

Planning Commission Newsletter

Inside this issue:

International Trade & Finance	2
National Fertilizer Development Centre	2
Health	2
Governance	3
Food & Agriculture	3
Science & Technology	4
Information & Communication Technologies	4
Administration	5

Macroeconomic

A delegation of International Monetary Fund (IMF) visited Pakistan during 7-22 January, 2013 for Post Program Monitoring-II (PPM-II) discussions. During the dialogue process, officials from Finance Division, Planning & Development Division, Statistics Division, Federal Board of Revenue, State Bank of Pakistan, Economic Affairs Division and Ministry of Water & Power discussed the progress of their respective departments. Macroeconomic

Section being the focal point for the discussions, participated in the meeting.

All the stakeholders presented the short term and medium term progress of their respective fields. Chief, Macroeconomic Section participated in the dialogue and presented the current macroeconomics situation and medium term outlook of the macroeconomic variables. Government spending, debt burden, low levels of invest-

ment and savings, law and order situation, upcoming elections and Pak-India cross border trade issues came under discussion. The delegation showed concerns regarding the adverse fiscal position particularly low revenue collection and unabated energy crisis. Moreover, IMF delegation observed that economic growth of the country will remain below target in short and medium term.

Poverty

SAARC Secretariat prepared Regional Poverty Profile biannually around the theme relating to poverty. Theme of Regional Poverty Profile 2009-10 is "Food Security Challenges for the Poor and Social Inclusion". A Draft RPP Report prepared by Poverty Alleviation Section was

submitted to SAARC Secretariat. The SAARC Secretariat has prepared a consolidated Report of RPP on the basis of country reports submitted by member states.

First Meeting of Coordination Committee on MDGs for the preparation of Pakistan Millennium

Development Goal Report 2013 was held on 24h January 2013 under the chairmanship of Joint Chief Economist (Macro). The purpose of the meeting was to take all stakeholders on board and formulation of working groups to prepare country report.

Money Prices & Fiscal Policy

Monthly update on inflation for the period July-December 2012-13 and Stock Market Development for the month of December 2012 were prepared. An analysis of Federal Board of Revenue's tax collection

performance during July-October 2012 and Analysis of Regional Prices of Critical Consumer Items for the Cabinet meetings held on January 03 & 30, 2013 were carried out. Material for Monetary and Fiscal

Policies Coordination Board meeting held on January 31, 2013 on Agenda Item-3 "Impact of Monetary Policy on Growth, Investment and Balance of Payment" was also prepared.

International Trade & Finance

The information regarding External Sector of the economy was updated. According to data released by PBS, exports increased by 7.6% and stood at \$ 12,051 million during July - December, 2012. In the same period imports declined by 3.33% and stood at \$ 21,922 million. The average exchange rate in the December, 2012 remained at Rs.97.19/\$ against Rs.89.34/\$ in December, 2011, showing a depreciation of 9.44 percent.

A brief was prepared on "Fair Trade and Innovative Financing Mechanism for Sustainable Development" for 128th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly to be held in Ecuador from March 22-27, 2013 to be attended by Chairman Senate. Another brief was prepared for 4th Session of Pak-EU Joint Commission February, 6-7, 2012 in Brussels. A Brief on 5th Protocol of the Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Ministerial Commission (Pak-Tajik) JMC was sent to Eco-

nomics Affairs Division. Comments were also offered on Impact of Monetary Policy on Balance of Payments.

Proposals were forwarded on Regional-Capacity Development Technical Assistance (R-CDTA) on supporting capacity Development needs of Central Asia Regional Economic cooperation (CAREC) 2020-request for no objection to inclusion in the R-CDTA to Economic Affairs Division.

National Fertilizer Development Centre

Total nutrient offtake during December, 2012 was about 566 thousand tonnes compared to 451 thousand tonnes of December, 2011, representing an increase of 25.6 percent. Among the nutrients, nitrogen, phosphate and

potash offtake increased by 30.3, 0.8 and 20.5 percent respectively.

Urea offtake during December, 2012 was 953 thousand tonnes, which increased by 35.4 percent over December, 2011 (704

thousand tonnes). DAP offtake was about 126 thousand tonnes as compared to 122 thousand tonnes in November, 2011, showing an increase of 3.9 percent over the same time frame of previous year.

