



# Newsletter

## Planning Commission Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform

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### Governance reform agenda needs continuity and stability, says Ahsan Iqbal

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has said the governance reform agenda has been finalised to be implemented in due course, which needs continuity and stability to bear fruits since evolution can be sped up, not bypassed.

mentation can turn into a complex process in the larger context, but we are making it possible by working harder in the right direction," he said, while speaking at the inaugural session of the Thought Leaders Summit 2016 'Strengthening human governance for sustainable Ease of Doing Business

while CEO HR Metrics Zahid Mubarak gave opening remarks.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal enumerated various steps being taken by the government for improving the governance sector. He said in this age of paradigm shift towards knowledge economy, which was marked by globalised



Prof Ahsan Iqbal receiving a souvenir

"The private sector can afford the luxury of hiring the best minds, but the public sector struggles with it, where one has to balance many acts simultaneously. One can initiate reforms, but imple-

ness Index' held here on Thursday at a local hotel. Former Governor State Bank of Pakistan Dr Ishrat Hussain and Secretary Board of Investment Iftikhar Babar also spoke,

competitiveness from the micro to the macro level, the government had declared the current year as the 'Year of productivity, quality and innovation'. He underlined the need for

working harder, better and smarter, and urged the private sector to make the country a leader in its comity by following the Vision 2025. While enlisting various reforms of the government, he also talked about reforms in the education sector through institutionalisation of the National Curriculum Council, which aimed at changing the curricula after consultations with the provinces since the subject stood devolved to the federating units. He stressed the need for encouraging students to raise questions and character building. He was of the view that inquiry was not part of the human resource development.

The Minister was of the considered opinion that the first element to invite investment was the continuity and stability of the political system, which must be spanning over longer stretches of time, and impatience was detrimental for good steps as well.

While talking about the level of public sector efficiency, he was of view that it had dwindled to quite a

large extent in comparison to the 1990s, which was dilemma of the post-martial law periods. He said the country needed more institutional leaders since there was little number of bosses, in both public and private sectors. "Leadership quotient is very low and missing in all tiers, which must be mended through a new direction in the human resource management aiming at nurturing and training minds," he said, while referring to the first and third pillars of the Vision 2025, that is, Putting people first – development of human and social capital, and Governance, institutional reform and modernisation of the public sector. He maintained that the previous efforts at reforms failed because of lack of ownership by the quarters concerned, and for the fresh reforms, extensive consultations were held and a framework had been outlined.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal said the first step would be sector specific recruitment, where the bifurcation would be made between the technical and general cadres

since there was a need to professionalise the government service. "Revamping the training at all levels, reforming the Establishment Division to the Human Resource and Organisation Division with every ministry having an HR Manager, signing of the performance contract by the public sector entities and be answerable, digitalisation through e-governance and e-office, creating of reward fund worth Rs1 billion and establishing of the citizen feedback system are a few broad steps envisaged," he said, while adding that the reforms would be for the institutional, inconclusive, collaborative and citizen-centric governance. "Measures can only bear fruit provided there is a stable leadership, shared vision, merit-based recruitment and promotion, ample resources and reasonable autonomy," he said. To him, it was very important to synergise all efforts to make Pakistan as one of top 25 economies in the next decade.

### **NLC should formulate five-year business plan: Prof Ahsan Iqbal**

'Pakistan is poised to become trade and commerce hub in the region, and the NLC should prepare to take advantage of future opportunities by identifying mid-term to long-term targets for enhancing its operational capability and efficiency'

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has instructed the National Logistic Cell (NLC) to formulate a five-year business plan by setting clear objectives of the organisation for transforming it into a leading transportation company of the region.

"Pakistan is poised to become trade and commerce hub in the region, and the NLC should prepare to

take advantage of future opportunities by identifying mid-term to long-term targets for enhancing its operational capability and efficiency for future trucking and logistic needs, especially in the backdrop of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which will generate enormous opportunities in logistic sector," he issued these directions, while chairing 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Logistic Board here at the Ministry. The Board authorised the

NLC to hire a well-reputed management consultancy firm for formulation of the five-year business plan. It also accorded approval to audit accounts of the financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The Minister said the NLC was playing important role in national development of the country, and should modernise its fleet for provision of efficient services since



it was the backbone of the logistic sector and must focus on its core business by aligning itself with the development portfolio of Pakistan by anticipating the future requirement in the logistic sector. The Minister noted that the CPEC would create enor-

mous opportunities in freight and logistics, and NLC could benefit from these opportunities through improving its organisational capability. He directed the organisation to explore transportation opportunities on the western route of the CPEC as well as at

Gwadar, which was the key node of the mega project. He also directed completion of the National Logistic Framework and Trucking Policy at the earliest for bringing improvement in the trucking and logistic sector.

### FCCI delegation calls on Minister



Islamabad (Jan 26, 2016): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with a delegation of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).

A delegation of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) called on Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan

Iqbal, which was led by Chamber's president Muhammad Nawaz, who extended an invitation to the Minister to visit the Chamber, which he accepted.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's export sector needed innovation in product development and marketing strategy to be competitive in the international market, and the federal government was committed to facilitate trade and industry by providing conducive environment. "Pakistan needs quantum jump in its export for sustainable economic growth, which can be achieved through productive innovation and development," he said, while adding that the government was determined to resolve issues of trade and industry.

'Prof Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's export sector needed innovation in product development and marketing strategy to be competitive in the international market, and the federal government was committed to facilitate trade and industry by providing conducive environment'

## 'Pakistan's investment profile improved due to CPEC'

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal has said Pakistan's profile improved enormously in terms of investment destination because of the China-

said, while talking to a delegation of the Abraaj Group, which called on him. The Minister said the country now needed to capitalise on the changed perception, and the present government was

discuss challenges in upgrading the transmission and distribution system and the way forward. The Minister also sought help of the Abraaj Group for institutionalising contribution by the best hu-



Islamabad (Jan 28, 2016): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal exchanging views during a meeting with the delegation of K-Electric/Abraaj Group.

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) coupled with the improved economic indicators and law and order situation.

"Under the Vision 2025, we are restructuring of portfolio of our productive sectors as per cluster-based approach to transform agriculture, industry and mineral sectors," he

launching the Brand Pakistan campaign to remove misconceptions in the world. He said the K-Electric – subsidiary by Abraaj Group – had experience in reform of transmission and distribution system in Karachi, and the learning should be shared. He proposed K-Electric to organise a seminar by inviting the CEOs of all Discos to dis-

man resource living abroad in the economic development through sharing their expertise and experiences. "The Planning Commission has adopted a participatory approach to provide the private sector and diaspora an opportunity to play their role in shaping the future of Pakistan," he added.

