

Planning Commission Newsletter

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Macroeconomic

The second meeting of ECO Permanent Steering Committee on Economic Research was held on the 7th November, 2012 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The meeting was hosted by the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER) of Ministry of Economic Development, Republic of Azerbaijan.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Turkey. Chief - Macroeconomics Section, Planning & Development Division represented Pakistan in the meeting. Representatives of the member states made presentation to highlight the achievements of research institutions of respective countries, ongoing research activities and future research agenda.

The participants also stressed the need for exploring viable economic growth models that are

being currently used by world's various regions and to identify one that would meet the growth requirements of the ECO member economies. Moreover, the urgency to align the ECO with contemporary growth projections of the developing economies was shown.

ECO member states agreed to gear for the model of technological innovation and labor and capital productivity to achieve economic development in the region.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy

A brief on "Methodology of Price Collection and Computing Price Indices" was prepared for Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Secretary, Planning & Development Division. The material on Analysis of Regional Prices of Critical Con-

sumer Items was also prepared for the Cabinet meeting held on 14th November, 2012.

A meeting of Chief (Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy Section), Chief (Macroeconomics Section) and Chief (Industry & Commerce Section)

with the Board of Investment (BOI)'s experts was organised on 29th November 2012. The steps/reforms in the working of BOI to make it more effective organization for promoting investment and investment facilitator in the country were discussed in the meeting.

Governance

During the month of November, 2012, 06 local trainings and 10 foreign training opportunities have been received which were circulated to all officers/officials of P&D Division. Wherein, 10 local

and 11 foreign nominations have been received. Against these training opportunities, 10 nominations for local training and 29 nominations for the foreign training were forwarded to the agencies

concerned. Two meetings of the Committee on Foreign Training were convened whereas 07 officers attended the foreign training/seminar/workshop during the month.

Nutrition

A review workshop on proceeding of "Nutrition Policy Guidance Notes and Multi-sectoral Strategy Development" was organized as follow-up of the program implemented in Provinces. The workshop was held on 8th November, 2012. The Secretary, Planning and De-

velopment Division chaired the opening session.

The Secretary, Planning and Development Division also chaired the meeting of the World Bank on "Pre-appraisal Mission on Proposed Enhanced Nutrition for Mothers and Children Project"

on 27th November, 2012.

The report on the estimated cost of minimum food Basked for the month of October, 2012 was completed in the month of November, 2012. The report highlights national, provincial and regional estimates and comparisons.

National Fertilizer Development Centre

The 79th meeting of Technical Committee on Fertilizer and Allied Products of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) was held on 21st November, 2012 in Karachi on the issue pertaining to "Formulation of Standards for Bio-Organic Phosphate and Ammonium Sulphate (Fertilizer Grade – second revision)". On the recommendation of NFDC, standard for Bio-Organic Phosphate was deferred due to incomplete requirements, while, the meeting

also agreed to lower the level of arsenic contents from 0.025 to 0.012 per cent (half) for Ammonium Sulphate (fertilizer grade) because the presence of arsenic level beyond certain limits is injurious to human and environmental health.

Total nutrient offtake during October, 2012 was about 269 thousand tonnes compared to 397 thousand tonnes of October, 2011, represented a decrease of 32.1 per cent. Among the nutrients, nitrogen and phos-

phate offtake decreased by 44.3 and 0.9 per cent respectively, while potash offtake increased by 25.3 per cent.

Urea offtake during October, 2012 was 234 thousand tonnes, which decreased by 54.9 per cent, over October, 2011 (518 thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was about 184 thousand tonnes as compared to 204 thousand tonnes of October, 2011, showing a decrease of 9.5 per cent over same time frame of previous year.

Public Investment Authorization Section

A Special CDWP meeting was held on 16th November, 2012, under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to consider "Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication". After through discussions the project was recommended in principal for approval of ECNEC at a total cost of Rs.27.468 billion including foreign exchange component of Rs.24.189 billion.

Another Meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) was held on 22nd November, 2012 under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Besides the concerned Federal Ministries/Division, representatives of the Government of the Punjab, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan attended the meeting.

The CDWP approved 8 projects costing about 3.8 billion and recommended 15 projects for approval of the ECNEC costing Rs.126.5 billion. Out of these fifteen projects recommended to ECNEC, 11 projects were Energy related costing Rs.50.8 billion; Transport & Communications sector related projects with a cost of Rs.46.7 billion and Water Resources related project costing Rs.29.0 billion.

Science & Technology Section

A scheme of Higher Education sector “Establishment of Main Campus of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology at

Islamabad” was processed and discussed by CDWP in its meeting held on 22nd November, 2012. The comments on PC-I titled “Development of

Medical Application Linear Accelerator (MALA)” were prepared and furnished to Health Section of Planning & Development Division.

