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PAKISTAN LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING PROJECT

Quarterly Report (July 1 – September 30, 2007)

Contract No. DFD-I-00-04-00129-00
(Ninth Quarterly Report for Task Order 01)

October 2007

This report was produced for submission to the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Development Alternatives, Inc., submitted by Eleanor Valentine, Chief of Party.

Development Alternatives, Inc.

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This quarterly report is submitted to the project CTO Saad Paracha of the Office of Democracy and Governance of USAID-Pakistan Mission under the guidelines as stated in Clause A.6 of the contract.

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Quarterly Report (July 1 – September 30, 2007)

Contract No. DFD-I-00-04-00129-00

(Eighth Quarterly Report for Task Order 01)

The **Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project (PLSP)** is a two-year initiative funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI). The project will work with the National Assembly and Senate and the provincial assemblies in NWFP, Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab. The project will operate from September 2005 to September 2007. DAI IQC subcontractors include the National Conference of State Legislatures, Social Impact and the State University of New York Center for Legislative Development.

Program activities in each of the legislatures focus in four general technical areas. While some activities may be similar, PLSP is responsible for ensuring that implementation is tailored to the specific needs of each assembly. The main areas of PLSP work include:

Representation – Assisting Pakistani parliaments provide information to the public and receive input from citizens during the legislative process. Key tasks include: media coverage of parliament, public hearings, parliamentary websites, dissemination of legislative records, parliamentary public relations strategies.

Law Making – Assisting Pakistani parliaments, including members and staff, improve the structures and mechanisms by which legislation is analyzed, debated, and passed. Key tasks include: committee structures, library and research, legislative drafting and development of a Pakistan Institute for Legislative Studies.

Oversight / Accountability– Assisting Pakistani parliaments oversee government operations, particularly in the area of budget formulation and implementation. Key tasks include: budget formulation, budget process, question time, and public auditing

Management / Infrastructure – Assisting Pakistani parliaments improve the day to day management and operation of the legislative process. Key tasks include: equipment and hardware and software improvements, archiving and legislative records management.

The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) will be the key institutional legacy of the project. All training and technical assistance activities will be designed to support the future operations of PIPS.

Each assembly has identified “focal persons” to coordinate with PLSP staff and each has established a Legislative Development Steering Committees to develop work plans and prioritize institutional needs. The Steering Committees serve as the formal interface with the PLSP.

This activity supports USAID/Pakistan mission’s Strategic Objective (SO) 4.0 seeking the promotion of a “More participatory, representative and accountable democracy in Pakistan,” and specifically Intermediate Result (IR) 4.1 “Improved Representation and Responsiveness of National and Provincial Legislatures.”

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Focus in the national parliament and provincial assemblies during this period was largely on the seriously eroding security situation in Pakistan due to the “Red Mosque” standoff in Islamabad July 3-10– the first time a major offensive was staged in the capital; the pending case against the Supreme Court Chief Justice (finally decided in his favour July 20 and his reinstatement to the bench); the pending return of the exiled political party leader and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ; discussions of rapprochement with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto; and the presidential election slated to take place in all houses the first week of October 2007.

The project team continued to work with counterparts during this period to finalize already initiated activities, and complete equipment procurements, delivery and installation. Development of two of three pilot websites for Senate Committees was completed. The customized Content Management System for the four provincial assemblies was completed and training of staff and population of the sites was pushed forward. The Gap Analysis for the Legislative Management Modules for the Punjab Assembly was completed and subsequent systems adaptation ensued.

Training programs continued to be conducted under project auspices at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services in Islamabad and intern recruitments finalized and deployed to committees and secretariat offices in the national and provincial assemblies. Inter-legislative staff working groups continued to meet to discuss policies, strategies, new practices, procedures and systems for improved support to the legislatures.

The project team continued to work with USAID and legislative counterparts to establish the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services. The third recruitment for PIPS Executive Director resulted in the short-listing of ten candidates (only three of whom had previously been short-listed). Legislation to establish PIPS moved as a private member’s bill through the Senate Committee on Law and Parliamentary Affairs while the government bill version finally was submitted to the National Assembly by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

Recently arrived US Ambassador to Pakistan, the Honorable Anne W. Patterson officially opened the PITRC in the Punjab Provincial Assembly on August 2. The new USAID Mission Director arrived in Pakistan in July. USAID Director of Democracy and Governance, Ms. Julie Koenen-Grant departed Pakistan for a new posting in early August, but was recognized at the July 30 national Legislative Development Steering Committee for her significant contributions to the strengthening of Pakistan’s national and provincial assemblies.

DAI was granted a No-Cost Extension in early September 2007 extending the contract to March 31, 2008.

II. NATIONAL LEVEL PROGRAMMING

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The project continued providing assistance in the establishment of the Pakistan Institute for Legislative Services including facilitating the draft legislation for its formal creation, assisting in the recruitment of candidates for the PIPS Executive Director while simultaneously continuing to manage the PIPS interim facility at Parliament Lodges and providing research services and training opportunities.

PLSP followed-on its assistance to the Parliament during the Budget Session providing budget training to the Senate and National Assembly Research Officers on the Budget Analysis Tools and budgetary processes. The bilingual publication prepared by the project explaining the budget process and the role for parliamentarians was used in this training.

The project team observed this quarter a move toward more assertive oversight by Senate Committees as demonstrated by the Senate Defense Committee's conduct of a public hearing in response to public petitions regarding the negligence of the Defence Housing Authority in Karachi, which resulted in damage to private property due to a faulty drainage system.

Members and staff and civil society representatives completed the distance course on legislative drafting, and a comprehensive Training of Trainers conducted with ICLAD has developed a pool of core legislative drafting specialists that will be used to build the capacity of the two Houses of the National Parliament to initiate legislation.

The new website for the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was on line at the end of the quarter. The development of these websites has engendered interest among Members, who have sought guidance from the Project on how to develop personal Member websites.

The deployment of the third group of Parliamentary Interns was finalized. Interns were deployed to both the National Assembly and Senate to provide research support and administrative support to committees and Secretariat offices.

The Parliamentarians' Resource Center continued to expand its outreach to Members, nearly doubling its usage during the quarter. One Member took advantage of accessing the PITRC resources in his home province, giving an opportunity to test the planned linkage of the PITRCs with PIPS for the benefit of all Members.

Inter-legislative working groups continued to meet and work on training and reform agendas.

During this quarter three international PLSP short-term consultants were mobilized to Pakistan. Technical Backstop Jeremy Kanthor while in Pakistan worked on PMP survey activities and facilitated an all staff meeting to outline the project workplan for the no-cost extension. Andrew Ross collected data to design a prototype of a

GIS based information system for members. Lorna Seitz facilitated the Legislative Drafting Training of Trainers.

Local STTA consultants engaged during this quarter on project activities included Chief Technical Advisor Khan Ahmad Goraya; Zane Green who provided instructional design services modifying training modules on Committee Effectiveness, Question Hour and Parliamentary Privilege. Muhammad Rafiq provided assistance in customizing for Pakistan provincial assemblies and demonstrating to the librarians the Koha Library Management System, Zaigham Khan developed a series of training modules on Media and the Parliament and conducted a training for journalists in Peshawar. Local Consultant Shahzad Sarfraz representing Public Finance Management (PFM) Consultants assisted in budget training for researchers from the National Assembly and Senate.

Summarizing the quarter's national activities:

- **Task 1.2 Website Development** – Two of three Senate Committee websites are online and operating. The third is awaiting additional committee information, but is online.
- **Task 1.4 Public Relations Officers (PRO) Working Group Meeting** – The Public Relations Officers (PRO) and Media Working Group met at PLSP Offices on Tuesday, 23rd August.
- **Task 2.1.4 Information Database** GIS specialist STTA Andrew Ross worked on a prototype of GIS linked statistical information system and identified next steps for the system to be managed from PIPS.
- **Task 2.3.1.4 Committee Branch Working Group Meeting** – The inter-legislative staff working group reviewed the Committee Effectiveness training module and draft Public Hearings manual.
- **Task 2.4 Internship program** – Currently 32 interns have been deployed to assist the National Parliament. 18 have been assigned to work with National Assembly and 14 to the Senate.
- **Task 2.5.3 Legislative Drafting Course** 'Training of Trainers on Legislative Drafting for Social Change' conducted 6 – 11 August in Islamabad.
- **Task 3.2.1.2 Budget Analysis Tools (BATs) Update** – Federal BATs were updated with budget data from the 2007-2008 budget passed in June.
- **Task 3.2.1.5 Budget Processes and Analysis Workshops** – At their request the Research Officers (ROs) of both houses received training in the Budget Process and Analysis methods.
- **Task 4.1 Parliamentarian's Resource Center** – Member usage of the PRC almost doubled in the latest quarter.

Component 0: Project Administration

SUMMARY OF THIS QUARTER'S MILESTONES AND OUTPUTS

Task 0.1.2 National LDSC Meetings

The National LDSC meeting was held on July 31, 2007, with discussion focused primarily on the recruitment of a PIPS Executive Director.

Task 0.2 All-Staff Planning Meeting

An all-staff coordination meeting was held on August 3, 2007. Previous project plans and activities were reviewed. Activities for the No Cost Extension were sketched out. Since parliamentary terms are coming to an end, new member orientation program planning was a primary focus of the meeting. A review of the Performance Monitoring Program requirements and soliciting feedback from stakeholders were also discussed.