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## Head DFID Pakistan calls on Minister

Head International Development (DFID) Pakistan Ms Joanna Reid called on Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal. He appreci-

ated contribution of the DFID in education and governance sectors. The Minister also briefed about the major initiatives taken in the education

sector to revolutionise it. He said education was part of 4Es pledged in the PML-N manifesto, which included education, energy, economy



Islamabad (Jan 28, 2016): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with Head of British Department for International Development (DFID) in Pakistan, Ms Joanna Reid.

and fighting extremism. “The Vision 2025 lays great emphasis on human resource development, and education is the key to produce quality human

resource. Though, education is a devolved subject under the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment, but the federal government has a key role of coordination

among the federating units and maintaining national standards,” he said, while asking the DFID to help the country for forging out similar arrangement like that of the US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor with the United Kingdom to give Pakistani scholars greater access to the UK universities. He also talked about the civil service reforms agenda. Ms Joanna Reid appreciated efforts of the government in the education and governance sectors, and assured every possible help for various initiatives

## ECONOMIC SECTIONS

### Macroeconomic

A report was released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), ‘Time for Equality: The role of social protection in reducing inequalities in Asia and the Pacific’. The report mentioned that growing disparities in income and wealth, as well as unequal opportunities, reinforce each other and therefore create an inequality trap that disproportionately affects women and the most vulnerable members of society, including the poor, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and migrants. The report further revealed that despite stellar economic growth and significant progress in terms of poverty reduction, inequality persists in Asia and the Pacific, and in some instances, it has even intensified.

With the adoption of the ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, policymakers and other stakeholders from the region including Pakistan have acknowledged that the existing inequalities are having a powerful corrosive effect on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development, inequality stifles the region’s economic dynamism, undermines social cohesion and solidarity, and it hampers environmental sustainability. The World Bank has published its latest ‘Global Economic Prospects’ report. It states that weak performance of major emerging markets will weigh on global growth in 2016, and will adversely affect efforts to reduce poverty. It was also predicted that the economic activity should still pick up

modestly to a 2.9 per cent pace, from 2.4 per cent growth in 2015, as advanced economies gain speed. It projected that South Asia would be ‘a bright spot’ in 2016, and the recently negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership could provide a welcome boost to trade in the region. Simultaneous weakness in most major emerging markets is a concern for achieving the goals of poverty reduction, and shared prosperity because those countries have been powerful contributors to global growth for the past decade. Spillovers from major emerging markets will constrain growth in developing countries and pose a threat to hard-won gains in raising people out of poverty. The report predicted that

‘The World Bank has published its latest ‘Global Economic Prospects’ report. It states that weak performance of major emerging markets will weigh on global growth in 2016, and will adversely affect efforts to reduce poverty’

developing economies could expand by 4.8 per cent in 2016, less than expected earlier, but up from a post-crisis low of 4.3 per cent in the year just ended. Hence, it is the time for developing countries to focus on building resilience to a weaker economic environment and shielding the most vulnerable.

### Sectoral

The early harvesting of potato begins in the Punjab, and better crop is expected this year showing the possibility for export. Farmers and the Punjab government see the production of potato to be much higher than its domestic requirement. The provincial government estimated the production to be 3.9 million tonnes with domestic consumption hovering around 2.3 million tonnes, and another 500,000 tonnes reserved for meeting seed requirement. The country will definitely have a surplus crop to export. This year, things are normal for the world market. So Pakistan has a better chance when compared to last year's adverse export environment.

As far as the energy sector is concerned, 1320MW Port Qasim coal project has achieved financial close and its first unit will start generation by December 2017, while construction of 1,02MW Gulpur hydropower project has started. Similarly,

1320MW coal project at Sahiwal is under construction by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi of China, and is scheduled to achieve commercial operationalisation in December 2017, while 660MW Engro Powergen Thar coal-based power project has signed financing documents and is expecting financial closing in a few weeks. Moreover, the government has allowed Pakistan State Oil (PSO) to sign LNG Sale Purchase Agreement (LSPA) with Qatar gas for import of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) of about \$16 billion in 15 years at a relatively lower rate.

Considering the production of wheat crop, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has allowed export of 600,000 tonnes of wheat at about Rs3.5 billion subsidy.

Owing to declining exports, Pakistan has signed an agreement with Indonesia for the export of one million tonne of rice over the next four years.

### Departmental

The 46<sup>th</sup> World Economic Forum was held during January 20-23 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. The Prime Minister of Pakistan participated in the forum.

The Finance Division, while working on the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework, requested for data for the Medium-Term Macroeconomic Frame-

work (2015-16 to 2018-19). This Section provided projections for the GDP, inflation, exports, imports, and other factors.

The Economic Outlook for December has also been prepared, which discussed the economic condition of Pakistan during the month. The report discussed the performance of various sectors, reporting the overall output of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industries increased by 4.4 per cent for July-November FY 16 and Budget deficit remained 1.2 per cent of the GDP in the first quarter of FY16.

As a daily activity, the macroeconomic indicators are reported to the Minister PD&R, Secretary and Chief Economist. This exercise is meant to provide the information on daily fluctuating macroeconomic variables. The indicators sheet mentioned that exports fell sharply to \$10.82 billion during July-December 2015 as compared to \$12.16 billion in the same period a year ago.

Secretariat services are being provided for the project 'Support and Monitoring of High Impact New Initiatives (HINI) of Vision 2025'. A meeting of the scrutiny committee was held for short-listing of candidates for the post of the Project Director of the Performance Management and Delivering Unit (PMDU).

### Plan Coordination

Chapters of the Year Book 2014-15 were finalised and sent to the Editor for editing.

The annual meeting of the Institutional Coopera-

tion Programme (ICP) was held under the chairmanship of the Secretary PD&R, which was attended by all the stakeholders, that is, representa-

tives from the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE), Economic Affairs Division and Project Directors of the completed and ongoing projects under the

'The early harvesting of potato begins in the Punjab, and better crop is expected this year showing the possibility for export.

