



Newsletter Planning Commission

Economic Sections

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Macroeconomic Section

Keeping others concerned informed with the fluctuating macroeconomic indicators, this Section provided daily update of the indicators to Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal, and Secretary PD&R Hassan Nawaz Tarar.

During November, brief on the South Asia conclave was formulated for the Minister. The brief focused on triggering collaboration as it ignites innovation. In order to transform knowledge into workable solutions for economic growth, there should be pooling of our human capital into 'network capital' through the formation of teams, partnerships and alliances, which will facilitate in the creation, deepening and sharing of knowledge.

A proposal on the subject 'Development of Pakistan with Short to Mid-Term Planning' was received in the Prime Minister Office from Muhammad Usman Nawaid, Public Accountant M/s Fast Professional Services Inc. New York.

The Macroeconomic Section was assigned the task to evaluate the proposal. The Section furnished detailed comments on the project after consultation with various technical sections, and emphasised that the proposal may first be presented to the relevant ministries before presentation to honourable PM Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

The Section also provided material regarding salient features of the Pakistan Vision 2025 and expertise of the Ministry to the Senate Standing Committee on the PD&R. The Sun Media Corporation is publishing an article about the economy of Pakistan after interviewing High Commissioner of Pakistan. Therefore, on the request received from the Pakistan High Commission in Malaysia, a brief on key economic indicators and salient features of the Vision was provided to facilitate the High Commission.

Ministry of Strategy and Finance South Korea has initiated 'Knowledge

Sharing Programme' for the year 2015 in collaboration with development partner countries, including Pakistan, with an aim to enhance its national competitiveness by sharing Korea's development experience. This Section has submitted project proposal on 'Development Planning for Promoting Knowledge Economy'.

The Section has also drafted monitoring report relating to the performance of attached departments and administration sections of the PD&R. The performance monitoring is submitted for approval of the Secretary PD&R, which is then to be forwarded to Ministry of Finance.

Along with the socio-economic planning, the Section is also providing secretariat services for the 'Pakistan Vision 2025 - Management and Performance Delivery Unit'. Interviews for the post of the Project Director have been conducted, and short-listing for the other posts is in the process.

Public Investment Programming Section

The first quarter review meetings on the PSDP 2014-15 were held with the ministries/divisions concerned from the 10th

to 12th of November under the Chairmanship of the Minister PD&R, and Secretary PD&R to assess the financial and physical

progress of the budgeted projects in the PSDP 2014-15.

Public Investment Authorization Section

The first meeting of November of the CDWP was held on the 19th under the chairmanship of the Minister PD&R/Deputy Chairman Planning Commission. The forum considered thirty projects including a position paper. Out of these, ten schemes, with an estimated cost of Rs13.74 billion, were approved. Three schemes, costing Rs26.9 billion, were recommended to the ECNEC for approval. Eight

schemes were deferred, while an equal number of schemes were withdrawn from the CDWP agenda. A concept proposal was also considered and cleared by the CDWP/CCC. The priority areas remained T&C, PP&H and Food & Agriculture sector projects.

The second meeting of the CDWP was held on November 28 under the chairmanship of the Minister PD&R. The forum considered eighteen projects. Out

of these, five schemes, with an estimated cost of Rs2.7 billion, were approved. Five schemes, with an estimated cost of Rs24 billion, pertaining to the T&C and IT sectors were recommended to the ECNEC, and five schemes were deferred. However, three projects were withdrawn. The priority areas were T&C and IT sectors projects.

Plan Coordination Section

Preparation of the Year Book 2013-14 of the Ministry for onward submission to the Cabinet Division is in process. This Section collected material from sections/wings concerned of the Ministry, and forwarded to the Committee Members for review and checking consistency of the content. For the purpose, several meetings – under the chairmanship of Member (Development Communication) Ayesha Javed Eirabie – were arranged, and coordination was carried out with all the

members. Moreover, received chapters were also forwarded to the Editor for consolidation of the draft Year Book.

Material for a meeting of the Standing Committee of Senate, held on November 28, was consolidated, and forwarded to the Senate Secretariat.

