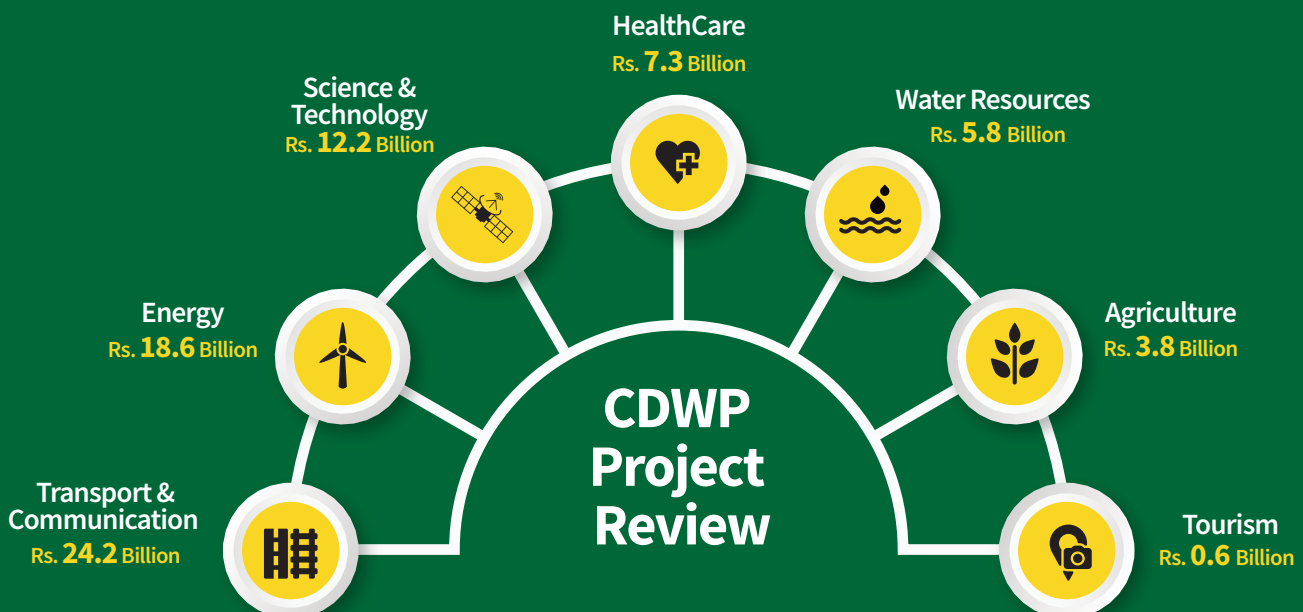
In the meeting, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal stressed on the need for inclusion and economic upliftment of the people of Balochistan through investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare and industry. The Minister further directed all concerned ministries to review and implement ongoing infrastructure projects in the port city of Gwadar, specifically focusing on the stipulated completion of Gwadar-Quetta Motorway and Gwadar-Khuzdar-Ratodero Road.

CDWP Approves 17 Mega Projects worth Rs. 19.2 Billion



On December 4, 2017, a CDWP meeting attended by senior officials from federal and provincial governments, and chaired by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, approved 17 development projects worth Rs. 19.2 billion. In addition, the CDWP forwarded summaries of seven mega projects worth Rs. 51.27 billion to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council for further approval.

Central Development Working Party (CDWP) is responsible for overseeing and approving all the development projects implemented in Pakistan.



Inauguration of National Endowment Scholarships for Talent

An inauguration ceremony was held at PPMI building, Islamabad, on December 27, 2017, for the launch of National Endowment Scholarships for Talent (NEST). Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development & Reform was the chief guest of the ceremony.



The NEST program was established as part of the Planning Ministry's efforts for the vertical upgradation of the less privileged. Through an outreach program, NEST provides quality education opportunities to the masses, helping them fight the vicious circles of poverty. A public sector company framework incorporated with SECP under Section 42 of the Companies' Ordinance 1984, NEST's objective is to award scholarships to the needy and talented students in less developed areas of Pakistan.

So far, NEST has awarded 2244 scholarships to talented and deserving students in less developed districts according to a prescribed quota across Pakistan. Scholarships have been awarded for intermediate and graduation programs. The company also provides "Qarz-e-Hasna" facility for overseas Master's programs.

► Seminar in Focus:

Women's Role in Rural Development of Pakistan



On December 28, 2017, Centre for Rural Economy, conducted a seminar on "Women's Role in Rural Development of Pakistan" at the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform. The central theme of the seminar was inclusion of women enterprises, their management and incubation into mainstream rural industry in Pakistan in order to increase the number of women-run rural businesses.

The seminar was attended by leading policy makers who advocate women empowerment, senior politicians and members of civil society. Mr Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, delivered the keynote address to participants, where he highlighted Vision 2025 as a wider strategic policy framework aimed at the inclusion of women enterprises - a cornerstone to Pakistan's blooming rural industries.

"Entrepreneurship and social enterprise are being recognized as central to advancing women's social and economic empowerment"

Mr. Sartaj Aziz
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

Mr Sartaj Aziz further stressed on the need to provide access to basic social services and livelihood opportunities for women who are otherwise disadvantaged and discriminated against. He referred to the experience of rural transformation in China which can guide us to articulate rural transformation in Pakistan.

Other themes discussed in the seminar revolved around the development of smart rural communities, policy framework and social upliftment schemes that will aim at giving a makeover to the existing community structure in the rural areas of Pakistan.