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ICP. Draft Annual Report 2015 of the project, prepared by the Section, was presented by Chief and Project Director Dr Muhammad Afzal. The Report was approved by the Steering Committee subject to incorporating changes proposed by the RNE. Moreover, the Project Directors of the five ongoing projects made presentations and briefed about the physical and financial progress of their projects. Other issues discussed were: requirement of additional amount in lieu of depreciation of the NOK for completion of ongoing projects, unspent amount lying with two completed projects, audit of the ICP, reflection of

allocation of funds to the ICP in the PSDP, extension in life of two ongoing projects and change in scope and provision of additional three million NOK for the project 'Capacity Building of Survey of Pakistan, focusing on preparation of Geographical Information'. The 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Senior Management Committee (SMC) of the Planning Commission was organised under the chairmanship of Minister PD&R. Dr Muhammad Afzal highlighted progress on the pending decisions of the earlier SMC meetings. The chair passed on directions in each case. He also directed to transform reception of the

Commission into a well-equipped smart reception, and to hire two security guards from a reputed security agency. Preparations were made for convening the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Planning Ministers, scheduled to be held on February 11, 2016, at Quetta under the chairmanship of the Minister PD&R. The Chief Plan Coordination attended various meetings and conferences, which also included: the Steering Committee of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), performance monitoring for year 2014-15, and framework of the PSDP and future demands.

### Economic Appraisal

The Section analysed and examined 18 PC-IIs and PC-IIIs and three Concept Clearance Proposals of different projects and undertaken cost-benefit (economic, financial, unit cost) analyses accordingly for consideration of the Central Development

Working Party (CDWP) and Concept Clearance Committee. This Section also participated as a member in about 12 pre and post CDWP meetings chaired by the Members Planning Commission, and a CDWP meeting chaired

by the Minister and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission. The Chief of the Section represented the Planning Commission as member in a meeting of the Special AJK DWP, and one meeting of the FATA DWP.

### Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy

Pakistan continues to be the best performing stock market in local currency terms in Asia over the last five years. Even in calendar year 2015, when an absolute change in the KSE-100 Index was a mere two per cent, Pakistan was the second best performing in Asia as most other markets displayed negative returns. This is despite the fact that in 2015, the net foreign portfolio witnessed outflow of \$317 million as compared to net inflow of \$383 million during 2014.

This indicates the resilience of domestic investors and the fundamental strength of locally listed corporate sector.

#### Sectoral

After integration of all the three bourses of the country, the Pakistan Stock Exchange was launched on January 11, 2016. This integration has completed the second phase of the Stock Exchanges Demutualisation and Integration Act 2012, passed by the joint session of the Parliament. The government has

raised Rs235.216 billion from the auction of treasury bills (T-bills) of various tenors on January 7 lower than its target of Rs250 billion. The State Bank received bids of Rs515.180 billion. Of the total, 6-month T-bills fetched the highest amount of Rs113.446 billion at a cut-off yield of 6.3092 per cent, followed by three month with Rs71.384 billion at 6.3038 per cent, and 12-month papers with Rs50.385 billion at 6.3098 per cent. An MoU has been signed between the SECP and

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PIDE to promote cooperation for creating awareness about financial discipline among students.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have reached to \$20.7 billion (as on January 15) out of which \$15.7 billion are with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), while \$5 billion remain with the commercial banks.

During July-December 2015, according to the provisional figures, the FBR has made a collection of Rs1,269 billion, as against collection of Rs1,096 billion made last year showing an increase of 15.8 per cent.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) market witnessed high volatility during January. The benchmark KSE-100 index dropped to 31,194 on

January 28. Continuous foreign selling, coupled with decline in oil prices and escalation in political uncertainty, weighed heavily on the market.

#### **Departmental**

The Section updated draft presentation on the 'Mid-Term Performance Review and Future Action Plan' for the remaining period of the government.

It also prepared monthly update on 'Capital Market Developments' for December 2015. The report included performance of the PSX, sectoral analysis, trading of government policies, analysis of the Foreign Portfolio Investment and regional comparisons.

The Section also prepared projections of inflation for years 2015-

16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, an update on the Pakistan's Public Debt Profile up to Q1-FY16 – indicates that debt to the GDP ratio has decreased to 59.2 per cent in Q1-FY16 as compared to 63.9 per cent on June 30, 2013 – a note on 'FBR's Tax Collections Performance for the period of July-December 2016 and a report on inflation in December 2015.

A monthly update on the Capital Market Developments for January 2016, and review of the Monetary Developments (M2) July-December 2015-16 are under preparation. Also, the Section circulated monthly report on 'Capital Market Developments' for November 2015.

### **International Trade and Finance**

The Section updated data for an analysis of the External Sector performance of the economy. According to the data released by the PBS, exports decreased by 14.4 per cent and stood at \$10,322 million during July-December 2015. In the same period, imports decreased by 7.86 per cent and stood at \$22,246 million. The average exchange rate in December

2015 remained at Rs104.65 per US dollar against Rs100.82 in December 2014.

The Section prepared report on the Balance of Payments for July-December 2015. According to the SBP data, the current account shrank by 48.6 per cent and amounted to \$1.3 billion from \$2.5 billion, which is -0.9 per cent of the GDP as against -1.8 per cent of

the GDP in the corresponding period last year.

The Section carried out projections of exports and imports for the Medium-Term Framework of the Finance Division, and analysis on impact of the CPEC on the BoP. Moreover, it circulated a report of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regional Planning Council (RPC) meeting, and furnished views on the ECO Vision 2025.

### **Public Investment Authorisation**

A meeting each of the CDWP and ECNEC was held under the chairmanship of the Minister PD&R and Minister Finance respectively. The CDWP considered 32 projects. Out of the total 20 projects, with a total cost of Rs23.73 million were approved. Priority areas were: water, energy and

education sectors. Three schemes, costing Rs52.052 million were recommended to the ECNEC. Four projects were deferred due to various reasons. In addition, two position papers were also considered and requisite permission was granted. Five proposals for the Concept Clear-

ance were also considered, and cleared for initiating negotiations with the foreign donors for funding of these projects through the EAD.

The ECNEC considered eight projects costing approximately Rs94.402 million. All the presented projects were approved, while the priority was ac-

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Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal chairing the Central Development Working Party meeting

corded to the health, transport and communications, water and energy sectors.

#### **CDWP approves 18 projects, refers three projects to ECNEC**

The Central Development Working Party has approved 18 projects with a total cost of Rs23 billion, and referred three projects worth Rs52 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, and gave concept clearance to two projects worth Rs10 billion.

The meeting, chaired by Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal, was attended by senior federal and provincial officials concerned. All the projects were discussed in detail, and suggestions were made by the chair for further reviews. The Minister instructed the concerned to thoroughly and professionally examine projects in the pre-CDWP meetings, and bring schemes to the forum after exercising due diligence. He also

suggested the third party evaluation and validation for certain plans where bigger stakes exist. "Our today's planning should be futuristic, and capacity benchmarks must be for at least next two decades," he directed. He accorded special preference to all projects related to the education sector, and wanted that teaching be imparted in highly-valued and market-oriented subjects.