Health

A Situation Analysis Report (SitAn) was presented by the Health Section of Planning Commission and UNICEF Pakistan. It was prepared by the joint efforts of Dr. Saba Gul Khattak, Ex-member Social Sector and UNICEF Pakistan through a series of consultative meetings with all provincial Planning and Development Departments. The event held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in which he stressed the need to develop an equitable and a responsive role of all stakeholders to improve Child

and Mother healthcare indicators in Pakistan.

National Consultative Seminar on Tobacco Control was coordinated by Health Section of Planning Commission at Lahore to address the issues of non-communicable diseases and tobacco control in Pakistan. Mr. Rizwan Malik, Joint Secretary and Dr. Ghulam Asghar Abbasi, Chief Health, Planning and Development Division attended the seminar and discussed various issues and challenges including health costs of tobacco, tobacco legislation and

protection of people from tobacco smoke.

A High-level Seminar on 'Options for Health Care Financing in Eastern Mediterranean Region: Moving towards Universal Health Coverage' was held in Cairo, Egypt in January, 2013. It was organized by the WHO and attended by Mr. Javaid Akhtar, Additional Secretary Planning and Development Division. The focus of this meeting was to discuss various modalities and systems of health financing and challenges being faced by the decision makers in ad-

Health

addressing the questions of universal health coverage.

World Breastfeeding Conference was held in New Delhi, India in December, 2012. It was attended by Dr. Muhammad Asif,

Deputy Chief Health Section. The aim of the conference was to close the gap between generally low and/or declining rates of exclusive breast feeding. Main focus was on aligning the framework in integra-

tion of documents to protect, promote and support breast feeding, acceptance and its practice at national level for accelerated country level action to increase exclusive breastfeeding rates worldwide.

Governance

The PC-1 of the project titled "Strengthening Pakistan's Urban Disaster response Capacity" has been examined and working paper was prepared. Draft guidelines for issuance of Government Guarantee have been examined and comments/views were forwarded to the concerned Section. Revised budget estimates 2012-13, budget estimates 2013-14 and medium-term budget esti-

mates 2013-16 have been forwarded to Accounts & Budget Section. Meetings on "Project Allowance in Foreign Funded Projects and "Frame the Agenda for the Prevention Committee on Civil Service Reforms" were attended.

Four local and seven foreign training opportunities were received and circulated to all officers/officials of Planning & De-

velopment Division. Against these training opportunities, four nominations for local and three nominations for the foreign trainings were processed and forwarded to the agencies concerned. One meeting of the Committee on Foreign Training was convened whereas two officers attended the foreign training/workshop during the month.

Food & Agriculture

View/Comments were furnished on the following documents/proposals etc;

- Final Draft of National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), by Ministry of Climate Change.
- Agribusiness Development Project (Loan No. 2171-PAK-SF) Completion Report
- Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) between Government of Pakistan and Republic of Korea.
- "Certification of Foot & Mouth Disease Vaccine, Cost Rs. 29.210 Million"; PC-II forwarded by Government of the Punjab, Planning and Development Department.
- "Agriculture Research

Institute (ARI), Muzaffrabad" PC-I Revision.

- Establishment of Poultry & Dairy Animal Training and Research Centers at New Campus, Pattoki, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore (PC-I Revised).

Correspondence with different Ministries/Divisions/Departments was done on following issues;

- Follow up of the decisions taken during 8th Session of Pak-Bangladesh JEC (Ministry of National Food Security and Research, M/o NFS&R).
- Issuance of Special P.M. Directive for allocation of

special funds for up-gradation of various research institutes in Quetta and Lakki Marwat, WANA, SW Agency and Miransha and NW Agency (M/o NFS&R).

- 4th session of Pak-EU Joint Commission held on February 6-7, 2012 in Brussels.
- 5th Protocol of Pakistan-Tajikistan JMC to be held at Islamabad in 2013.
- Mid year review of PSDP 2012-13.
- Information on Agricultural Credit's Target and Disbursement 2011-12 and 2012-13.

(cont...)

Science & Technology

A pre-CDWP meeting was held on 24th January, 2013 under the chairmanship of Member (S&T), Planning Commission and the following projects were discussed:

- Strengthening of Facilities of Lahore College

for Women University (LCWU), Lahore.

- Strengthening and Upgradation of University of Engineering & Technology Taxila and its sub-campus, Taxila.
- Provision of Academic

and Research Facilities of Government College University, Faisalabad.