COMPONENT 1: Representation Improved

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- **Task 1.2 Website Development** – Two of three Senate Committee pilot websites are online and operating. The third is in the process of development in consultation with the Committee Chair
- **Task 1.4 Public Relations Officers (PRO) Working Group Meeting** – The Public Relations Officers (PRO) and Media Working Group met at PLSP Offices on Tuesday, 23rd August.
- **Task 1.4.3 Press Gallery Enhancements**
Press Gallery Equipment was ordered and cleared customs and a Press Gallery Policy Guideline was drafted and circulated for comment

Task 1.2 Websites Development – Senate Committees

The websites for the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and the Standing Committee Defense and Defense Production went online during this quarter. (www.senatedefencecommittee.pk) The websites, which provide public access to committees' activities, calendars, reports, articles, news and upcoming events, help increase awareness about the committee system and individual committee functions. The management of the two websites has been handed over to the respective staff. The staff of both Senate Committees have been trained in the Content Management System and given easy-to-understand manuals in order to help understand how to upload to the website. Parliamentary interns have made a significant contribution to getting content loaded on the websites.

Task 1.2 Websites Development – Members

Through the PIPS Research on Request service, two Members of the National Assembly requested the project to facilitate them in designing of their website in the end of June. As this is beyond the present scope of the project, it was not possible to provide direct assistance, but PLSP staff discussed with them options about what can be included on a site and guidelines for members' sites from other parliaments.

Task 1.3 Broadcast of Parliamentary Proceedings

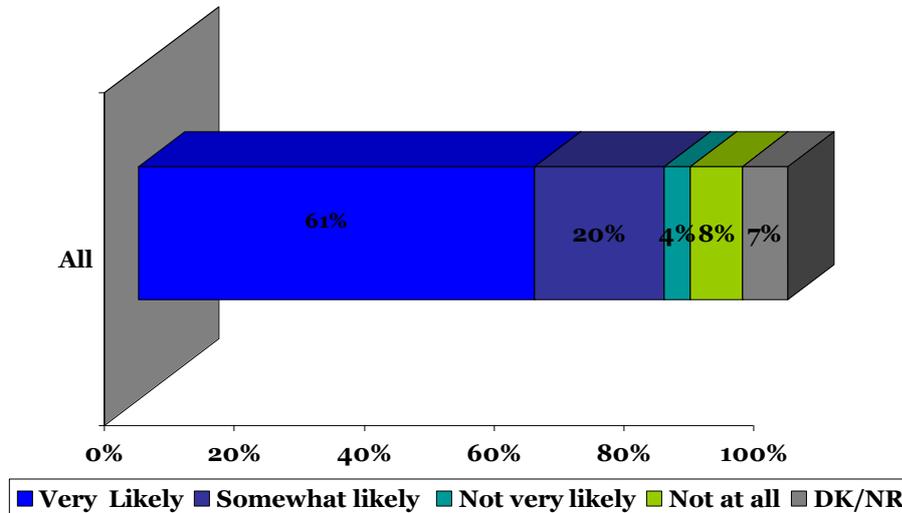
The Public Relations Officers and Media Working Group met on 23 August and agreed that the issue of telecasting should be pursued in each house. The participants agreed to send their comments on telecasting requirements for the sub-committee of Senate by September 10. The PLSP is following up with the participants of the PRO and Media Working Group and will submit the comments to the Senate Finance Committee Select Committee on Telecasting.

Additionally, the PLSP requested colleagues from the International Republican Institute in Pakistan to include on their next national poll a question regarding citizens interest in parliamentary broadcasts. The results of that poll came out in

August showing that national 81% of those polled were likely or very likely to watch parliament proceedings if broadcast live on television.



If sessions of the National Assembly and Senate were broadcast live on TV, how likely is it you would watch?



During her annual leave, COP Valentine was able to visit the Ohio Statehouse and see the transition in that institution from old technologies to a new digital technology set up that has been proposed for the Senate and National Assembly.

Task 1.4 Public Relations Officers (PRO) Working Group Meeting

The Public Relations Officers (PRO) and Media Working Group met at PLSP Offices on Tuesday, 23rd August. Discussions were held on Telecasting, Websites, further training of journalists – particularly the Urdu press – on legislative procedures and the budget process, and preparations for the Orientation of New Members. Only the Senate was represented at this meeting from the National Parliament.

The participants agreed to synthesize their comments on telecasting for the sub-committee of Senate by September 10. The meeting also proposed that a roundtable session be arranged in early November between private TV channels and PROs to discuss maximizing the telecasting of parliamentary proceedings.

The Action items identified in the PRO Working Group meeting are:

- **ACTION ITEM:** PLSP to follow up with PROs to obtain comments for submission to the Senate Finance Committee Select Committee on Telecasting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** It was proposed that a roundtable session be arranged in early November between private TV channels and PROs to discuss maximizing the telecasting of parliamentary proceedings.

- **ACTION ITEM:** It was decided that the training should be held in PITRC in Peshawar, with focus on Urdu press. It was also decided that the training should be held in Urdu. The report about the proposed training will be shared with the PRO Working Group.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Preparation of a Guide on Electronic Media for New Member Orientation, in both English and Urdu, to accompany the Media training module that is planned for New Member Orientation.

Task 1.4.1 Workshops for Journalists

Curriculum for a series of **six half-day training sessions** for journalists on parliamentary reporting was completed by Zaigham Khan, a Development Communication Specialist. The sessions cover several aspects of parliamentary reporting, including the issues of access to parliament, rules of procedures, and research tools for parliamentary reporting.

Mr. Khan was to conduct the first two half-day training sessions – the **Role for Parliamentary Journalists** and **Issues of Access for Media** July 31 and August 1, 2007 but due to a severe security alert at Parliament lodges that morning the administration did not allow access to PIPS and these workshops were postponed.

Task 1.4.3 Press Gallery Enhancements

PLSP has been engaged with officers the Senate, National Assembly and provincial assemblies to develop to ensure that the galleries will offer accredited journalists space and equipment to facilitate their work and timely submission of stories about the legislative process. The space will serve as a venue for journalists to interact with members to improve the scope of parliamentary reporting. To this purpose equipment for the Press Galleries was and was cleared customs. Delivery is deferred at the Senate and National Assembly until after the October presidential elections.

A “Press Gallery Policy Guideline” was drafted and circulated for comment

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

- Formal launch of all Senate Websites.
- Continued training for Journalists on parliamentary rules and procedures, parliamentary budget process.
- Training MPAs, CSOs and Media on new website resources.
- Continued monitoring of the parliamentary broadcasting issue through the work of the Senate Finance Committee’s Select Committee on Broadcasting.
- Follow up on the Action Items identified in the PRO meeting
- Installation of the Press Gallery equipment

COMPONENT 2: Improved Lawmaking

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- **Task 2.1.4 Information Database** - GIS specialist Andrew Ross developed a prototype of a information system linking statistics to geographic locations.
- **Task 2.2.1 Library Enhancement in the Senate** - Students from Alam Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Library School completed the inventory and re-shelving of the Senate Library collection.
- **Task 2.4 Internship Program** – Currently 32 interns have been deployed to assist the National Parliament. 18 have been assigned to work with National Assembly and 14 to the Senate.
- **Task 2.5.3 Legislative Drafting Course** ‘Training of Trainers on Legislative Drafting for Social Change’ conducted 6 – 11 August in Islamabad.

Task 2.1.1.2 Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)

The draft legislation to establish PIPS was finalized by the Ministry of Law and passed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to be submitted to the National Assembly as a government bill. The bill submitted as a private members bill by Senator M. Ch. Anwar Bhinder to the Senate was discussed in the Senate Committee for Law and Parliamentary Affairs and was recommended for passage.

Confirmation of the land transfer for the physical location of the permanent PIPS facility has been approved by the Prime Minister’s office and the Ministry of Interior, and now rests with the Planning Commission of Pakistan.

USAID has issued the Pre-solicitation Notice for the RFP tender to build the permanent PIPS facility.

Task 2.1.1.7 Expanded PIPS Research Services

The PIPS continued its Research Services for Members, and nine further requests on different economic and social topics were processed. The PLSP staff, with assistance of Parliamentary Interns, was able to immediately respond to six of these requests.

The recruitment of researchers to the PIPS cadre also continues. Mr. Ajmal M. Qureshi, Senior Fellow at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government joined the PIPS cadre of researchers, suggesting the possibility of linking the Harvard University Asia Center with PIPS, providing greater scope to its information and research support services to Members.

Task 2.1.2.2 Review of Applications for PIPS Executive Director

A committee chaired by the Deputy Speaker National Assembly reviewed the applications of 52 candidates who held the basic qualifications for the PIPS Executive Director position and short-listed ten candidates for the next level of consideration including interviews.

Task 2.1.3 Policy Resource Guides

Initial drafts of 16 Policy Resource Guides for committees have been compiled. A volunteer intern from Canada, Mr. James Clarke assisted the project in reviewing these initial drafts. The resource guides will provide committees with contact information for relevant informational, institutional and human resources available both nationally and internationally.

Task 2.1.4 Information Database

Members have indicated a need for informational resources systematically organized for their quick reference. In addition to the resource guides for selected committees, PLSP has been investigating whether credible sources of data in Pakistan could be accumulated in an information system linked to GIS. In July, GIS specialist Andrew Ross visited Pakistan to work on a prototype of such a system and to identify next steps if this system were to be managed from PIPS. The initial prototype was shared with some MNAs who found it potentially a very powerful tool, but stressed the need for credible information to be included.

Additionally new interns have been engaged by the Senate House Library Committee to provide assistance to build an index of laws with a reference to Pakistan Law Digest and Pakistan Code source references. Once completed, this will provide a chronological, subject and title law reference for the Honorable Senators and MNAs. An example of an index is below

Act No	Year	Name	Pakistan Code		PLD		Repeal
			Volume	Page	Volume	Page	
	1838	The Coasting-Vessels Act, 1838					Repealed

Task 2.2.1 Library Enhancement

In mid-June five students from Alam Iqbal Open University (AIOU) joined the interns already working with the Senate Librarian to complete the inventory of the Senate Library which was in complete disarray. Next, the interns took on the task was to re-shelve the books using a classification appropriately customized to the needs of the Senate. PLSP Director and the Parliamentarian Resource Center Manager Bushra Naqvi have assisted in establishing a new set of subject categories in the collection.