Twenty-five projects of the education, governance, energy, manpower, Higher Education Commission, physical planning and housing, transport and communication, manpower and water sectors were considered. For all the approved projects, including position papers and concept clearance, the FEC is about Rs11 billion, whereas allocations in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2015-16 have been made to the tune of Rs5.22 billion.

Five projects of the education sector were given approved. The approved

projects of the HEC were: University of Dir to cost Rs985.34 with a PSDP allocation of Rs50 million, establishment and development of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur sub-campus at Rahim Yar Khan worth Rs726 million with the FEC of Rs157.35 million and PSDP allocation of Rs50 million, post-doctoral fellowship programme (HEC) to cost Rs2,834.68 million with the FEC share of Rs2,652 million and PSDP allocation of Rs60 million, construction of boundary wall of the University of Agriculture Peshawar worth Rs239.806 million (fully-funded by the federal government) and establishment of University of Turbat to cost Rs2,820.622 million with a PSDP allocation of Rs413 million and FEC of Rs284.88 million.

Another approved project of the education sector was 'Improving Human Development Indicators in Pakistan with focus of the MDGs relating to education six EFA goals', which will cost Rs2,365.83 mil-

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lion and an amount of Rs500 million has been allocated in the PSDP 2015-16. The Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme (Phase-III) 2015-17 was approved, and will cost Rs2,630 million. An approved project of the governance sector 'Centre of excellence for the CPEC' will cost Rs996.636 million.

One project 'Feasibility study for enhancing the transmission capacity of NTDC's 500KV transmission system by applying series compensation' of the energy sector, which will be completed at a cost of Rs133.18 million with an FEC share of Rs106.83 million.

Six projects of the transport and communication sector were approved, which included: flyover at the Nag Shah Chowk Multan to cost Rs1.47 billion with PSDP allocation of Rs150 million, construction of flyover on Shaheen Chowk N-5 Gujrat worth Rs1,264.2 million with PSDP allocation of Rs800 million, comprehensive feasibility study of upgradation of the existing main line-II (ML-II) from Kotri to Attock city (1,254 kilometres) to cost Rs300 million with an equal PSDP allo-

cation, Airport Security Force (ASF) accommodation at the New Islamabad Airport worth Rs2,325.516 million with the PSDP allocation of Rs400 million and construction of metalled road in Nankana Sahib to cost Rs998.63 having the PSDP allocation of Rs100 million.

Three projects of the physical planning and housing included: upgradation and strengthening of the Cabinet Division six Aviation Squadron for relief operations and enhancement of security worth Rs544.88 million with a PSDP allocation of Rs167.13 million and the FEC of Rs163.46 million, construction of auditorium for 500 persons at the Civil Service Academy Walton Lahore to cost Rs102.58 million with a PSDP allocation of Rs25.32 million, and construction of 15 residences for the Superintendents of Police Sector H-11 Islamabad with a total cost of Rs154 million and PSDP allocation of Rs21 million.

Two approved projects of the water sector were: construction of Zamir Gul Dam district Kohat to cost Rs987.77 million with an allocation of Rs500 million in the PSDP 2015-16, and agriculture development water management pro-

ject in Killa Abdullah and Killa Saifullah district (ADWM) of Balochistan to cost Rs857.597 million.

Three projects, referred to the ECNEC for approval, were: construction of Mangi Dam Quetta worth Rs9.85 billion with an allocation of Rs500 million in the PSDP 2015-16, Kurram Tangi Dam (stage-I construction of Kaitu Weir) to cost Rs22.74 with a foreign aid of Rs4.47 billion and PSDP allocation of Rs600 million, and construction of additional carriage way of Indus Highway (N-55) Sehwan-Ratodero Section JICA funded worth Rs19.45 billion with a PSDP allocation of Rs850 million.

One position paper of the transport and communication sector was 'construction of 4-lane underpass at Wah gate No.1 Taxila will cost Rs993.55 million with a PSDP block allocation of Rs250 million.

The concept clearance was accorded to two proposals, that is, construction of 48MW Shounter HPP district Neelum AJK worth Rs8,972.68 million and establishment of the Cadet College Chilas Diamer to cost Rs1,657.791 million with an FEC share of Rs994.495 million.

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## Poverty Alleviation

### *Signing of a cost-sharing agreement with the UNDP*

The MoPD&R has signed a cost-sharing agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to cooperate in the implementation of the National Initiatives for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Project.

Under this agreement, the UNDP will serve as Implementing Partner for the implementation of this project. The government will contribute Rs500 million to the UNDP on a cost-sharing basis, according to the agreed schedule of payments as its share in Rs1 billion project. A SDG Unit will

be established under this project in the MoPD&R, which will coordinate and report on progress of the SDGs. This agreement may be amended or modified at any time through mutual written consent of the parties.

**Amendment in a MoU of the Social Safety Nets Project Component IV**

The Planning Commission and BISP have agreed to amend an MoU of the Social Safety Nets Project Component

IV. This amendment will enhance power of the Commission in preparation of the National Framework on Social Pro-

tection. Draft initial framework has already been shared with the federating units.

### Public Investment Programming

The Advisor (Dev. Budget), on direction of Minister for PD&R held meeting with the officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government to discuss and sort out the issue of projects initiated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, allocation and release of funds. A meeting with all stakeholders on devolved project titled 'Commercialisation of Tea Production through Public-Private Partnership' was held to discuss the pending liabilities of the project.

A PSDP Call Circular, containing certain guidelines and prescribed proformae for inviting project-wise budgetary proposals for inclusion in the next PSDP 2016-17, was issued to all federal ministries, divisions, provinces and Special Areas in line with the Finance Division's Budget Call Circular for the FY 2016-17. The Mid-year review meetings are scheduled from January 28 to discuss the physical and financial progress of the development projects.

The MoPD&R allowed reappropriation of Rs304 million during January from slow moving problematic projects to fast track projects for their early completion.

On the request of the US Aid office in Islamabad, Advisor (Development Budget) gave a presentation to 10 officials of the US Aid on Structure and Systems of Planning Commission on January 29.

## TECHNICAL SECTIONS

### Nutrition



Infants Improved Nutrition Sindh) was held on January 19 in Karachi, which was chaired by the ACS Sindh and participated by various stakeholders. During the seminar, presenters discussed the improvement in the nutrition indicators that has been possible in the selected districts, where the EU-WINS programme is

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A meeting with the WHO official was held on January 6 to discuss draft of the 'Regulations to restrict Marketing of Foods and Non-Alcoholic Beverages High in Fat, Salt, and Sugar Targeting Children in Pakistan'.