Newsletter of the Planning Commission is consolidated by this Section. During November, material was collected from all sections/wings of the Ministry for the newsletter of October, consolidated and up-

loaded on the official website after editing and approval from the competent authority.

Several meetings were organised by this Section during the month under the chairmanship of Chief Economist Dr Muhammad Nadeem Javaid for 'Rationalisation of Functions of Economist and Technical Groups' with all sections/wings and attached departments/institutions concerned of the Ministry.

Money, Prices & Fiscal Policy Section

The MP&FP Section carried following major tasks:

- Prepared updates on 'Stock Market Developments', inflation highlighting the reasons/causes for increase and decrease in the prices of major food and non-food items, and prepared monthly review on 'Monetary Development and Growth' for the period of July-October, 2014
- Tracked trends in re-

gional prices of essential commodities, monetary aggregates, fiscal and stock market developments

- Prepared material for the working paper on agenda item No.3 titled 'Impact of Monetary Policy adopted by the state Bank of Pakistan on Investment, Growth and Balance of Payments' for a meeting of Monetary & Fiscal Policies Coordination Board, held on November 11 under the chairmanship

of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, and attended by Minister PD&R Prof Ahsan Iqbal.

- Prepared brief for a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC), held on November 17 in the Finance Division under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. The Chief (MP&FP) also attended the meeting.

International Trade and Finance Section

- Updated data for an analysis of the external sector performance in the economy! According to the provisional data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports decreased by 6.86 per cent and stood at \$7,972 million during July-October, 2014. Imports increased by 16.09 per cent and stood at \$16,785 million during July-October, 2014. The exchange rate during October 2014 remained at Rs102.75/\$ against Rs.106.19/\$ during October 2013.
- Worked on visit of the Turkish experts to Pakistan
- Developed external sector performance write up
- Comments on the trade summary prepared, and submitted to the Chief Economist Dr Muhammad Nadeem Javaid
- Comments prepared on customs import duty on flat rolled steel products
- Attended a meeting in the Ministry of Commerce regarding World Trade Organization (WTO) trade policy review
- Attended a training on November 27 regarding the WTO agreement on 'Trade facilitation: opportunities and way forward for Pakistan Private Sector'

Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section

The Ministry of PD&R, UNDP and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) are jointly holding a series of provincial consultations on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). A workshop with policymakers, researchers, academia and practitioners was held in Peshawar on November 20 to gather feedback on the proposed MPI. The proceedings commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran followed by a welcome note by Khaliq-ur-Rehman, Parliamentary Secretary Planning and Development Department, government of the KPK.

Chief Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section Zafar-ul-Hasan gave a presentation on the objective of workshop and its format. Research Economist PIDE Dr Nasir Iqbal delivered a detailed presentation on the concept of the MPI and its measurement. Based on the PSLM dataset, he shared the initial findings of the MPI at the national, provincial and district levels. During the break-up group work, the participants suggested indicators to cover relevant dimensions and suggested to revisit weight assigned to each indicator and dimension in construc-

tion of the MPI. The participants proposed various alternative indicators and weighing schemes. The workshop ended with closing remarks by the Chief Economist Planning and Development Department, government of the KPK. Member (SS&D) Dr Naeemuz Zafar, Deputy Chief Shahid Naeem and Assistant Chief Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Section Dr M. Aman Ullah represented the Planning Commission in the workshop.

Employment, Research & Foreign Aid Section

The final draft of Year Book (2013-14) relating to Employment, Research & Foreign Aid section has been prepared and forwarded to the section concerned.

A meeting with the Japanese delegation, under the chairmanship of Chief Economist Dr Muhammad

Nadeem Javaid, was held on November 20. The delegation was briefed about the Vision 2025, and certain issues, relating to impact assessment of development projects funded by the JICA, were discussed. Views/comments of the Ministry of PD&R on the roadmap of priority areas of

the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Regional Connectivity were conveyed to the Finance Division for further discussion in the 13th meeting of the ACD Regional Connectivity.