By mid-July, the Senate Librarian with the assistance of the students and interns had completed the inventory of approximately 10,000 titles. The re-shelving work was completed in mid-September.

Task 2.2.1.1 Parliamentary Librarians Working Group

Parliamentary Librarians' working group meeting held in Islamabad on July 31. The meeting focused on topics on the agenda of the upcoming IFLA Conference in South Africa, an update on the deployment of KOHA software, and a presentation on "National Library Initiative in the Provinces" by Mr. Chaudhry Mohammad Nazir, Director General of the National Library of Pakistan on outreach activities of the NLP to parliamentarians and in the provinces.

Participants discussed the PLSP efforts to purchase the equipment and software to digitize the old records of Assemblies. The Project is currently exploring options, but the main challenge is to find Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software that can read the Urdu Nastalgic font, which has been used for printing in all the assemblies. PLSP objective is to find the most comprehensive and useful methodology for digitization that will ensure full-text searchable documents.

Task 2.2.1.3 Library Management Software

The Parliamentarians Resource Center continued to test the customized multilingual Library Management Software KOHA.

Task 2.3.1.4 Committee Branch Working Group (CBWG)

During this quarter, the CBWG met on 8 August to share their collective experiences and to identify means of how committee staff can facilitate Standing Committees in conducting their business effectively

Feedback from participants of the CBWG to the Committee Effectiveness Training Module significantly enhanced this product. The primary objective of the Module is to facilitate members of the National Assembly, Senate and Provincial Assemblies "to understand the general workings of the committee system, be equipped to perform their committee duties more efficiently and effectively and actively contribute to successful committee work".

This meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss with participants the Public Hearing Manual and a report on Parliamentary Oversight of the Government. Drafts of both these documents had been prepared by PLSP consultant David Ogle. Participants agreed that the manuals with some adaptation would be appropriate for applying to the work of the committees and suggested that copies be shared with chairs of committees for their feedback.

Task 2.3.1.5 Orientation to Public Hearing

The Public Hearing manual, on the recommendation of the CBWG was shared with Senator Nisar Memon urging him to facilitate and encourage public hearing as an effective tool for parliamentary oversight among other Senate Standing Committees. Senator Memon expressed his commitment to take the step forward and facilitate the public hearing process.

At a September 4 meeting with Senator Nisar Memon PLSP Chief Technical Advisor Mr. Khan Ahmad Goraya, briefed the senator on the Manual and the various constitutional provisions and Senate Rules and Procedures that allowed

Standing Committees the “power to take evidence or call for papers, records or documents.”

Task 2.3.1.6 National Parliament Subcommittee of the Conference of Committee Chairs

Proceedings of the February 2007 Conference were provided to the Chair, Senator Mushahid Hussein for approval and then sent for Urdu translation so that a bilingual publication might be issued.

Task 2.4 Internship program

Currently 32 interns have been deployed to assist the National Parliament. 18 have been assigned to work with National Assembly and 14 to the Senate. While recruited in June the interns were immediately engaged in joint work to support members during the budget sessions. Deployment to committees ensued in July.

Parliamentary Internship Program Senate Deployment September 2007

S. #	Senate Committee	Name of Intern Assigned	Intern's Education / Qualification
1	Labour, Manpower & Overseas Pakistanis	Madiha Ikram	M.A. Political Science
2	Finance	Muhammad Umair Aziz	M.Sc, Economics
3	Government Assurances	Sara Saleem	MSc Pakistan Studies
4	Education	Uzma Naz	M.A. International Relations
5	Law, Justice & Human Rights	Syed Ghufuran ullah Shah	M.A. Political Science, LLM
6	Rules and Privileges	Mubashir Ali	M.A. Political Science/ B.A. Law (Also on Special Assignment to House Library Committee)
7	Petroleum	Tariq Aziz	MBA Finance & PGD IT
8	Foreign Affairs	Nasim Tahir	M.A, Mass Communication
9	Functional Committee on Human Rights	Abdul Rehman	LL.B
10	Defense and Defense Production	Faiza Zahid	MDDS Defence & Strategic Studies
11	Culture, Sports & Tourism	Huma Tauqeer/Sadaf Aitibar Abbasi	M.A. English/MBA Marketing HRM
12	Interior	Adnan Ahmed	MPA Management
13	Agriculture	Mukhtar UI Hassan	Economics

First Round interns continuing for another six months

Parliamentary Internship Program National Assembly Deployment – September 2007

S. #	National Assembly Committee	Name of Intern Assigned	Intern's Education / Qualifications
1	Defense and Defense Production	Sidra Malik	M.A. International Relations
2	Petroleum & Natural Resources	Sania Khan	M.Sc. Economics
3	Education	Saira Ayub	MA English
4	Water & Power	Muhammad Umer	MSc Physics

5	Social Welfare & Special Education	Tanveer Zehra	MBA Finance
6	Law, Justice & Human Rights	Iftikhar Butt	M.Sc. Pakistan Studies
7	Interior	Maimoona Ikram	M.A, International Relations (Also working with Leg Branch)
8	Foreign Affairs	Mohammad Aleem Malik (Assigned to assist Senate Research Cell)	M.Sc. Pol Science
9	Commerce	Ayesha Akram	M. A. English Literature
10	Housing & Works	Faheem Khan	BIT (Hon), management
11	Communications	Saba Ahmed (Assigned to work with NA Legislation Branch)	M.A. Mass Communication
12	Health	Ghulam Saqib	M.A. English/B.A Medical)
13	Public Accounts	Zainab Iftikhar	M.Sc Economics
14	Science & Technology	Muhammad Yameen Saleemi	M.Sc Geography & English
15	Youth Affairs	Matiullah Khan	M.A. I.R
16	Environment	Saadia Anjum	M.A. International Relations (Also working with Leg Branch)
17	Religious Affairs	Inayat Ali Gopang	M.Sc Anthropology
18	Parliamentary Affairs	Shah Hassan Khan	M.A. Sociology

First Round interns continuing for another six months

During the current quarter interns at the National Parliament were assigned to prepare research assignments on topics related either specifically with the committee work or on the issue of national importance, from the members of both the houses. Topics of the research assignments completed by the interns include:

- Armed Forces, Land and Welfare Activities
- Safe drinking water in Pakistan
- Status of the Recommendation of the Committee regarding "Pollution in Karachi Harbour and areas Around Pakistan Air Forces Bases in Karachi"
- Assignment on History of Pakistan-US Relations
- Post 9/11 casualties in Pakistan
- Comparative study "Tobacco companies in connection with Tobacco Rates".
- Working Paper on "The Revival of Pakistan Film Industry".
- Report regarding standard of education in Pakistan
- Report on Teacher training program.
- Report on "The Origin and history of suicide attacks as well as the details of suicide attacks in Pakistan during 2006-07"
- Research report on "International Labor Standards and their violations".
- Primary Education System in Pakistan
- On NIE (national intelligence estimate).
- On "How to cover parliamentary proceedings?"
- On "Youth and Leadership"
- Report on Rural Development.
- Report on Provincial Autonomy.

- Recommendations for a uniform curriculum.
- On Education policy of Pakistan.
- Report on Youth of Pakistan.
- Report on the working of National Training Bureau, an attached department of Manpower Division.
- Working paper on Tourism.
- Comparative chart on Bankruptcy Laws in Pakistan, UK, and USA
- Statistical Analysis of Demands for Grants of Current and Development Budget of Fiscal year 2007-2008.
- Updated the Consolidated List of Assurances given by Ministers in response to Questions asked by Senators on the Floor of the House.
- Report on Sector Analysis Investment & Market Opportunity
- Summary of Current Monetary Policy Statement
- Compilation of President's Response with reference to External Threats to Pakistan, President's contribution to Defence and Defence Production.
- Brief report on Pakistan Contributions to UN Peacekeeping.
- Comparison of senior citizens bill of Pakistan, India and USA.
- Comparison of amendments in senior citizens' welfare bill, 2007.
- Trade deficit and other Macroeconomic indicators of SAARC countries 2005-07.

Additionally Interns were engaged in the creation of a database of Pakistan Laws for the Senate Library (See Task 2.1.4 above)

Task 2.4 Parliamentary Intern Program Seminar Series

During this quarter regular seminars were held for the National parliamentary Interns at interim Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, Parliament Lodges Islamabad. These seminars give the interns, opportunity to interact with each other, discuss and share the progress on their assignments and share their experience and knowledge on any other issue related to research topic or assignment given by the chair or member of the committee. Members have also been invited to the interns on a topic of their choosing. Seminars this quarter included:

July 27, 2007	Interns Orientation on GIS Andrew Ross, GIS Specialist
August 10, 2007	"Role of Interns in the Parliament" Senator Mushahid Hussain MNA Tehmina Dastee
September 14, 2007	"Referencing in writing Research Papers" Muddassar Alam Tahirkheli

Task 2.5.3 Legislative Drafting Course

The 'Training of Trainers on Legislative Drafting for Social Change' was conducted 6 – 11 August in Islamabad by Lorna Seitz Director for Training of the International Consortium for Law and Development (ICLAD). Participants were required to have participated in ICLAD's spring 2007 Distance Course on Legislative Drafting for Democratic Social Change. The training's purpose was to ensure that all TOT workshop participants understand the Institutionalist Theory and Legislative Problem-Solving Methodology and the rules of technical drafting. The one-week



workshop was attended by participants from Islamabad and all four provincial capitals, and included legislative staff, ministry personnel, CSO activists, media, advocates and professors. TOT participants were responsible for facilitating at least one working group each throughout the course. Future trainers were also given an opportunity to evaluate different training techniques, and in designing and delivering the associated two-day MNA/MPA training on Assessing Legislative Proposals.