A Seminar on 'Nutrition Programme in Sindh: Possibilities, Opportunities and Challenges', organised by the EU WINS (Women and Children,





being implemented. The ACS Sindh lauded the efforts and stressed the need for institutionalisation of such activities to reap maximum benefits.

Meeting with the World Bank Nutrition Team took place was held on January 22, which was chaired by the Member (Food Security). The Bank introduced their new member in the team and nutrition situation was discussed. The Member stressed the need for coordination and avoidance of duplication and a national multi-sectoral nutrition strategy. The meeting was concluded with consensus on moving forward with the process of national strategy and participation in the National Consultative Meeting.

#### **Sectoral**

Review and progress sharing meeting on the Food Composition Table (FCT), Dietary Guidelines (DG) and laboratory analysis was held on January 8 at the FAO, Office National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Country Director FAO Patrick T. Evans. A detailed presentation on the background and current status of the FCT and DG, an overview of the workshops held, and a recap of meeting held with stakeholders to

develop a sampling frame for the FCT and framework of the DG was given by the nutrition focal person FAO.



In order to trickle down the benefits of global SUN movement to the sub-national level, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) unit was launched in the Planning and Development Board Punjab with support of the Micronutrient Initiative (MI). The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Punjab Minister for Labour and Human Resource Raja Ashfaq Sarwar. In the opening remarks, he said the government was committed to improving the nutrition status of its population, especially children and women. "Nutrition has always been an ignored and less addressed subject," he added. The attendees lauded efforts for scaling up nutrition, and emphasised on nutrition as it would lead to im-

provement in the GDP, and thus have economic benefits for the country. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Country Network meeting and teleconference was conducted by the SUN Secretariat among regional SUN countries was held at the SUN Secretariat, PPMI building, which chaired by the Chief Nutrition and SUN Focal Point. The national nutrition targets and commitments to action-oriented strategy were shared. Comments were also given on the new Global SUN Strategy that is being developed.

The conference was attended by most of the nutrition development partners and stakeholders.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Advisory Group meeting of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Academia and Research Network (SUNAR) was held on January 12. The agenda of the meeting was to finalise the membership drive, involvement of the institutions and stakeholders in the SUNAR Pakistan establishment and nomination process and deadline. The Meeting was organised by the Micronutrient Initiative Pakistan.

#### **Departmental**

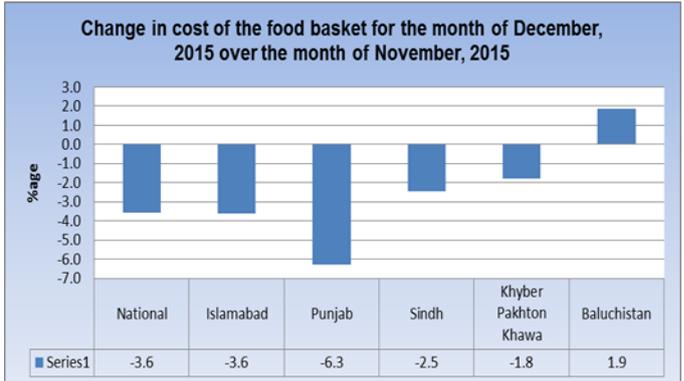
A one day consultative meeting on the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition

'In order to trickle down the benefits of global SUN movement to the sub-national level, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) unit was launched in the Planning and Development Board Punjab with support of the Micronutrient Initiative (MI)'



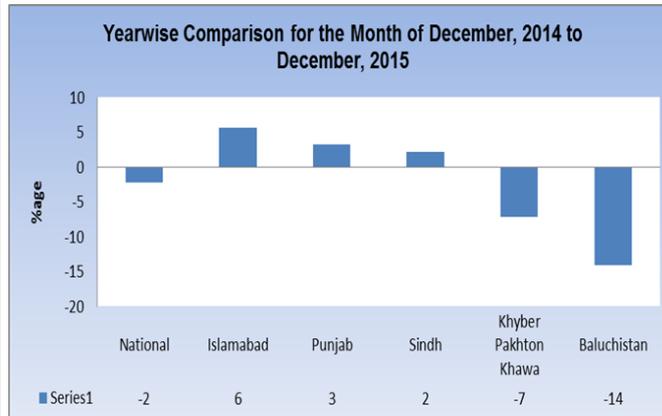
provision of 2150 calories. Findings for December 2015 over November 2015 at the federal and provincial level are showed in the following graph. Result showed that estimated cost of the food basket increased 1.9 per cent in Balochistan, while decreased 6.3 per cent in the Punjab, 3.6 per cent

Strategy was held on January 26. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the process of preparation of the Strategy at the federal level. Consensus was developed among all participants to have a national consultant working fulltime for development of the Strategy under the supervision of the National Technical Committee for Nutrition. A monthly research activi-



basket based on national average consumer prices

at the national level and Islamabad, 2.6 per cent in Sindh and 1.8 per cent in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa respectively.



The monthly comparison for December 2014 and December 2015 is revealed in the graph showed that the cost of food basket decreased by 14 per cent in Balochistan, seven per cent in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two per cent at the national level. However, cost of the food basket increased in Islamabad, Punjab and Sindh by six, three and two per cent respectively.

ty is being conducted regularly on the cost of food

of essential commodities of major food items for the

**Food and Agriculture**

The Section was involved in various tasks, which included: processing of a case regarding payment of liabilities in respect of the PSDP-funded tea project (closed in the devolution process) and another case received from Ministry of Ports and Shipping

in respect of transferring project posts to current side under the NAPHS project in Marine Fisheries Department, examination of the concept clearance proposal received from the AJ&K government and comments forwarded to the quarters

concerned, continuation of the processing of applications and record regarding the Centre of Excellence for Rural Economy project, preparation of briefs on summary for the ECC of the Cabinet, preparation of write-up for the special representative of

‘The monthly comparison for December 2014 and December 2015 is revealed in the graph showed that the cost of food basket decreased by 14 per cent in Balochistan, seven per cent in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two per cent at the national level’



The Section also prepared comments on the PC-Is and CCPs of the Health, Transport and

Communication, Governance, Physical Planning and Housing, Information and Communication Technol-

ogies, Water, Energy and Manpower sections.

## Population and Social Planning

Consultative meetings were held among Member (Social Sector) Planning Commission, Country Director Population Council Dr Zeba A Sathar, Director General Population Program Wing and Director (P&D) Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination on the follow up of the Population Summit, held on November 5 and 6, 2015.