- Strengthening of Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering & Technology (QUEST), Nawabshah.

Information & Communication Technologies

In-House Computer Training: Short Term in-house training programme is in progress at JACC. A two-week duration training of Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint 2007, for Stenographers was arranged. Second batch of 7 candidates have been imparted training in January, 2013. Third batch of the training for the Stenographers of Planning Commission is expected to start in 2nd week of February 2013. A yearly training calendar has been formulated for future trainings of Jawaid Azfar Computer Centre (JACC). This calendar will be circulated in each section from next month for recommendations and nominations.



Coding Scheme of PSDP Projects: A presentation to Deputy Chairman Planning Commission for final review of coding scheme applications is expected in February 2013. The work on this assignment continued in January, 2013.

Website of Planning Commission: The website of Planning Commission is continuously being maintained and updated by JACC. In January, various activities were performed in this regard, "News and Updates" section, "Telephone Directory", "Picture Galleries" of events held during the month of January, 2013, weekly "Status of PSDP releases" and local & foreign training announcement are continuously being updated. Furthermore, Newsletter for December 2012 has also been uploaded.

IT Services: In this month, Scanning of 47 office files (9000 pages approx.) of different Sections of Planning & Development Division and other documents has been done by JACC. A number of meetings are held at P-block, for which Audio Cable Testing of Auditorium Sound System, recording and photog-

raphy at different events, writing files to CD, color printing of different presentations, installation of multimedia and operating presentation of different meetings held at P-Block are being provided by JACC, e.g. Meeting on National Maternal Health, Statistics Division, Performance and achievements of present Government etc.

Work on Hiring Management System at JACC continued. Furthermore, daily user complaints for computer hardware/software installation repair and troubleshooting were attended at P-Block and PPMI building. JACC also prepared specification of Barcode System for tracking of files and recommended best suited anti-virus software for deployment as security solution in Planning Commission under guidelines of National Telecommunication and Information Security Board.

Other IT services provided during the month of January included formatting, designing, printing, scanning, laminating and spiral binding of documents for different Sections of P&D, Composing and Printing of Security Pass and Visiting Cards, Downloading of PSDP

Information & Communication Technologies (cont...)

Monitoring Reports, Video Editing, Providing technical assistance to all the Sections, Formatting and Printing of Newsletter for the month of December 2012.

Fast Track Internet Facility: An internet connection of 8 Mb has been acquired from NTC for fast track internet connectivity for test purpose. This facility is especially meant for higher management and technical sections for research work.

Creation of Email IDs: JACC has started creating Official email accounts through Electronic Government Directorate for Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs and Research Officers of Economist Group and Technical Sections of Planning & Development Division. It will improve official communication between officers.

Construction work of JACC building: Construction works of JACC building are at completion stage. Linkage of new building with existing JACC building has taken place in January, 2013. A fortnightly monitoring meeting was held with the CDA on 22nd January, 2013 to review

Administration

Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman joined Planning & Development Division as Chief,



progress of works. During the meeting it was reminded to the CDA that planned completion time has been over and efforts should be done to finalize the work in February, 2013. Before shifting to new building, necessary arrangements of furniture items are required to be made and procurement plan has been forwarded for approval.

Extension of Project: The project has been allowed extension for six months upto 30th June, 2013 for implementation of left over project scope including completion of JACC building, procurement of furniture & fixture items and IT equipment.

Regularization of 24 project posts: The case for regularization of 24 project posts is yet to be finalized by Management Service Wing, Establishment Division. Telephonic contacts were made from time to time to get updated position of the case which is under submission for approval.

Pre-CDWP Meeting: A Pre-CDWP meeting on project "Automation of Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) Phase-II" was held on 15th January, 2013 under the chairmanship of Member S&T and PC-I of the project was returned with some observations and sponsors were asked to come up after addressing these observations.

Coordination Committee on Millennium Development Goals: A meeting of Coordination Committee on Millennium Development Goals was held on 24th January, 2013 under chairmanship of Joint Chief Economist. JACC participated in the meeting with reference to sharing of information on ICT Sector.

Poverty Alleviation Section. He has also been assigned the job to look

after the work of the vacant post of Joint Chief Economist (JCE), Macro.

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



Planning Commission

**P-BLOCK, PAK SECRETARIAT,
ISLAMABAD.**