The two-day workshop was attended by 1 Senator, 2 MPAs and one assistant to an MNA. TOT participants were responsible for leading and directing one working group each throughout the workshop as facilitator.

During the week, both trainers and legislators had a chance to see how the Pakistani capacity to design effectively implemented laws and regulations that will address pressing social problems could be enhanced. The purpose of training in legislative drafting was to;

1. Provide future trainers with a framework guiding others through the process of using the Institutionalist Theory as a guide for transforming Pakistan's institutions so they will more effectively address pressing social problems; and,
2. Provide parliamentarians with strategies for assessing bills in terms of probable impact.

The Training of Trainers (TOT) on Legislative Drafting for Social Change objectives were provide to:

- assess the probable effectiveness of a legislative proposal;
- assess a legislative proposal to ensure the bill's technical provisions address the legal and non-legal causes of the problematic behaviours;
- analyze the socio-economic costs and benefits of both proposed law, and leading alternative solutions;
- apply legislative drafting rules to improve the precision and completeness of a legislative proposal; and,
- understand the importance of addressing the implementing agency's behaviours with detailed permissions, prescriptions, and prohibitions that are based on a solid understanding of the implementing agency's resources and constraints.
- Learn to impart the methodology to others through training and consultations

The two-day "Assessing Legislation" workshop for parliamentarians objectives were to provide tools for them to:

- assess the probable effectiveness of a legislative proposal;
- assess a legislative proposal to ensure the bill's technical provisions address the legal and non-legal causes of the problematic behaviours; and
- analyze the socio-economic costs and benefits of both proposed law, and leading alternative solutions.

Methodology.

A training needs assessment was conducted with participants to design the workshop based on the needs of participants. The design of the workshop was based on experiential, participatory learning. Through a combination of plenary sessions, small group work, and large group reporting and feedback, 6 preliminary bills were critiqued and then used as case studies for the legislators' workshop.

RESULTS FOR THIS QUARTER

Legislative Drafting Course Producers Trainers/Resources Persons in each Province

The August 2007 Legislative Drafting course was designed to provide participants with opportunities to learn by doing. Educational theory suggests that we learn in four stages: (1) introduction to new material, (2) guided assessment or application of the concepts presented, (3) independent application of new concepts, and (4) teaching the new concepts to others. The participants in the Training-for-Trainers portion of this workshop had already been exposed to the Legislative Problem-Solving Methodology, and have had an opportunity to apply the methodology with guidance. During this workshop, the potential trainers discussed how the methodology can serve as a guide for addressing complex implementation problems, and collaboratively finalized their research reports and bills.

This Legislative Drafting “Training of Trainers” course provided at least one on-site trainer/resource person for each house who have identified concrete ways to pursue further legislative drafting capacity-building.

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

- PIPS Legislation will move forward in parliament
- PIPS Executive Director will be hired
- PIPS Research Service Recruitment will continue
- Policy Guides for Committees will be further developed
- Inter-legislative Working Groups of librarians and Committee Branch will be convened
- Public Hearings Manual will be shared with Chairs of Committees for comment
- Intern Seminar on “How Parliament is regulated under the Rules and Procedures, By Senator Anwar Bhinder
- Intern Seminar/Training on “Report Writing Skills”
- Midterm Budget Review (MTBR) Training for National Parliamentary Interns
- Evaluation of the Internship Program
- Possible recruitment of an additional group of interns
- Finalization of Intern Policy Manual
- Training Workshops on Legislative Drafting for Social Change will be designed by the recently trained Pakistani Trainers

COMPONENT 3: Oversight/Accountability

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

- **Task 3.2.1.2 Budget Analysis Tools (BATs) Update** – In this quarter, parliamentary interns have updated the BATs with new budgetary figures. national and provincial members now have access to 16 different BATs, all updated with the latest information.
- **Task 3.2.1.5 Budget Processes and Analysis Workshops** – Research Officers (ROs) of both Houses requested training in the Budget Process and Analysis methods as a result of the successful sessions in the Provinces, as well as among national Members of Parliament.

SUMMARY OF THIS QUARTER'S MILESTONES AND OUTPUTS

Task 3.2.1.2 Budget Analysis Tools (BATs) Update

The Budget Analysis Tool (BAT) presenting budgetary revenue and expenditure trends was developed using the cases of the Federal Health and Education sectors. Following the positive feedback and utility of the tool, this was replicated into 6 more federal sectors; Environment, Food Agriculture & Livestock, Labor Manpower & Overseas Pakistanis, Population Welfare, Communications and Women Development. In addition, one such provincial Tool was developed for the NWFP Health Sector, which was then replicated in the four provinces for the Health and the Education Sector. Thus national and provincial members now have access to 16 different BATs.

These tools provide legislators with a comprehensive budget overview of the sector under their committee's jurisdiction, enabling them to be more empowered and informed in conducting their oversight role.

The data in each of the tools is taken from the budget documents that are tabled before each Assembly for approval, primarily from the detailed Demands for Grants and Appropriations, Annual Budget Statement and Actual Expenditures from the provincial Accountant General's Office and other supplementary budget documents. In the previous quarter the interns were given orientation on the BATs and trained to update the Federal Tools with the available data from the 2007-08 budget documents. Training to interns and supervision of data was undertaken by Public Finance Management (PFM) Consultants. The data from the 2007-08 federal budget that includes Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates has now been updated in all of the 8 Federal BATs.

Assigning interns to the task of updating the tools gave them the confidence and understanding on how to look for budgetary allocations against various classifications. The exercise has enhanced their capacity and knowledge on the federal budget which would benefit them in providing budgetary information to members.

Task 3.2.1.5 Budget Processes and Analysis Workshops

Following the success of the Budget Process and Analysis Workshops in the previous quarter at the national and provincial levels there was interest shown by the National Assembly and Senate secretariats for providing training to Research Officers (ROs) of both Houses. A two-day workshop was conducted for the National Assembly and the Senate Research Officers on 12 and 13 September at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). Emphasis was on interactive exercises to increase researchers' capacity to understand the terminologies relating to the budget, the flow of revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year and the sequential relationship of budget documents.

An easy-to-understand bilingual Budget Guide was complimented by a budget manual (participants' workbook with practical exercises) were resources available to the researchers. These documents which were prepared in the previous quarter had commentary on constitutional provisions of the budget, key budget considerations for parliamentarians, budget flow charts and diagrams and exercises on how to analyze various budget figures. Each researcher utilized the opportunity and completed the practical exercises given in the budget manual. The workshop also covered in detail the key budgetary considerations for parliamentarians, providing participants with an overview of members' perspective of the budget.

Workshop Participants comments from the event evaluation forms

- *“A useful road map to navigate through budget documents and make precision dives to get required figures and data.”*
- *“Budget preparation process and Parliamentarian Role regarding budget. Sequence and relationship of budget documents and budget analysis.”*
- *“Now I know what and how budget paper works. Now I can put many questions out of budget papers and I can debate.”*
- *“I learned about the key concepts and basic terminologies used in relation to budgeting.”*
- *“Analysis of the previous budget will be the most interesting task that I will be doing with the help of knowledge gained in the workshop”*
- *“As a result of this workshop I am able to solve queries of the members with ease which wasn't the case before. I can now easily get into a little more technical and complicated stuff.”*

Local Consultant Shahzad Sarfraz from Public Finance Management (PFM) Consultants and Mr. Aizaz Asif, Legislative Oversight Advisor (PLSP), facilitated the workshop. Mr. Sarfraz is a chartered accountant and budget specialist with more than 10 years of experience in the field of public expenditure and financial management in Pakistan.

RESULTS OF THIS QUARTER

Senate Defense Committee Conducts Oversight Hearing:

An immediate result of PLSP's 4 September meeting with Senator Memon was that as Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Defense and Defense Production he called a committee meeting on receiving public grievance from residents of the Defense Housing Authority (DHA), Karachi, for lack of proper drainage facilities that had resulted in damage to their property. Senior officers of the ministry of defense, DHA and the Karachi Cantonment Board were asked to present their recommendations on the issue before the standing committee. The damage was incurred after heavy rain falls led to complete blocked drainage in the DHA. For days after the rainfall the water had not receded creating a lot of hardships to the residents of the area. Minutes of the meeting were also posted on the Senate Committee Website

Ban sought on new residential projects within Cantt DHA

September 11, 2007

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Defence on Friday recommended the imposition of a ban on the development of further residential schemes or lands within Karachi Cantonment's limits.

The ban shall also apply to the Defence Housing Authority's further development projects.

This was announced by Chairman of the Standing Committee Nisar A. Memon while presiding over a meeting of the committee held here in the Parliament House.

Senate Deputy Chairman Mir Jan Mohammad Jamali, Senators Syed Dilawar Abbas, Professor Khurshid Ahmed and Naeem Hussain Chatta attended the meeting as members of the committee.

Additional Secretary Defence Major-Gen Mir Haider Ali Khan and senior officers from the DHA and Cantonment Board gave detailed briefings to the committee.

Senator Memon said that both the civic bodies -- Cantonment Board Karachi and DHA Karachi -- should undertake a comprehensive plan for storm-water drainage in their respective areas.

He set a one month deadline for the submission of the plan to the committee, delay of which would be considered as violation of the rules of the committee.