A PC-I of the Population Welfare Programme AJ&K (2015-20) received in this Section, and ap-

praisal and necessary work has been started for the consideration of the forthcoming CDWP.

The National Institute of Population Studies is a reputed research organisation, mandated to undertake research relating to various parameters of the population growth and its implications on socio-economic development and policy analysis to help the policy-makers, programme managers, and the research community. The Executive Director National Institute of

Population Studies constituted a working group of experts, headed by the Executive Director NIPS, for undertaking for fresh and revised population estimates and projections. The first meeting of the Group will be convened shortly.

The National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) was coordinated to update population figures and material to be included in the Economic Survey 2015-16.

## Governance

The PC-I of project 'Centre of Excellence for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CE-CPEC)', sponsored by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) was examined and working paper was prepared and presented in the CDWP meeting. Minutes of the were prepared. The post-CDWP meeting of the constituted committee was arranged and minutes were prepared also.

The PC-I of project 'Restructuring Pakistan Institute of Development Economics to Function as a World Class Centre of Excellence for Research and Post-Graduate Teaching by Improving Infrastructure and Building Capacity (Phase-II)' of the PIDE was examined, working paper was presented in the pre-CDWP meeting and minutes

were prepared. The same was done for project 'Establishment of Special Project Cell (SPC) in Planning Commission (Revised) of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (MoPD&R).

The authorisation on project 'Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance (Revised)' of the MoPD&R was processed, and modified PC-I of project 'Technical Support Unit (TSU) of Pakistan-Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PISDA)' of the Economic Affairs Division.

A presentation to the MoPD&R by the Interior Ministry on project 'Establishment of Model Police Station in ICT, Islamabad' was coordinated and arranged. Also, a briefing for the USAID Pakistan on structure and system of the Planning Commission was ar-

ranged.

The Section processed a case for hiring of the experts and consultants on the Performance Management System in the ministries and divisions under project 'Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance.

A proposal on the Sindh Growth Strategy, Sindh Jobs and Competitiveness Project-Request for World Bank Technical and Financial Assistance was examined, and comments were forwarded to the Foreign Aid Section.

Committee to complete the hiring process of the 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of the Young Development Fellows (YDF) were constituted. Also, the Section finalised and processed cases for payment of monthly stipend to the YDF of the MoPD&R were finalised and processed with the AGPR.

'The Section processed a case for hiring of the experts and consultants on the Performance Management System in the ministries and divisions under project 'Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance'

## Reform

The Section was involved in various tasks which included: finalisation of the draft report of the committee on the Performance Based Remuneration, preparation a consolidated report on the basis of demand forwarded by 32 ministries and divisions on provision of the IT manpower and forwarded to the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, preparation of a progress report on implementation of the Cabinet decision on reform agenda of the gov-

ernment for December, 2015, and forwarded to the Plan Coordination Section, arrangement of two meetings each of the Performance Based Remuneration Committee and constituted sub-committee and recording of minutes

Also, details of sector's projects for compilation of information for Senate Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform was prepared and forwarded to PIP Section.

Information regarding the National Assembly Starred Question No. 68, moved by MNA Sheikh Salahuddin was prepared, and forwarded to the Council Section. The Section was also involved in the examination of the draft 'Access to Information Bill 2014', and bills pertaining to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pakistan Governance Forum 2015 were processed for payment under the project 'Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance'.

## PROJECTS, WINGs and ATTACHED CELLS

### Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

*Data collection tools and method for planning, monitoring and evaluation (January 4-8, 2016)*

for the policy-making process. The objective was also to increase understanding of significance of the statistical tools, and

different quantitative tools used in the policy-making. At the end of the course, participants were able to incorporate an equity, gender and human rights perspectives in the evaluation, and prepare comprehensive evaluation plan for high quality evaluation. 43 officers from the federal and provincial governments and public sector organisations participated in the course.



*Managing legal affairs and issues in the government departments (January 19-22, 2016)*

The objective of this training course was to develop an understanding regarding the processes of data collection, sampling and distribution as well as estimation of major economic aggregates. This course provided participants with sound understanding of the Statistical and Mathematical Tools



'The objective of this training course was to develop an understanding regarding the processes of data collection, sampling and distribution as well as estimation of major economic aggregates'

The objective of this course was to develop an understanding about managing legal issues in the federal and provincial ministries, divisions, departments, and public sector organisations. It was also aimed at hands-on understanding in preparation of the para-wise comments and replies of the writ petitions in the

law courts. To develop an understanding about process to follow and pursuit different litigation cases, procedure for submission of written reply and para-wise comments in the courts as well as procedure for submission of cases to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights Division for appointment of counsel. 41

officers from the federal and provincial governments and public sector organisations participated in the course, and they were also given awareness regarding internal and external litigations, and how to prepare proposal for framing of the fresh law and amending law.

### Energy Wing

Detailed briefs for the ongoing projects located in Sindh and Balochistan were prepared, and discussed in detail for presentation to the Prime Minister.

A DDWP meeting was held at the Ministry of Water and Power where 14 projects regarding electrification of villages and towns were considered. The Wing prepared briefs and discussed in the meeting.

The Wing also made summaries of the frame-

work and standardised security document for 1,000 MW, RLNG-based power plants in the private sector, policy framework for upgradation and expansion of refinery project, financing of pipeline infrastructure development plan for upcoming LNG and anticipated indigenous supplies, transfer of oil regulator functions relating to the demand and supply and import arrangement of the OGRA, and allocation of gas from the PPI's Kandh

Kot field.

Committee meetings were held in the Wing for cost rationalisation of the Tarbela 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> extension in compliance of the CDWP decision, different implementation plans for the Diamer-Bhasha affectees and Keyal Khwar Hydro power project wherein the project was discussed in detail, and summary was forwarded for consideration of the ECNEC.

### National Fertilizer Development Centre

Production of all fertilizer products during December, 2015 was about 688 thousand tonnes. Out of this urea production was 470 thousand tonnes (68.2 per cent share in total production). Other products were: DAP 65 thousand tonnes, CAN 72 thousand tonnes, NP 73 thousand tonnes, SSP 3 thousand tonnes and various grades of NPK's 5 thousand tonnes. Imported supplies comprised of 105 thousand tonnes of DAP product only.

Total nutrient offtake during December, 2015 was about 522 thousand tonnes, which was 6.3 per cent more than December 2014. Among the nutri-

ents, nitrogen offtake was 442 thousand tonnes which increased by 18.4 per cent, phosphate offtake was 79 thousand tonnes which dipped 31.3 per cent and potash offtake was 1.2 thousand tonnes which decreased by 64.4 per cent over December, 2014.