Economic Appraisal Section

- Analysed/prepared Part -C of the working papers, consisting of economic and financial analyses/appraisal, of 28 projects for consideration of the CDWP
- The Section also participated in 12 pre and post CDWP meetings as its member and presented required view point.
- Chief Economic Ap-

praisal section represented, as a member, the Planning Commission/Ministry of PD&R in the AKDWP held on November 21 at Muzafarabad

Technical Sections

Governance Section

During November, a summary for the ECNEC about 'Project for Improving Financial Reporting and Auditing (PIFRA Phase-II Revised)' was prepared. Pre-CDWP meetings on the project 'Pakistan Planning and Management Institute-Center of Excellence' and 'Institutional Strengthening and Efficiency Enhancement of Planning Commission/PD&R (Phase II) Revised' of Ministry of PD&R, 'Development of Integrated Transit Trade Management Systems (ITTMS) under ADB's Regional Improving Border Service Project' of the Revenue Division, and 'Establishment of Emergency Service Rescue-1122 Centers in ICT, Islamabad' of the Interior Division were arranged, and their minutes were issued.

Working papers for the CDWP meeting on the projects 'Pakistan Planning and Management Institute-Center of Excellence' of Ministry of PD&R, 'Establishment of Emergency Service Rescue-1122 Centers in Islamabad' of the Interior Division, and 'Change of Base of National Accounts (from 2005-06 to 2015-16)' of the Statistics Division were presented

in the CDWP, and minutes were prepared. Meetings of the Committees constituted by the CDWP on projects 'Public Sector Enterprise Reform (PSER)' of the Finance Division, and 'Pakistan Planning and Management Institute-Center of Excellence' of Ministry of PD&R were arranged, and minutes were issued. Roundtables on the Civil Service Reforms and Citizen Client Charter were arranged and reports on the findings were prepared. Concept note and presentation for these roundtable conferences were also prepared. Meeting of the Cabinet Committee on the Post-18th Constitutional Amendment Reforms was arranged, and its minutes were prepared. Information for meeting of the Standing Committee of the Senate on PD&R was prepared, and also attended the meeting.

Meeting of the Non-Lending Technical Assistance for establishing the Punjab Social Protection Authority, on request made by the Punjab government, was attended. Meetings on new initiatives of the Planning Commission in the PSDP 2014-15 were attended, and material on the projects of the Governance

Sector was prepared, and forwarded to the Plan Coordination Section. Meetings on the first quarter review of the PSDP 2014-15 were attended. Material on Performance Monitoring Year 2013-14 of the Ministry of PD&R was prepared, and forwarded to the Macroeconomic Section. Meetings of the Steering Committee on the Citizen Feedback System were attended. Meetings of the committee on 'Restructuring of the Planning Commission' were attended.

Fresh positions of the Young Development Fellows were advertised, and applications have been finalised. Also cases for payment of monthly stipend to the YDF, falling under the 'Young Development Fellowship Programme' placed in the Ministry, were finalised, and processed with the Accountant General Pakistan Revenues (AGPR).

Proposal for focal point to develop international standards in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was examined, and information was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Nutrition Section

Bi-Monthly Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement meeting / teleconference, conducted by the SUN Secretariat among six SUN countries, was held on November 6 in the office of the Chief Nutrition Section. The purpose of the conference was to share experiences about 'Contribution of Nutrition Specialists, Science and Academia to Support SUN'. The conference was attended by the Nutrition Development Partners WFP, WHO, FAO, UNICEF, GAIN, MI, Save the Children and Harvest plus etc.

The SUN Movement Global Gathering (SUNGG) 2014 was held in WFP the Headquarters (Rome, Italy) from the 16th to 18th of November. Purpose of the Gathering was to enhance ability of the Movement to support achievement of results by the SUN member countries. Over 300 participants from 54 SUN countries, SUN Movement Secretariat and SUN Networks representatives participated. Three-member government delegation from Pakistan comprised Additional Secretary PD&R Rizwan

Bashir Khan, Chief Nutrition/SUN Focal Person M. Aslam Shaheen and Director Nutrition Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination Dr Baseer Khan Achakzai. Two SUN networks (UN and CSA) representatives from Pakistan also participated in the conference.