He said the ban on further development of residential areas was meant to provide an opportunity to the DHA and Cantonment Board to first strengthen the infrastructure of the areas under their respective control.

Senator Memon directed the DHA to immediately convene meetings of the representatives of the inhabitants of its housing schemes and suggest remedies to their grievances.

"(The) meeting(s) should be convened within a week's time (and) remedial measures (should) be taken accordingly," he said.

The committee proposed a number of measures to help improve the performance of the Cantonment Board and DHA, such as demarcation of their boundaries significantly separating them from the Karachi city government and a clear-cut definition of the CDGK's work and area of responsibilities.

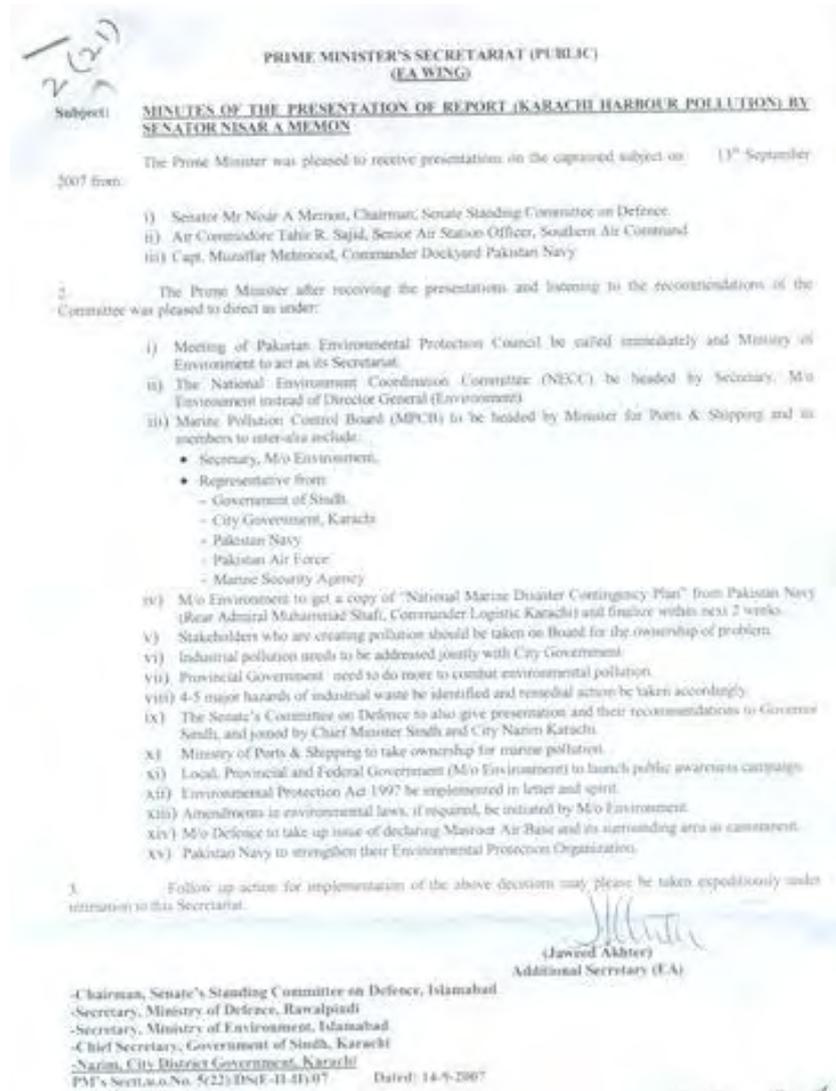
Senator Memon said that there should be a comprehensive policy to check any hazards to the lives of the workforce, especially of the lower grades, in their respective jurisdictions.

The committee observed that both bodies should come up with steps required to improve their services. The intervention of the committee was sought so that the proposed ban on the fresh induction in the military land and cantonments group through the public service commission be lifted with the aim to strengthen the second tier of the service which, according to them, was weakened due to the presence of the ban for the last five years.

Senator Memon directed the officials of the DHA to submit a report directly to him within 48 hours in the case of one Farhat Ali, whose plot was allegedly acquired by the DHA.—APP

SENATE COMMITTEE RECEIVES ASSURANCES FROM PRIME MINISTER

Additionally, the Senate Defence Committee was successful in having the results of their investigations into Environmental Pollution in Karachi port receive the attention and action of the Prime Minister. PLSP had assisted the Committee with the preparation and publication of the report.



The notice of the Prime Minister's directive has been posted on the Senate Defence Committee Website:

www.senatedefencecommittee.pk/news.php?ContentID=379&search_page=search&criteria=Prime%20Minister

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

- A second printing of the bilingual budget guide will be published in preparation for New Member Orientation.
- Public hearing workshop will be conducted

COMPONENT 4: Improved Management/Infrastructure

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

- **Task 4.1 Parliamentarian’s Resource Center** – The average daily usage of the PRC continues to increase and new services have been initiated.

SUMMARY OF THIS QUARTER’S MILESTONES AND OUTPUTS

Task 4.1 Parliamentarian’s Resource Center

During the second quarter of 2007, the average daily visits of Members and Senators to the PLSP-managed Parliamentarians’ Resource Center (PRC) facility doubled as compared to the previous quarter. The PRC served on average 3.59 users per day in this quarter (compared to 2.6 during last quarter). Among the total number of visits (308) 93 different MNAs and Senators availed themselves of the facility. Members continued to use the range of PRC services: Internet access, photocopying, fax services, computer and printing services, and resource materials.

USE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS RESOURCE CENTER

Months	Total no. of Visits	Average daily use
July	MNAs: 57	2.12%
	Male: 53, Female:4	
	Senators: 09	
	Male: 09, Female:0	
	Total: 66	
August	MNAs: 103	4.67%
	Male: 90 Female:13	
	Senators: 42	
	Male 41 Female:01	
	Total: 145	
September	MNAs:72	3.24%
	Male: 69, Female:03	
	Senators: 25	
	Male 21: , Female:04	
	Total: 97	
Total Utilization	MNAs: 232	3.59%
	Male: 212 , Female:20	
	Senators: 76	
	Male 71: , Female:05	
	Total: 308	

Additionally, the PRC worked to enhance their response to MNAs and Senators, responding to more in-depth research requests on demand.

The PRC is also preparing information that will be placed on the PIPS website: www.pips.org.pk. News and reference/resource information will be there for members' to access. A web newsgroup is also being used to convey messages to members who are regular visitors to the center with such information as tables of contents of news journals, seminar notices, and new acquisitions.

The PRC has also been providing assistance on general computer usage to Members with laptop computers throughout this quarter. The PRC hosted evening meetings of the Legislative Drafting Distance Learning Course.

Concerns of the last quarter about security in the PRC and the PIPS seemed to be alleviated by careful logging of visitors to the facilities. The PRC and PLSP staff worked during the quarter on revisions to the PRC policies so that there were clear expectations of what services the PRC would develop and to whom the PRC services could be extended.

The customized Library Management Software KOHA installed in the PRC in May is now in use. The PIPS/PRC server will eventually house a "Union Catalog" with contributions from all assemblies.

Task 4.1.9 English Language Enhancement Courses

The first week of July, six MNAs completed the 72-hour "English for Legislative Communication Course" held at the PRC making presentations that they designed on power-point.

Task 4.2.1.1 Upgrading Print Shops

Print Shops IT equipment was delivered to both the Senate and National Assembly.

Task 4.2.2.3 Upgrading Recording/Editing Capacity of Reporter Sections

PLSP has provided digital recorders to the reporting and audio section of Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan. This allows the houses to preserve the plenary session and committee meeting records in digital format and provide more accurate transcriptions of meetings. These files can also be made accessible through web technologies to members and the public. PLSP trained the reporters and recording engineers on the usage of recording equipment.

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

- Workshop on Parliamentary Reporting and New Rules and Procedures.
- Installation of Print Shop equipment and Training of MS Publisher.
- Installation of Press Gallery equipment.
- Formal Launching of Senate Committee websites and Provincial websites.
- PLSP will host 5th IT Forum Meeting.
- Network Management Training for IT officers.

III. PROVINCIAL LEVEL PROGRAMMING

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The third of the four planned PITRC inaugurations took place at the Punjab Assembly in August, with new US Ambassador Ann Patterson and Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Sardar Shaukat Hussain Mazari. The Punjab PITRC also conducted outreach to the US Consulate and Consular Library, expanding its contacts and information resources for the Assembly Members. English Language Skills Enhancement and Computer Skills Enhancement courses for Members and Staff continue to operate in all four Assemblies. The second round of the Provincial Assembly Internship program was initiated in all four Assemblies. Equipment procurement for the provincial houses progressed and press gallery, recording and print shop equipment was delivered to all houses.

Summarizing the quarter's provincial activities:

- **Task 1.2 Websites Development** –The CMS design of the four websites was completed at the end of September for final review of sites by all assemblies
- **Task 1.4 Public Relations Officers (PRO) Working Group Meeting** – Meeting was held on 23 August.
- **Task 1.4.1 Budget Workshop for NWFP Journalists** – PLSP conducted a training session for journalists at the NWFP Assembly on the key elements of preparing and passing a provincial budget.
- **Task 1.4.3 Press Gallery Enhancements** – A draft press gallery policy manual was prepared and sent to all provincial PROs for review and comment in anticipation of installation of new press gallery computers and other equipment.
- **Task 2.1.1.14 New Member Orientation Focus Groups** – Initial Focus Group sessions were held in Balochistan and NWFP with MPAs on New Member Orientation.
- **Task 2.1.3.1 Legislative Drafting Course** – Conducted in August with participation from all four provinces.
- **Task 2.1.3.1.1 Member Support Services** – MNA Kunwar Khalid Younus, whose constituency is located in Karachi, worked with the staff of the Sindh PITRC to develop draft legislation on encroachment in Karachi.
- **Task 2.4 Provincial Assembly Internship Program** – The first group of Provincial Assembly interns completed their work and a second group was recruited in all Houses.