Population Welfare

Barrister Syed Masood Kasur, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhawa was paid a courtesy call by National Trust for Population Welfare (NATPOW) delegates comprising of Mr. Amir Fida Paracha, Chairman, Dr. Nasser Mohiuddin, CEO, Syed Shabhat

Ali, HR Manager and Mr. Muzammil Shah, GDO, on 20th November 2012 to discuss funding status for NATPOW Projects for MNCH Services in FATA approved by WHO Health Cluster at KP/FATA, Peshawar.

Dr. Nasser Mohiuddin, CEO NATPOW attended World Health Organization-WHO Health Cluster Meeting held on 5th December 2012 at WHO Country Office, Chakshahzad, Islamabad.

Education

During the month views/comments/recommendations for the following projects were prepared and forwarded to the concerned sections.

- Knowledge sharing programme offered by Govt. of Korea for the year 2013
- Improving Human Development Indicators in Pakistan
- Shared mechanism for the Proposal prepared by Benazir Income Support Programme
- Purchase of Land for Lahore College Women University Kala Shah Kaku
- Provision of equipments

for District Head Quarter Hospital Bhimber and Eight Basic health units of AJ&K

- Strengthening Engineering Program at Comsats Institute of Information Technology, Lahore and Sahiwal
- Establishment of Drug Addicts Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centre at Sawabi
- International conference on Population and development beyond 2014
- Review of PSDP Projects
- Provision of Academic and Research facilities of Government college university Faisalabad and

- Uplifting program of Comsats Institute of Information Technology Gujrat

- Provision of Quality Education Opportunities for students of Balochistan and FATA (Prime Minister's directives).

Senior Chief and Deputy Chief, Education Section attended meeting of Standing Committee of the Senate of Pakistan on the Less Developed Areas of Balochistan at Parliament House Islamabad. Senior Chief also attended a meeting on National Accreditation Council for Teachers Education (NACTE) at Lahore.

Manpower

Comments on modified PC-I regarding “Establishment of Vocational Training Cen-

ters in 13 Tehsils of Balochistan” in the light of Pre-CDWP meeting were offered to the sponsors for

inclusion in the PC-1 document accordingly.

Pakistan Planning & Management Institute

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute organized a training course on "Public Procurement System" from 6-8 November, 2012. Forty four (44) officers participated in the course.

The first speaker of the training course Mr. Asif Khan, Assistant Chief, Planning Commission delivered lecture on Public Procurement Rules 2004. He also explained previous regulatory regime and drawbacks of the old system. He enhanced the knowledge of audience by throwing light on the reform initiatives taken by PPRA. The main thrust was to make familiar the participants with the objectives of procurement reforms and public procurement framework.

Mr. Rehan Hyder Senior Procurement Specialist in the World Bank delivered lecture on Procurement Guidelines in the perspective of Foreign Funded projects. Besides this, he also elaborated the characteristics of selection, employment of the consultant and overview of the Bank's Procurement Policy.

Mr. Feroz Bashir Ansari, former Secretary Federal Tax Ombudsman gave a detailed presentation on the Public Procurement System. He explained the concepts, components, deficiencies of PFM System and fi-

nally gave recommendations.

In the Last Session Mr. Asif Khan carried out a group exercise in which the participants were divided into groups of four, then a case study was assigned to every group and was asked to solve it. Thereafter, each representative of the group was asked to give presentation.

Training course on "Public Financial Management System/ Latest Reforms" was held from 19th to 21st November, 2012. Thirty One (31) officers participated in the course. The purpose of training course was to take an overview of Public Financial Management System.

Mr. Muhammad Ayaz, Director Accounts, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission took first session and highlighted the theoretical approach behind the Public Financial Management System. He gave comprehensive overview of the concept of Public Financial Management System, Governments Funds, PFM/Budget Cycle and Divisible pool inflows and outflows.

Second Session was on the topic of "Diagnosing Strengths and Weaknesses of Public Financial Management System"

which was conducted by Mr. Muhammad Faheem, Director Financial Accounting and Budgetary System. The objective of this session was orientation of terminologies used in Public Financial Management System, and sharing knowledge about the strengths and weaknesses of the Public Financial Management System.

In 3rd Session, Mr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Director Training, PIFRA delivered lecture on Public Financial Reforms in Pakistan. He elaborated Background, profile of the project, Key Reforms, Pension GPF Facilitation centres and out come and Impact of PIFRA Project.

In the last session, lecture on "Pros and Cons of Public Financial Management Reforms & Harmonizing/Aligning with Donor Requirement" was delivered by Mr. Bilal Mehmud Qazi, Module Specialist FI, PIFRA. He explained some of the PFM Reforms introduced by PIFRA, he continued his presentation by explaining the features of FABS (Financial Accounting and Budgeting System), and audit and training components of the PIFRA."

Information & Communication Technologies

In-house computer training

Second phase of training comprising hands-on/practical training course of two weeks duration for Senior Private Secretaries, Private Secretaries, Stenographers and Stenotypists has been approved by the Additional Secretary. Administration has made the nominations and 1st batch will be called in 2nd week of December, 2012.