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) was held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome from 19-21 November, which was jointly organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United States and World Health Organization (WHO). The theme of the conference was 'Better Nutrition Better Lives'. The aim of the conference was to address global nutrition issues and challenges, propose a flexible policy framework to address nutrition challenges, and identify priorities for enhanced international cooperation on the nutrition. Four-member delegation from Pakistan participated in the conference, which was led by Rizwan Bashir Khan, while other members were Chief Nutrition/ICN2 Focal Person PD&R M. Aslam Shaheen, Dr

Shakeel Ahmad Khan and Dr Baseer Khan Achakzai. Besides the government delegation seven Nutrition Development Partners were also in attendance as observers.

A regular activity of estimation of cost of the Food Basket, based on a minimum of 2150 calories at national and provincial levels, has been done by the Section, which showed that the overall cost of the Basket reduced throughout the country, that is, in Sindh 5.4 per cent, Punjab 4.3 per cent, Baluchistan 4.1 per cent, 4 per cent at the National level, Islamabad 3.5 per cent and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 2.0 per cent on the Month-on-Month (MoM) comparison to October 2014. Moreover, a significant change was found when cost of the Basket was compared to November 2013, which reduced at the rate of 14 per cent in Sindh, 6 per cent in Islamabad, 5 per cent at the national level and Punjab, whereas it remained unchanged in Balochistan.

Women Development and Manpower Section

Following tasks were performed by this Section:

- Preparation and submission of minutes of the CDWP meeting held on the 20th of October 2014, regarding project 'Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gawadar' for circulation

- Attended meeting held under the Chairmanship of Member (Social Sector) to review functions/progress of the National Training Bureau (NTB), National and Vocational Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and National Institute of Science and Technical

Education (NISTE) and circulation of minutes of the meeting accordingly

- Submission of inputs for presentation to the Prime Minister
- Attended 20th meeting of Board of Directors of the NTB

Industries, Commerce and Mineral Section

Prepared brief for Deputy Chairman and Secretary PD&R on summary for the ECC of the Cabinet on 'Textile Policy 2014-19'; comments on 'Development of Pakistan with Short to Mid-Term Planning'; presentation for the Member on the Textile Sector; progress report of the Commerce Sector projects acquired from the Ministry of Commerce; material of Year Book 2013-14 and Newsletter for October, and sent to the Chief Plan Coordination Section; answer for the National Assembly question, and sent to the Secretary PD&R; material for presentation on mega projects in respect of the Indus-

tries, Commerce and Mineral Section; prepared Key Performance Indicators for the Industries, Commerce and Mineral Sector, and brief on the ECNEC-approved mega projects

Performance assessment Proforma in respect of all officers has been filled in, and sent to the DC Governance Section and DS (Admin).

Provided detail regarding 'Garment Technology Institute Karachi' to the Secretary PD&R; material regarding rationalisation of functions of the Economist and Technical groups, and material to Deputy Chairman for monitoring of the PSDP projects in respect of In-

dustries, Commerce and Mineral Section.

Requested extension to the Ministry of Commerce for obtaining information regarding projects to be funded through the EDF

The latest position regarding preparation of the PC-1 for new scheme 'Value addition in cluster development' has been intimated to the Secretary PD&R.

Information regarding review of the PSDP 2014-15 and detail regarding Garment Technology Institute Karachi provided to the DC PIP Section.

Comments regarding release of funds have been sent to the DC PIP.

Health Section

The Ministry of PD&R is leading the process of acceleration and enhancement of the *Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)* in Pakistan, and in this regard an institutional setup in the form of the National Steering and Coordination Committee on the CRVS has been notified.

National Steering and Coordination Committee meeting on November 18 along with representatives from provincial government, NADRA, NGOs/CSOs, academia and research organisations. Prof Ahsan Iqbal chaired the inaugural session and highlighted the importance of this landmark

event for use in strategic planning process.

The Ministerial Conference on the CRVS in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from 24 to 28 November. The conference was attended by Member (Social Sector) Dr Naeemuz Zafar and Deputy Chief Health Section Dr Muhammad Asif. This multi-sectoral conference was convened in light of the importance of the CRVS and the broad impact it has on development, particularly the Health Sector. The CRVS is receiving greater attention because of its strong implications for rights, especially legal identity and improving women and children health, as well as good governance and accountability as central means of implementation for the development agenda beyond 2015.