Urea offtake during December, 2015 was 839 thousand tonnes which jumped by 28 per cent, while DAP offtake was 132 thousand tonnes which plunged by 40 per cent over December, 2014.

#### Sectoral

The Chief NFDC attended meeting to discuss pro-

gress the progress of claims submitted to the FBR on subsidy of phosphatic fertilizer.

The Centre prepared comments on a proposal forwarded by the MoNFS&R and Ministry of Industries for comments on permission to export surplus quantity of CAN and CN fertilizer produced by using imported LNG, provided information regarding fertilizer production, availability, utilisation and organic material for year 2014 for the FAO data base, brief regarding latest fertilizer supply-demand and price situation provided to the MoNFS&R for the ECC, information regarding fertilizer production, consumption, and crop-wise

'Committee meetings were held in the Wing for cost rationalisation of the Tarbela 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> extension in compliance of the CDWP decision, different implementation plans for the Diamer-Bhasha affectees and Keyal Khwar Hydro power project'

usage to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) for its publication 'compendium on environment statistics of Pakistan', information to the PBS regarding fertilizer supply, quantity and its value on quarterly and yearly basis, information about

phosphate offtake and subsidy from October to January for a meeting discuss the progress on subsidy of phosphatic fertilizers, and assisted the MoNFS&R in preparation of summary regarding 'import and distribution of urea by private

sector' for the ECC of the Cabinet.

Monthly Fertilizer Review of the mid-January 2016 has been published and issued to all the stake holders.

## Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

MoU with the SECP

The PIDE and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish cooperation for conducting investor education and awareness sessions for the students and faculty members of the Institute. The MoU, signed at the SECP head office, is part of the

SECP's investor education programme 'Jamapunji'. The MoU was signed by SECP's Investor Education and International Relations (IE&IRD) Commissioner Akif Saeed and PIDE's Vice Chancellor Dr Asad Zaman, who was accompanied by Dr Fazal Hussain and Dr Usman Mustafa. Akif Saeed emphasised collaborative

efforts between the regulator and education sector to create an enabling and vibrant financial environment in Pakistan. He also stressed on the importance of sensitising students to a culture of financial planning and budgeting as early as possible in their educational pursuit.

## Newspaper Articles

Two articles of Dr Asad Zaman, that is, 'The Business of War' and 'Nations as Imagined Communities' were published in the Express Tribune. An article each of Dr Idrees Khawaja 'Few Benefits' and Anwar Hussain 'Water under Threat' were published in the Dawn and The News International respectively.



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## Population, Health and Social Policy Centre

The Centre has initiated a working paper series 'Population & Health Working Paper Series'. Under this series, the first five papers have been uploaded on the PIDE's website, at <http://pide.org.pk/index.php/cphsp-series>. The papers are: Spatial Differences and Socio-economic Determinants of Health Pov-

erty by Nasir Iqbal and Saima Nawaz, Prevalence and Determinants of Overweight and Obesity Among Adults in Pakistan by Maryam Naeem Satti, Durr-e-Nayab and Mahmood Khalid, Willingness to Purchase Health Insurance in Pakistan by Ajmal Jahangeer and Rizwan-ul-Haq, Migration and Health Outcomes:

The Case of a High Migration District in South Punjab by Shujaat Farooq and Nasir Iqbal, and Health and Economic Consequences of Overweight and Obesity Among Adults in Pakistan by Maryam Naeem Satti, Durr-e-Nayab, and Mahmood Khalid.

## Read and Share Book Forum

Ms Syeda Nida Raza presented 'Global Networks and Local Values: A Comparative Look at Germany and the United States', which focuses on how global networks are affecting local values. Tak-

ing US and Germany as the case studies, the book conceptualises freedom of expression and freedom of information for US and privacy for Germany as the values being affected by globalisation.

Ms Nida discussed gender perspectives by asserting how globalisation is affecting local values differently for both women and men.

## Discussion Paper Forum

Ms Sara Kamal Bajwa presented a paper 'A Study of Status of Livelihood Assets at House-



hold Level: Evidence from Saidpur Village'. She carried out an ethnographic

study of a village in Islamabad. This discussion paper studies the standard of living of the residents of the village, number and type of assets they own and level of household poverty.

Arsalan Haider presented 'Needs and Challenges of Women Police Working in Islamabad Police Stations', which identifies four main themes (infrastructural needs, issues of women police, importance of women in



policing, perception regarding women police and its impact) to investigate working environment for women police in a women police station of Islamabad.

## Prof Ahsan Iqbal talks to Pervez Khattak about CPEC

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal made a telephone call to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pervez Khattak to talk about the latter's reservations regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Minister said that CPEC was a national project and all the provinces would reap its benefits. "The federal government

cannot think of discriminating against the KP," he vowed.

He assured that the federal government would fulfil commitments made at the All Parties Conference (APC) in May 2015, and would build the Western route, passing through backward areas of the KP and Balochistan on priority basis. "The federal government firmly believes

that the CPEC have given us a historic opportunity to develop backward areas socially and economically," he added, while further assuring the CM KP that the federal government was ready to redress all doubts and misunderstandings of the KP government vis-à-vis the CPEC.

## Ahsan Iqbal directs for completion of development work of the New Islamabad International Airport

Federal Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal directed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to speed up completion of civil, mechanical and electrical work of the New Islamabad Interna-

tional Airport this year. "The cargo operation should start first to pave the way for launch of the Airport," the Minister issued these directives while chairing a high-level meeting regarding com-

pletion of the Airport. The meeting was attended by high officials of the CAA, National Highway Authority and Planning Commission. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said the present government took up the chal-

'He assured that the federal government would fulfil commitments made at the All Parties Conference (APC) in May 2015, and would build the Western route, passing through backward areas of the KP and Balochistan on priority basis'



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chairing a high-level meeting on New Islamabad International Airport, at Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform. INP PHOTO

lence of the Islamabad Airport despite all the mismanagement of the past. "We are determined to complete it in time and introduce best facilities for the passengers," he added.

He particularly emphasised provision of quality commercial activities at the Airport because commercial facilities had become important at modern airports. He suggested for provision of interna-

tional standards shopping arcades, cafes and restaurants to attract transit passengers. He also directed for providing spacious space at immigration and check-in counters to cater to passengers' smooth flow. About link roads, the Minister sought clear timelines from the relevant department about their completion. In view of distance of new airport from centres of the twin cities, Prof Ah-

san Iqbal said shuttle service should be start. On delay in completion of the Airport, the Minister held the view that responsibility should be fixed for slow execution of work in the past. "The lessons learnt should be applied in future projects to avoid delays. The project management should comprise top professionals of their respective areas in mega development projects," he said.