Construction work of JACC building

Construction of JACC building is in progress and finishing works are underway. Security issues of Red Zone area on eve of Muharram have caused temporary disruption of work. However, efforts are in hand to get completion as early as



possible.

Appraisal and monitoring of IT, Telecom and SUPARCO Projects

In the PSDP 2012-13 there are 60 IT Sector projects which are dealt by JACC and some of them are of significant

importance. It was felt that no proper monitoring mechanism existed for monitoring of these projects. Director General, JACC requested Member I&M that monitoring reports of IT projects may be provided to JACC and representative of JACC may also be added for field monitoring of the IT projects.

In this regard, further co-ordination between Projects Wing and JACC is in progress. A team of IT professionals of JACC has been formed and a visit for monitoring of E-Office Replications Project, M/o Information Technology was conducted on 27th by monitoring team comprising Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Director General JACC, Dr. Fazl-i-Hakeem Khat-tak, Director General Social Sector and Mr. Fahimullah Khan, Monitoring Officer Projects Wing.

CDWP meeting

A meeting of CDWP was held on 22nd November, 2012 in which a project of M/o IT "*E-Office Replication in all Division's of Federal Government (Revised)*" was approved at a cost of Rs 479.504 million.

PSDP Review meeting

A meeting on review of PSDP was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Planning & Development Division on 28th November, 2012 in which projects of SUPARCO and Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) were reviewed.

Meeting with World Bank Mission

A meeting was held in JACC dated 6th November, 2012 with World Bank Mission. In this meeting, matters related to overall IT Sector as well as on various initiatives of M/o IT such as Telecom Policy Review, E-Office Replication and Federal Government Data Centre Projects were discussed.

Visit of Deputy Chairman to PPMI Building

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission visited the PPMI building on 29th November, 2012. With respect to provision of IT facilities at PPMI, Director General, JACC alongwith hardware expert was also present at the occasion.

Regularization of 24 project posts

The JACC remained in contact with Management Services Wing, Establishment Division for regularization of the case of 24 project posts. During the month, some queries were raised, which were replied either telephonically or through e-mail to avoid delay and hopefully the case would be disposed-off in coming month.

Coding Scheme of PSDP Projects

A meeting was held with Additional Secretary for review of applications software and Coding Scheme. The prototype of tracking of PC-I's Status was shown and feedback is being incorporated in the software.

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



Planning Commission

P-BLOCK, PAK SECRETARIAT,
ISLAMABAD.

Information & Communication Technologies (Cont...)

Website of Planning Commission

The website is being continuously maintained and updated. In this regard, new content uploaded related to "Picture Galleries" covering major events held during the month, foreign training announcements, weekly "Status of PSDP Releases", "News and Update", Newsletter of October, 2012, Job announcement, and "Tender Notice of PPMI". Furthermore, data gathering and contents updation of

"Economists Group" website was also made.

IT Services

A number of meetings were held at "P" Block in which JACC provided IT support services of conference system, recording of meeting proceedings and taking pictures. Printing and binding of official documents for higher management was done.

Computer Hardware/ Software maintenance and support services at "P" Block and PPMI build-

ing continued as a regular activity of JACC. On average 15 complaints were daily attended by JACC in November, 2012.

Disposal of old/ unserviceable equipment

A list of outdated/ unserviceable computer equipment of JACC including received equipment from closed projects of Planning & Development Division is being prepared for its disposal through auction.

Industries and Commerce Section

Briefs regarding ECC summary on approval of National Mineral Policy 2012, import policy of used cars, relief package for the Holly month of Ramzan, 2012- enhancement of the subsidy per kg on the sales of Atta at USC outlets, Swede Bus Pakistan (Pvt)

Ltd and Waiver of sales tax at import stage were prepared. Comments on summary for the National Economic Council (NEC) regarding the result based management of the Framework for Economic Growth (FEG) were also prepared.

up action on Record Notes of the call on the President by delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry and also prepared comments for Pre-CDWP meeting regarding rent issue of category B-building of Faisalabad Government city (Revised) project.

The Section took follow-

Energy Wing

Comments on following summaries for the ECC/ Cabinet have been prepared:

- Uninterrupted supply of gas to CNG stations for public buses through dedicated CNG stations.
- Adjustment of P.O.L. prices on weekly basis.

- Prioritization of Gas to the Power Sector.
- Issuance of LOI to the power generation projects of Thar Coal Energy Board (TCEB) suggesting relaxation/ modification in the Power Policy.

Representative of Energy Wing participated in the meeting at NEPRA Office

in pursuance of the notices of the public hearing regarding petitions filed by M/s Saif Power Limited (SPL), Orient Power Company Limited (OPCL) and Halmore Power Generation Company Limited (HPGL).

Administration

Joint Chief Economist

(Macro/Operations) after successful completion of

his service retired on 29-November, 2012.