This Section and the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted first event through which data would be made available in a multi-sectoral envi-

Women Development and Manpower Section

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on November 18 under the chairmanship of Member (S&T/IT) and the following projects were discussed:

- i) Establishment of Public Health and Nursing Institutes at Peoples University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women (PUMHSW), Nawabshah.
- ii) Up-gradation of Federal Government College for Women F-7/2 to Federal Women University, Islamabad
- iii) Strengthening of University of Balochistan Quetta and its campuses
- iv) Establishment of Geodetic Datum of Pakistan
- v) Subsidy to scholars abroad under the Cultural Exchange Program (2nd Revision)
- vi) National Radiation Emergency Coordination Centre

The projects at serial no. (ii) to (vi), processed by this Section, were considered by the CDWP in its meeting held on November 19, while the projects at serial number ii, iii and iv were approved, and projects at serial no. v and vi were deferred. Minutes of the meeting for the projects were drafted, and issued.

- Drafted working paper and ToRs for 'Pak-US Working Group on Education, Science & Technology', and sent to the Member (S&T/IT) Planning Commission
- Prepared comments on 'Rationalization of Functions of Economic and Technical Sec-

tions', and sent to the Plan Coordination Section

- Drafted agenda items proposed to be included in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Commission on Science & Technology (NCST); recommendations of the Planning Commission regarding summary of the Capital Administration and Development Division (CA&DD) for the Prime Minister in respect of implementation of scholarships schemes; and comments on 'Summary for the Council of Common Interests (CCI) regarding draft bill for the establishment of the Pakistan Halal Authority (PHA) 2014' drafted, and submitted to the Ministry of Science & Technology.
- Forwarded scholar-wise detail of scholarship schemes being implemented by the HEC and other ministries to the Plan Coordination Section
- Prepared and furnished comments on the PC-I of the National Human Resource Development Endowment Fund (NHRDEF) to the Education Section, and project profiles of the projects being implemented by the government in Karachi and sent to the PIP Section
- Besides, projects profiles of important projects enlisted in the PSDP 2014-15, which the Minister PD&R might visit in the near future, were furnished

to the PIP section.

- The Section participated in various meetings including the following:
 - A meeting to work out consultancy charges for 'Establishment of UET Lahore sub-Campus at Narowal' held under the chairmanship of Member (I&M), held on November 11
 - 8th meeting of the Steering Committee for the project 'PM's National Program for Provision of Laptops to Talented Students', chaired by the Chairman HEC and held on November 13 at the HEC
 - A meeting to discuss the project 'National Human Resource Development Endowment Fund (NHRDEF)' held on November 26, and chaired by Member (SS).
 - PSDP 2014-15 review meetings regarding projects in Sindh, held with the Secretary PD&R in the chair. Projects profiles for the meeting were prepared and submitted.
 - Travel Grant Award Committee meeting at the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), representing the Ministry of PD&R
 - The Senate Standing Committee

Food and Agriculture Section

Following tasks were carried:

- Prepared and submitted brief on summary on 'Support/Procurement Price of Wheat 2014-15 Crop' for the ECC meeting
- Arranged and participated in the consultative meeting with stakeholders on 'Establishment of Rural Economy Centre' on November 26. Minutes of the meeting were recorded, and issued accordingly.
- Prepared and submitted views/comments regarding 'Himalayan Adaptation, Water and Resilience (HI-A WARE) Research on Glacier and Snowpack Dependent River Basins for Improving Livelihoods' to the Water Resource Section.
- Offered comments regarding 'Combined Release of Allocated Funds in 2014-15 for completion of the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) project
- Conducted meeting and correspondence regarding the project 'Value Addition in Agriculture-Cluster Development Approach'
- Prepared working paper for the pre-CDWP meeting regarding 'Integrated Resource Management & Value Chain Development in High Value – Horticultural & Livestock System for Improvement of Livelihood in Rural Areas of District Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa'
- Offered comments to the Plan Coordination Section regarding two projects, related to cotton-wheat and relay cropping of the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Multan
- Prepared project profiles of all the agriculture-related PSDP projects
- Arranged pre-CDWP and compiled working paper on the 'Promotion of Olive Cultivation on Commercial Scale in Pakistan' Project
- Compiled working paper, prepared and submitted summary to the ECNEC and arranged a consultative meeting in light of the CDWP decision on 'Livestock and Access to Markets Project (LAMP)'
- Compiled information on mega projects to be completed by 2018, and sent to the PIP section.
- Compiled information on the PSDP projects for Karachi
- The requisite information regarding rationalisation of functions of the Economist and Technical groups in the Planning Commission was furnished to the Plan Coordination Section keeping in view the prescribed functions and major activities handled by this Section.
- Review papers about 'Food Standards/Laws in Pakistan', 'Agricultural Infrastructure in Pakistan' and 'Corporate Agriculture Farming (CAF)' were prepared.