- **Task 2.2.1.3 Library Equipment Procurement** – Procurement of equipment completed, with shipment en route at the end of the quarterly reporting period.
- **Task 2.2.1.4 KOHA Training for Librarians** – The first of the three-day KOHA training sessions was held in Balochistan, with the remaining training sessions scheduled for October and November.
- **Task 2.3.1.4 Committee Branch Working Group (CBWG)** – The group met in Islamabad on 8th August.
- **Task 4.1 Punjab PITRC Inauguration** – Punjab Assembly PITRC was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Shaukat Hussain Mazari, and US Ambassador Anne Patterson.
- **Task 4.2 Procurement** – The pace of procurement deliveries to the Provincial Assemblies has increased as equipment purchased for the Proceedings Recording sections, Press Gallery media centers and Print Shops have been distributed to the individual houses. Further procurement deliveries will arrive in the next quarter with the arrival of the final shipments of Library Services and Support Services shipments.
- **Task 4.2.2.4 Urdu Font Software** – IT intervention to provide Unicode-based Urdu fonts to the NWFP Assembly has enabled it to begin recording 10 years of hard copy proceedings.
- **Task 4.2.2.8 Network Training Follow-up** – IT intervention enabled Balochistan Assembly LAN to be brought back online after months of inactivity.
- **Task 4.1.7 English Language and Computer Skills Enhancement** – Courses continue to be conducted for Members and Staff in all four Assemblies.

Component 0: Project Administration

SUMMARY OF THIS QUARTER'S MILESTONES AND OUTPUTS

Task 0.1.2 Provincial LDSC Meetings

Since Provincial Assemblies remained embroiled in the continuing political crisis and impending election campaigns, planned LDSC meetings this quarter did not take place. In Punjab, an LDSC meeting was scheduled for July 31, but then postponed. It is not expected that any further provincial LDSC meetings will be held during the current term of the Assemblies, which ends in November.

Task 0.2 All-Staff Planning Meeting

An all-staff coordination meeting was held on August 3, 2007. Previous activities and project plans were reviewed, along with discussions on work plan items the Project plans to pursue during the No Cost Extension. Since parliamentary terms are coming to an end, new member orientation program planning was a primary focus of the meeting. Also, completion of the Performance Monitoring Program and receipt of evaluations from stakeholders were identified.

COMPONENT 1: Representation Improved

SUMMARY OF THIS QUARTER'S MILESTONES AND OUTPUTS

- **Task 1.2 Websites Development** – All technical work on the CMS design for the four provincial websites was completed.
- **Task 1.4 Public Relations Officers (PRO) Working Group Meeting** – Meeting was held on 23 August.
-
- **Task 1.4.1 Budget Workshop for NWFP Journalists** – PLSP conducted a training session for journalists at the NWFP Assembly on the key elements of preparing and passing a provincial budget.
- **Task 1.4.3 Press Gallery Enhancements** – A draft press gallery policy was prepared and sent to all provincial PROs for review and comment in anticipation of installation of new press gallery computers and other equipment.

Task 1.1.1.1 Legislative Management Modules

Based on the Gap Analysis, further modification of the modules were made to meet Punjab Provincial Assembly requirements. Meetings between the software team and the Punjab Assembly senior management were conducted in the first week of July. The demonstration of prototype of the Punjab Legislative modules to the senior management resulted in numerous suggestions and requirements. These were analyzed by NETSOL and modification began. PLSP Project Director met with Netsol in early August to review the implementation plan and some adjustments to the dates of the deliverables were agreed.

Task 1.1.6.1 Balochistan Staff Directory

Data collection to prepare a staff directory for the Balochistan Assembly was completed and data entry began. The Balochistan interns assisted in the process.

Task 1.2 Websites Development – Provincial Assemblies

The Content Management system (CMS) of the provincial websites has been completed and tested by PLSP. The endusers signed off on the designs. These websites will work as a visualizing element and will be always available online to anyone with internet access. These websites will be searchable through popular search engines (Google, Yahoo and MSN etc.) are dynamic and database driven which enables the assembly secretariat staff to update the websites with only minimal computer skills. These websites will help in presentation improvement of respective assemblies.

Balochistan. The page design, the virtual tour and the domain name for the Balochistan Assembly website has been shared and finalized. The domain of Balochistan Assembly website will be www.pabalochistan.gov.pk.

NWFP. The page design for the NWFP Assembly website has been finalized. The domain name for the website will be www.panwfp.gov.pk.

Punjab. CMS training for the Punjab Assembly IT staff was held on 27th September, with resultant revision requests from the Assembly. Data migration has begun. The website domain name will remain: www.pap.gov.pk

Sindh. The page design and the virtual tour have been finalized. The domain name for the website will be www.pas.gov.pk.

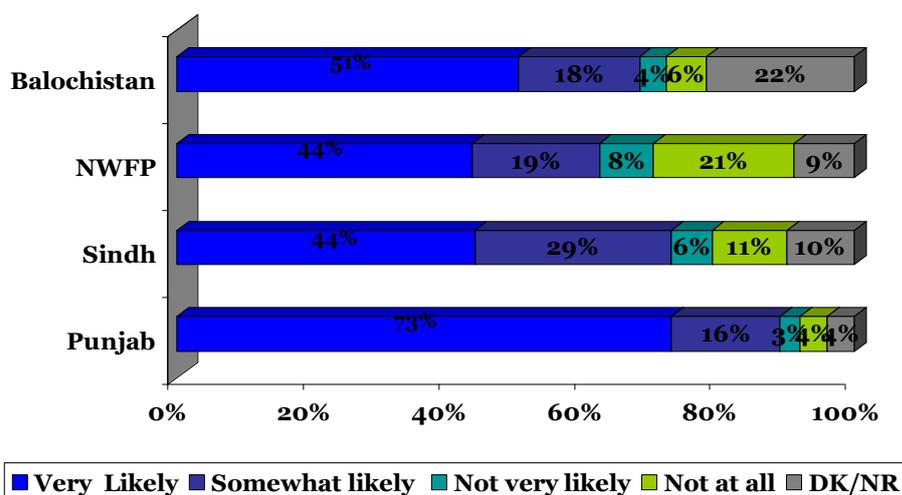
The Public Relations Officers and Media Working Group suggested that media officers should meet with IT officers regarding the direction of the websites once they are online. Provincial Coordinators were tasked with facilitating that interaction.

Task 1.3 Broadcast of Parliamentary Proceedings

The Public Relations Officers and Media Working Group met on 23 August and agreed that the issue of telecasting should be pursued. The participants agreed to send their comments on telecasting requirements to be shared with the sub-committee of Senate. IRI also included a provincial breakdown of the poll on whether citizens would be interested in televised proceedings. The survey results were shared with each assembly and are presented below.



If sessions of the National Assembly and Senate were broadcast live on TV, how likely is it you would watch?



Task 1.4 Public Relations Officers (PRO) Working Group Meeting

The Public Relations Officers (PRO) and Media Working Group met at PLSP Offices on Tuesday, 23rd August. Discussions were held on Telecasting, Websites, further training of journalists – particularly the Urdu press – on legislative procedures and the budget process, and preparations for the Orientation of New Members.

Task 1.4.1 Budget Workshop for Journalists

On September 5, forty participants attended the PLSP training conducted for journalists who cover the NWFP Assembly on the budget process. The objective of the workshop was to equip journalists with a general understanding of the budget process and analysis, how to interpret government priorities, how best to cover the proceedings and to interpret budget numbers in plain and simple language for the ordinary reader. The workshop focused on the overall budget



process structure, the critical elements of the budget, the budget cycle, and a practical understanding of the budget process in operation from the perspective of Members. Additional training seminars for journalists have been sought in NWFP, as well as plans have been made to conduct similar trainings in the other provinces, with similar results to be expected.

Task 1.4.3 Press Gallery Enhancement

PLSP has provided new equipment for the Press Galleries of all four Provincial Assemblies. A draft policy manual for journalists' use of the Press Gallery facilities has been prepared and sent to all provincial PROs for review and comment.

RESULTS OF THIS QUARTER

The level of understanding of the budget process and parliamentary procedure was raised for journalists covering the NWFP Assembly through Project training seminars.

Rasheed Safi, Bureau Chief, Jinnah (Urdu newspaper) reported to the Project that the information provided by the Project led to a series of informative articles on parliamentary performance and the coming elections. He specifically stated that the seminar helped him understand that parliamentary reporting goes well beyond the daily reporting of who said what in the assembly.

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

- NETSOL will complete Legislative management modules and amendments, and introduction of modules in Punjab Assembly.
- Continued training of journalists on the budget process and rules of procedure of all four provincial assemblies.
- Continued monitoring of progress of Senate Select Committee on Broadcasting by provincial PROs, providing resource materials and other assistance where possible.

- Formal launch of all Provincial Websites.
- Completion of installation of all Press Gallery equipment in all four provincial houses.
- Additional training for journalists and PROs at Provincial level.
- Publication of Balochistan Assembly staff directory.