### Geo Spatial Technology Cell inaugurated at the Planning Commission

Federal Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the Geo Spatial Technology Cell at the Planning Commission, which has been established jointly by the Commission and SUPARCO. Speaking about the Cell, the Minister said it would help in planning and monitoring of the CPEC infrastructure projects, and carry out the planning and development on the scientific lines. After the inauguration, the Minister said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) was a national project, and would benefit all provinces sans any discrimination. "The country has got a historic opportunity to develop its backwards areas economically and socially through the CPEC. It is now our national duty to seize this opportunity. All of us must show greater sense of responsibility and refrain from making the project controversial", the Minister urged. He stated, "The CPEC is not merely a road project, but a framework of economic cooperation in various

sectors. Out of \$46 billion, \$35 billion investment is being made in the energy sector in an IPP mode." He reiterated that the CPEC was not just a project of the PML-N government rather it spanned over the coming decade. He also rejected allegations that the industrial zones were being shifted from the Western route to the Eastern. "This is baseless. The federal government cannot even think of discriminating against any province," he declared.

'The CPEC is not merely a road project, but a framework of economic cooperation in various sectors. Out of \$46 billion, \$35 billion investment is being made in the energy sector in an IPP mode'

## Enrolment campaign this year to bring all children to schools

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has said an all-encompassing enrolment campaign will be launched this year to bring all children to schools in the next three years.

He was chairing a meeting of the National Enrolment Drive, which was attended by State Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Muhammad Baleeghur Rehman, Chairperson Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed and senior officials. He instructed the provincial and federal officers concerned to prepare workable blueprint of the campaign prior to the final approval of the prime minister. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said in the coming months, a highly inspirational campaign for 100 per cent enrolment of children should be launched after conducting a proper study of infrastructural requirements and number



of students. . “A concerted and coordinated effort by all the stakeholders should be initiated so that the targeted enrolment can be achieved,” he said, while adding that the federal education ministry would spearhead the campaign and a consolidated national plan be prepared. He asked the provincial representatives to recruit more science teachers, and the ratio should be more than 50 per cent, and underlined the need to recruit fresh graduates. He observed

that rationalisation of classrooms prior to enrolment of students must be carried out since the campaign could run the risk of having more students and less classrooms or vice versa. “A proper stocktaking of the requirement, development and future planning must be done,” he suggested. Baleeghur Rehman enumerated a few anomalies in the education infrastructure and its imbalanced development.

## Prof Ahsan Iqbal calls for promoting positive narrative of Pakistan

Federal Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal called for promoting positive narrative of Pakistan in the world by highlighting achievements made in many fields of life.

“This can be done through positive thinking and self-belief, which are keys to success in today’s world. We need to develop economically to safeguard the sovereignty and defence of the country,” he said, while speaking on ‘Development Philoso-

phy of Government’ at the COMSAT Islamabad. In his lecture, he shed light on the historical development patterns adopted previously and the present one, which aimed at inclusive and shared development for the benefit of all provinces and regions. He mentioned that the Vision 2025 was devised to take country into 25 economies of the world by 2025. “This Vision-emphasises inclusive development and shared prosperity by relying on

indigenous resources, growth and export as well as ensuring food, energy and water security and integrating the economy with the regional economies,” he added.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal laid emphasis on political stability and consistency of policies for Pakistan’s economic development. “The difference between the least developed nation and developed one are the two factors, and now with the maturity of political leadership, the coun-

‘This Vision-emphasises inclusive development and shared prosperity by relying on indigenous resources, growth and export as well as ensuring food, energy and water security and integrating the economy with the regional economies’

try has entered into the area of political stability,” he said, while highlighting achievements made on economic and security fronts. “With turnaround in economy, visible improvement in security, particularly Karachi and Balochistan, the world media is now recognizing Pakistan as new emerging success story,” he said.

### **Prof Ahsan Iqbal directs for expediting cluster-based agri development**

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal directed speeding up pace of work for launching cluster-based development of agriculture, industrial and mining sectors at its earliest.

Cluster-based development of these sectors should be carried out by keeping in view their future growth and export potential. He laid special emphasis on exportable component in cluster based-development of these sectors through value-addition in these sectors. Ahsan Iqbal stated this while chairing a high level meeting of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform to review the progress on cluster-based transformational plan in agriculture, industrial and mineral and other projects. Minister

directed for including the regional and global benchmarks in these transformational plans for making the products of these sector competitiveness in the world. Ahsan Iqbal also directed for identifying different products in these sectors, which should be taken on priority basis for launching the project. He said that provinces should also be taken on board on these projects for the broader ownership. Ahsan Iqbal directed for making agriculture universities in all the provinces partners in cluster based transformational plan to benefit from their research and studies on agri products as well as progressive farmers and private sector should also be taken on board. On cluster based industrial and mineral transformational plan, Ahsan Iqbal directed for identifying

the existing and emerging clusters in these sectors to tap their potential for growth and export purposes. He said that apart from developed areas, under-developed areas should be given special consideration in industrial and mining transformational plans by identifying their potential in various sectors. Minister also issued instructions for improving the infrastructure at the library of the ministry and directed for digitalizing it earliest. He also upgrading and updating the official web site of the ministry by providing latest development data and economic indicators on it. He also directed the operationalising research centres in Planning Commission to produce a research agenda for future planning and development.

‘Cluster-based development of these sectors should be carried out by keeping in view their future growth and export potential. He laid special emphasis on exportable component in cluster based-development of these sectors through value-addition in these sectors’

## Picture Gallery



Islamabad (Jan 13, 2016): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mrs. Jeannette Seppen.



Islamabad (Jan 25, 2016): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with CEO HUAWEI Pakistan.



Islamabad (Jan 26, 2016): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a meeting with Country Director of World Bank.



Federal Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal in meeting with Governor KPK Sardar Mehtab Abbasi



APP02-18

ISLAMABAD: January 18 – Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing during Pakistan-China Friendship Year "Business Opportunity Conference". APP photo by Saeed-ul-Mulk



**Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal in meeting with Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Mir Ghazanfar Ali Khan**



**Prof Ahsan Iqbal addressing the All Parties Conference on the CPEC**



A delegation of MPAs belonging to the JUI-F Balochistan called on Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal and Chief Minister Balochistan Sanaulah Zehri in Quetta



Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal at the inaugural ceremony of the Young Development Corps at the Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar



Islamabad (Jan 1, 2016): Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Dr. Maleeha Lodhi on Friday called on Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Prof. Ahsan Iqbal.

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