Water Resources Section

Following major activities were carried out:

- Consultation and coordination with all executing agencies for the 2nd Quarter releases of the PSDP 2014-15
- Preparation of presentation to the PM Secretariat on the Sector's development programmes
- Disposal of directives of the PM and President, and Cabinet decisions
- Monthly desk monitoring and evaluation of all ongoing development projects of the Sector
- Finalisation of the bidding process and other necessary documents for technical and financial audit of the Kachhi Canal project
- Attended a meeting on 'Technical scrutiny of emergent flood schemes and their subsequent approval'
 - Briefing for the National Assembly Stand-
- ing Committee on the PD&R
- Attended various water-related meetings, including: Sub-Committee on Service Structure for Engineering, Flood Commission Securitizing Committee, 1st Quarter PSDP 2014-15 review, post-Flood meeting of the Federal Flood Commission, Draft Mid-Term Re-

Water Resources Section (Cont...)

port Development of National Flood Protection Plan-IV, 2nd meeting on the Funding Mechanism (Flood-affected and NWA IPs with the diplomatic community, development partners and government stakeholders), review of the Indus 21 Water Sector Capacity Building (WCAP), Coordination Committee regarding increase in cost of land acquisition for the Mangla Dam raising project, Chao Tangi Dam meeting, South Waziristan Agency FATA, un-approved projects and new development initiatives in

the PSDP 2014-15, CDWP and DDWP, Pakistan ICIMOD, Ministerial Committee on the issue of Land Acquisition and Resettlement Diamer Bhasha Dam, Ghabir Dam Project and special meeting on the PSDP 2014-15 (only for Sindh Projects).

- Meetings with all stakeholders for preparation of comprehensive master plan for rain water harvesting, hill torrents, Flood Mitigation Plan and watershed management activities in Pakistan
- Technical scrutiny of five development projects of the Water Section and

different flood emergent small schemes, and submitted to the competent forum for approval

- Different seminars and conferences attended on: Impact of climate change on agriculture in Pakistan and implications for food security, and 'Promoting Sustainable Energy for all', organised by the AEDB and ADB
- Official correspondence with other ministries, departments, executing agencies and international organisations concerned

Projects / Wings

National Fertilizer Development Centre (NFDC)

Production of all fertilizer products during October was about 586 thousand tonnes. Out of this urea production was about 435 thousand tonnes (74.3 per cent share in total production). Other products were: DAP 68 thousand tonnes, CAN 35 thousand tonnes, NP 34 thousand tonnes, SSP 5 thousand tonnes and various grades of NPK 8 thousand tonnes. Imported supplies comprised 98 thousand tonnes of DAP, 2.0 thousand tonne of MOP and 1.4 thousand tonnes of AS. Total nutrient offtake during October was about 407 thousand tonnes, which was nine per cent less

than October 2013. Among the nutrients, nitrogen offtake was 257 thousand tonnes which decreased by 12.4 per cent, phosphate offtake was 147 thousand tonnes which dipped 2.4 per cent and potash offtake was 3.3 thousand tonnes which also decreased by 4.7 per cent over October 2013.

Urea offtake, during October 2014, was 411 thousand tonnes which decreased by 13.8 per cent, while DAP offtake was 292 thousand tonnes which decreased by 1.8 per cent in comparison to October 2013. The peak season of urea consumption is November and December.