COMPONENT 2: Improved Lawmaking

SUMMARY OF THIS QUARTER'S MILESTONES AND OUTPUTS

- **Task 2.1.1.14 New Member Orientation Focus Groups** – Initial Focus Group sessions were held in Balochistan and NWFP with MPAs on New Member Orientation.
- **Task 2.1.3.1 Legislative Drafting Course** – Training of Trainers conducted in August with participation from all four provinces.
- **Task 2.1.3.1.1 Member Support Services** – MNA Kunwar Khalid Younus, whose constituency is located in Karachi, worked with Sindh PITRC to develop draft legislation on encroachment in Karachi.
- **Task 2.4 Provincial Assembly Internship Program** – The first group of Provincial Assembly interns completed their work and a second group was recruited and deployed in all Houses.
- **Task 2.2.1.3 Library Equipment Procurement** – Procurement of equipment completed and shipment was en route to Pakistan.
- **Task 2.2.1.4 KOHA (Library Management System) Training for Librarians** – The first of the three-day KOHA training sessions was held in Balochistan.
- **Task 2.3.1.4 Committee Branch Working Group (CBWG)** – The group met in Islamabad on 8th August.

Task 2.1.1.14 Assemblies Conduct New Member Orientation Focus Groups

Focus Group discussions were held with Members from the Provincial Assemblies of Balochistan, NWFP and Punjab to solicit ideas for New Member Orientation. This is part of a series of focus groups to be held with MPAs and MNAs in all five Houses facing elections.

Suggested Key Topics for the NMO. The participating focus group Members generally agreed on what the key topics should be.

- **Rules of Procedures** for each House.
- **Conduct of Business** for each House.
- **Question Hour** and how the instrument of asking questions can be used to hold the government accountable besides bringing transparency.
- **Legislation** being the primary function of Members of Legislature, the Orientation Program must include some basic knowledge and drafting techniques and skills for assessing drafts.
- The **Committee System** should be included in the topics for the New Members Orientation.
- Orientation regarding an **Assembly's Basic Norms**

Suggested Orientation Design. The participating focus group also provided useful insight into how the New Member Orientation could be structured to maximize its impact. Ideas for doing so included:

- Three half-day sessions would best fit the busy schedule faced by new Members.
- Pre-election sessions could also be organized for political parties, in order to prepare their candidates to understand the duties of the office they seek.
- Extended sessions for freshman members could be organized separately.
- Orientation material should be precise and easy to read.
- Orientation materials should be provided in a CD format of all written material, and included in an assembly's welcome package for new Members.
- A floor plan of each House should be included to assist new members in finding their way during their first days in office.

Participants further recommended translating basic norms of the assembly into easy, understandable language, while the role of legislature should be introduced at an academic level to enhance awareness and understanding. Greater participation by women Members should be emphasized during the Orientation, to encourage their active role in assemblies.

Constituency Issues. It was suggested that PLSP should coordinate with the Ministry of Science and Technology, which is developing software for gathering data of each constituency. Such coordination would enable Members to get information about their constituencies and use it effectively in representing their constituents in the assembly.

Task 2.1.3.1 Legislative Drafting Course

The Training of Trainers workshop on "Legislative Drafting for Social Change" was conducted in Islamabad in August was attended by participants from all four provinces. (See 2.1.3.1 National Activities above).

An important secondary outcome of the legislative drafting training was the creation of linkages with both executive authorities and academic institutions. In NWFP, linkages were established with both the Provincial Law Department and Khyber Law College of the University of Peshawar. In Sindh, linkage was established with the Hamdard Law College. In Punjab there is a strong linkage already between the principle drafter of the Government of Punjab and the Punjab Assembly and Punjab Law College.

Task 2.1.3.1.1 Member Support Services

MNA Kunwar Khalid Younus, whose constituency is located in Karachi, worked with PITRC staff and PLSP-trained legislative drafting specialist for help in drafting a law pertaining to illegal encroachments in Karachi. As a result of the work provided on this issue, MNA Younus requested further assistance on the following legislative issues.



- Sexual harassment issues.
- Freedom of Religious Debate.
- Freedom of Thought.
- Freedom of Observance of Religious Beliefs.
- Banning the use of Children in Religious Festivals.
- Discourage Gun Usage.
- Discourage Media exploitation of violence and death.
- Creation of a Central Ground Water to harvest rain water.
- Redefine Minority as Non-Muslim in all articles of the constitution.
- Provide for Private Auditing of Government Ministries, Agencies, and Corporation.

The experiment in extending the services of PIPS through the provincial PITRC's was largely successful, but will require board approval to become a regular feature of PIPS.

Task 2.2 Parliamentary Librarians Working Group

Parliamentary Librarians' working group meeting held in Islamabad on July 31. The meeting focused on topics on the agenda of the upcoming IFLA Conference in South Africa, an update on the deployment of KOHA software, and a presentation on "National Library Initiative in the Provinces" by Mr. Chaudhry Mohammad Nazir, Director General of the National Library of Pakistan on outreach activities of the NLP to parliamentarians and in the provinces.

Task 2.2.1.3 Library Equipment Procurement

The remaining Library Equipment procured for improved Library Administration has been ordered and was en route at the time this report was prepared. Photocopiers and fax machines have been delivered to the provincial assembly libraries KOHA, an open-source Integrated library system software, has been selected for introduction into the Provincial Assemblies.

Task 2.2.1.4 KOHA Training for Librarians

While the Library Equipment upgrade was still en route, PLSP was able to work with the Provincial Assembly libraries to initiate training on the KOHA software to speed its implementation once the new equipment arrives. During this quarter, KOHA training was conducted in Quetta 24 – 27 September.

Balochistan. The three-day training session on the KOHA Library Management software was organized by PLSP for the Librarian and Assistant Librarian of Balochistan Assembly, and facilitated by Mohammad Rafique. This training focused on the installation of KOHA software and its application in day-today operations. The Librarian of the Government College, Mr. Khanozai, also participated in the training session, providing an opportunity for greater access to various collections to the Assembly. This professional linkage also provides an opportunity for professional support in the house's new automation efforts.

At the end of the training Ms. Farzana Aftab, Librarian Balochistan Assembly expressed her views that:

“The training provided good knowledge and skills about the cataloging and circulation through KOHA. By practicing KOHA in our Library, it will improve the performance and working of the Library.”

Ms. Farzana Aftab, Balochistan Assembly
Librarian

2.2.3 International Networks: Funded by the Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretary BPA Mr. Mengal and Assistant Librarian Mr. Abdul Qadir attended the IFLA Parliamentary Libraries and Research section a pre-conference session hosted by the South African Parliament in Capetown August 15-18. More than 100 delegates from 40 countries attended this meeting which provided insights to South Africa's parliament and comparative library and research practices. COP Eleanor Valentine also attended the meeting (on her own funding).

Task 2.3.1.4 Committee Branch Working Group (CBWG)

Three of the four provincial assemblies and AJK LA funded their representatives of the CBWG to attend the meeting on 8 August (described above in National Parliament Activities).

Task 2.4 Provincial Assembly Internship Program

Recruitment of the second group of interns was completed for all four provincial assemblies during this quarter. Interns have been deployed to provide research support to the respective house committees, subcommittees and administrative departments. The tasks assigned to the interns include preparing meeting minutes, preparing talking points on a specific topic for the committee chairs and for the members, summaries of the meetings and compiling annual reports. Interns have been involved in updating the databases of different committees and also providing assistance in developing web sites for the Provincial Assemblies.

Currently, 18 interns are working with the provincial assemblies. Interns have been assigned to perform different tasks which primarily include support to the secretariats of the provincial assemblies. The second group of interns in NWFP is working on developing an electronic database of Resolutions, Bills/Acts, Call attention notices and Adjournment Motions of last five years. Interns have gathered data of members of the house for uploading on the provincial assembly website. They have provided assistance in teaching the secretariat staff advance computer

courses which includes operating system installation, software installation, system backups and automatic system recovery methods. NWFP interns are also working on developing computerized accounting system for provincial assembly.

Balochistan. The first phase of internship program for Balochistan Assembly ended on 31st July 2007. 4 Interns were recruited for the first phase in which two of them got jobs and resigned from the internship, while the other two completed their term. The role of interns was appreciated by the counterparts and they requested for the extension of remaining two interns and recruitment of more interns. For the second phase 13 interns were interviewed and four were chosen for the program. As per recommendations of Assembly Secretariat the 2 interns of first group were given an extension for the second phase. A two-day orientation session was conducted for interns. Interns Coordinator and Training Specialist from Islamabad facilitated the orientation session.

<u>PROVINCIAL INTERNS STATISTICS</u>	
<u>NWFP</u>	
Total applicants	226 (204 NWFP & 22 FATA)
Total joined	08
Break down	6 Males 2 Females
<u>Sindh</u>	
Total applicants	100
Total joined	02
Break down	1 Male 1Female
<u>Baluchistan</u>	
Total applicants	13
Total joined	04 (2 New & 2 Old)
Break down	4 Males 0Female
<u>Punjab</u>	
Total applicants	176
Total joined	04
Break down	02 Males 02 Females

Interns working with the Balochistan Assembly have been assigned different tasks such as updating the computer software on all the available computers in the house which they successfully completed. Interns collected data of the staff members of grade 16 and above for developing staff directory which would further be used for putting on to the provincial assembly website.

NWFP. Eight new interns were chosen for the second group, including one for whom an extension was granted. The interns are focusing on developing a database for the Administration and Finance Department; developing job descriptions, recruitment rules and other information into a central manual; and, developing a basic database for the Legislation Branch for Resolutions, Motions, Questions, Call Attention Notices, Bills & Acts, and other legislative business.

Punjab. The first group of Punjab Assembly interns successfully completed their work and were recognized at a certificate distribution ceremony conducted by the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Sardar Shaukat Hussain Mazari and attended by the Principal Officer for the US Consulate of Lahore, Mr Bryan Hunt. Additionally, a number of Punjab MPAs, including LDSC members and top secretariat attended the ceremony.

Interviews for the second group of Assembly interns were held on July 11. Four interns were selected out of 22 short-listed candidates. After an orientation session they began work on July 16. The interns will be rotated after two months to get a broader perspective of the work of the different departments of the Assembly.