The scheduled imports are expected to arrive during December. Hence availability of urea during peak season would remain under stress, and may result in undue price hike. It is, therefore, recommended that natural gas, which is used as raw material in urea production, may be provided to the urea plants by the SNGPL for local production along with efforts to expedite the import process of urea to avoid severe shortage during current Rabi 2014-15.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

During November, two training courses – one regular and one customised – were conducted by the PPMI.

Officers from federal and provincial governments, and public sector organisations participated in the training

courses. Brief of the training courses is as under:-

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (Cont...)

i) Time Management (November 10 – 12, 2014)

The main objective of the training course was to develop highly effective time management skills to minimise stress, increase productivity, prioritising activities and maintaining time man-



agement habits. This dynamic time management training course also provided techniques and methods to become more productive and to manage time more effectively. After completion

of this training course participants were able to identify their own particular time wastages and adopt strategies from their work pattern. Moreover, they were able to adopt appropriate strategies for dealing with interruptions and to use practical tech-

niques for organising work. 45 officers participated in this course.

ii) Newly-inducted Research Officers (ROs) of the Ministry of PD&R/ Planning Commission of

Pakistan (14 October to 05 December, 2014)

This eight-week training course for the newly-recruited Research Officers (BPS-17) of the Economist Group is in progress. Six modules have been covered so far. Participants of the course also visited Khanpur, District Haripur of the KPK for excursion. Furthermore, nominations were invited from different sections of the Ministry for participation in the 6th Module "MS Project – SPSS". Two officers from the Economic Appraisal Section also participated in this Module.

Projects Wing

Meetings/visits

Member (I&M) Muhammad Shahid Chaudhry visited the Quetta Water Supply and Environmental Improvement Project from November 4 to 5 to review the implementation status of the Project. He also vis-

ited the University of Balochistan along with Director General (Social Sector) Projects Wing and discussed progress of the projects being implemented by the University. Member (I&M), along with his team, also held a meeting with Governor Balochistan Muhammad Khan Achakzai to discuss issues related to the PSDP-



ited the University of Balochistan along with Director General (Social Sector) Projects Wing and dis-

ussed progress of the projects being implemented by the University. Member (I&M) also held a meeting with Member

(Construction) National High Way Authority on November 27 to review the progress of the mega projects of national importance, being executed by the NHA. Member (Construction) NHA had made presentation on selected mega projects, and highlighted major issues hindering the smooth implementation of projects. Officers from the Projects Wing also accompanied the Member (I&M).

Director General (Social sector) Projects Wing also held meetings, which included: Establishment of University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore Sub-Campus Narowal in the Committee Room P-Block.

Projects Wing (Cont...)

4th Meeting of review committee on preparation and circulation of Year Book 2013-14 in pursuance of Rule 25 of the Rules Of Business 1973, and follow-up meeting on the EPI to discuss the observations of the Monitoring Report, and to frame a policy proposal.

DG (SS) delivered lecture on issues and problems of education in Pakistan at the Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM) and project monitoring and evaluation at the PPMI.

A farewell party was arranged for Deputy DG (SS) Dr Zafar-ul-Haq Lodhi

and Muhammad Anwar (Daftari) on November 27 on the eve of their retirement. The Member (I&M) was also present at the occasion.



Focal Persons on the PMES were convened on the 10th, 11th and 12th of November for the Infrastructure, Social and other Sectors at the PPMI Complex under the chairmanship of Muhammad Shahid Chaudhry. More than 50 representatives from different federal ministries and organisations attended the meeting, and their participation was appreciated.

The meetings were convened to highlight importance of the PMES data update, provide monthly progress reports on projects implementation to the Prime Minister's office, bring offline ministries into the PMES loop, and train of project directors on the use of the PMES, upon demand of the ministries.

Monitoring

This Wing monitored 53 development projects out of which 21 were of social sector, 17 of infrastructure and 15 were of other sectors.

Cash/Work Plan (2014-15)

The wing cleared 37 cash/work plans of different development projects.

Management Information System (MIS)

A series of meetings of



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