In Punjab, interns have first been assigned to work with the Public Accounts committee where they have prepared reports of the committee meetings and

annual report of the committee. Preparing the index of debates from 2004 till 2007 is another task which the intern who is assigned to work with Parliamentary Affairs and research department is doing. Finally, one of the Punjab Assembly interns conducted research on a draft bill on Forensic Science and provided orientation for the Home Committee, which approved the bill for submission to the full Assembly.

Sindh. The second round of interns selected for Sindh Assembly were recruited in August, 2007. Out of 45 short-listed candidates, four were selected and assigned to the following departments: Library Services, Question Branch, the Public Accounts Committee, and the Legislation Branch. Unfortunately, at the end of the quarter, two interns withdrew from the program. Replacements will be drawn from the finalist candidates and in place early in the next quarter.

Two interns are assigned to work with Question's branch and library of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh. Interns working with the Question's branch has prepared an electronic database of the questions and answers asked on the floor of the house from May 2005 to February 2007. The intern has also prepared a list of ministries to which the questions relate. Intern assigned to the library has prepared different research reports such as "Democracy in Pakistan 1947-2007" and "Building National Integrity: Role of Parliament and Parliamentary Libraries".

SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

- Sindh PITRC will continue to work with Karachi MNA Kunwar Khalid Younus to develop further draft legislation and research reports on other issues.
- New Member Orientation focus groups will be conducted in Sindh and Punjab Assemblies in early October.
- Library equipment will be installed in all four Provincial Assemblies
- Provincial library staff trained in the use of KOHA software.

COMPONENT 4: Improved Management/Infrastructure

SUMMARY OF THIS QUARTER'S MILESTONES AND OUTPUTS

- **Task 4.1 Punjab PITRC Inauguration** – Punjab Assembly PITRC was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Shaukat Hussain Mazari, and US Ambassador Anne Patterson.
- **Task 4.2 Procurement** – The pace of procurement deliveries to the Provincial Assemblies has increased as equipment purchased for the Proceedings Recording sections, Press Gallery media centers and Print Shops have been distributed to the individual houses. Further procurement deliveries will arrive in the next quarter with the arrival of the final shipments of Library Services and Support Services shipments.
- **Task 4.2.2.4 Urdu Font Software** – IT intervention to provide Unicode-based Urdu fonts to the NWFP Assembly has enabled it to begin recording 10 years of hard copy proceedings.
- **Task 4.2.2.8 Network Training Follow-up** – IT intervention enabled Balochistan Assembly LAN to be brought back online after months of inactivity.
- **Task 4.1.7 English Language and Computer Skills Enhancement** – Courses continue to be conducted for Members and Staff in all four Assemblies.

Task 4.1 PITRC Update

The PITRCs of the four provincial assemblies remained a center point for Members and Assembly staff during the last quarter.

Balochistan. This quarter Assembly was in session from Aug 6-13, thus the number of visitors to PITRC remained high. An average of five to six Members per day visited PITRC during session days. Outside of the Session Days, most members remained in their constituencies due to the severe flooding and the impending election, but the Center still saw an average of 1- 2 Members utilizing its services. Additionally, the new photocopier obtained by PLSP has been installed in the PITRC and its services are used regularly by the parliamentarians.

NWFP. Regular courses in Computer Skills and English Language Skills Enhancement for Staff are being held at the PITRC. Four daily classes are being held, with more than 140 participants. Additionally, MPAs visiting the PITRC are provided assistance in preparing documents and other services. Every MPA visiting the facility has expressed their appreciation for the work of the PITRC.

Punjab. The Punjab Assembly PITRC was formally inaugurated by Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Shaukat Hussain Mazari, and US Ambassador Anne Patterson on August 2. A good number of MPAs, civil society

representatives, and US Embassy and USAID Mission personnel joined the Assembly's political and secretariat leadership in attending the event. The event was fully covered by all TV channels and print media. Also, Mr. Bryan Hunt, the Consular Principal Officer and Kathy Eagan, the Consular Public Relations Officer of Lahore visited to PITRC on July 16. Punjab Assembly Secretariat leadership and Project staff gave the visitors briefings on project activities and future plans.

AMBASSADOR ANNE W. PATTERSON INNAGURATES PUNJAB PITRC



The Punjab PITRC has maintained a steady 3 to 4 Members using the facility every day, while an average of 7 to 10 secretariat staff utilize it every day.

The Project's Punjab Provincial Coordinator met with the U.S. Consulate Library Director to discuss how Punjab PITRC information resources could be supplemented with US publications, as well as strengthen its information links with the Consulate Library. A list of books was shared the Library Director, who indicated that some books might be donated to the PITRC.

Sindh An average of 10 MPAs per day used the PITRC on a regular basis during this quarter, although the recent political instability and the onset of Ramadan has lowered overall usage compared with the previous quarter. Additionally, a prolonged disruption of the assembly's main Internet connection also contributed to the number of Assembly staff utilizing the PITRC as an alternative. The Internet connection issue has since been resolved by the installation of new equipment.

Task 4.1.2 Broadband Connection

PLSP assisted the provincial assemblies in getting permanent connections to high-speed internet. The installation of new equipment and services was completed in August.

Balochistan. The network of the Balochistan Assembly has been repaired and Internet connection to the officers has been provided. Currently Deputy Speaker, Secretary to Speaker, Project Focal Persons, IT department are connected to the broadband internet facility.

"Due to the broadband internet facility, now it is very smooth for me to communicate, organize and facilitate Speaker's affairs with National and International counterparts." Zahoor Ahmed Baloch, Secretary to the Speaker

NWFP. The permanent high-speed broadband connection was installed by COMSATS at the PITRC and it will be extended to Secretariat Staff to improve the efficient collection and distribution of information within the Assembly.

Punjab. The permanent high speed broadband connection was installed by COMSATS at the PITRC.

Sindh. The permanent high speed broadband connection was installed by COMSATS at the PITRC, although there was some initial delay caused by faulty equipment now that it has been replaced, the connections are working.

Task 4.1.7 IT Courses for Assembly Staff

Balochistan. Computer course is continued through this quarter. Officers of Balochistan Assembly are improving their computing skills, which help them to perform their duties in an organized way.

NWFP. Three ongoing IT courses are being provided to Secretariat staff. Two daily basic skills classes are held four days a week, with one set of Advanced Level classes being conducted in the afternoons, also four days a week.

Punjab. The Project initiated the Computer Skills Enhancement Courses for the Punjab Assembly Secretariat. Two groups were established to accommodate the varied schedules of the participants to assure greater involvement. A third, shorter course, designed for the Assembly Secretariat leadership, was held in September.

Sindh. IT training for Assembly staff has been adjourned for Ramadan, and will be resumed afterwards.

Task 4.1.7 English Language Skills Enhancement for Assembly Staff

Balochistan. The English Language Skill Enhancement for Balochistan Assembly staff continued in this quarter. The feedback on the part of participants from time to time and especially towards the end of this trimester evidenced that they have undoubtedly improved their English language skills to a great extent. They are now in a much better position to express themselves in English and discuss any matter eloquently.

NWFP. English courses are being held four days a week at NWFP Assembly. In the mornings, there is a basic English grammar course and in the afternoon, an English language communication course is conducted.

Punjab. PLSP will be starting English Language Skill Enhancement for Balochistan Assembly staff early in the next quarter.

Task 4.2 Photocopiers

New photocopiers have been provided to all Houses distributed as below:

Photocopy machines for Provincial Assemblies			
Area	Item	Quantity	Location
Balochistan	Photocopying machine	3	1 for resource center, 1 for press gallery, 1 for library
NWFP	Photocopying machine	4	1 for resource center, 1 for press gallery, 1 for library, 1 for Admin Section
Punjab	Photocopying machine	3	1 for resource center, 1 for press gallery, 1 for library
Sindh	Photocopying machine	5	1 for resource center, 1 for press gallery, 1 for Print Shop, 1 for Library, 1 for Reporters Section

*Task 4.2.1.1 Upgrading Print Shops

PLSP has provided new equipment to the Print Shops of the Balochistan, NWFP and Sindh Provincial Assemblies, although the shipment for Balochistan has been delayed owing to damage en route; and thus will be installed upon receipt of replacement equipment. The NWFP Print Shop is awaiting finalization of its new location in the new Assembly Building. Punjab Assembly out-sources its printing, and did not require Print Shop upgrades.

Task 4.2.1.2 Upgrading Proceedings Reporting

PLSP has provided digital recorders to the Proceedings Reporting section of all Provincial Assemblies – a replacement for Balochistan of equipment damaged en route was ordered.

Task 4.2.2.3 Proceedings Reporter Section Training

As a part of the distribution of equipment mentioned above, PLSP IT Specialist Sher Shah Farooq trained reporters and recording engineers on the usage of this equipment in NWFP, Punjab, and Sindh Assemblies. This training will help preserve assembly proceedings in a digital format. Balochistan equipment will be installed upon arrival of replacement equipment.



Task 4.2.2.4 Urdu Font Software installation

USAID approved the waiver to allow PLSP to purchase sufficient numbers of Unicode Urdu Jauhar font software for all four provincial assemblies.

Task 4.2.2.8 Network Training Follow-up

Balochistan. As follow-up to the Network Management and Security Training of the previous quarter, PLSP IT Specialist visited the Balochistan Assembly and worked with the Assembly's staff to assess and restore the Local Area Network (LAN). Now 80 computer workstations are part of this LAN. The improvement of LAN has been appreciated by the counterparts and it is considered of significant nature to improve the official working.

RESULTS OF THIS QUARTER

The disconnected LAN network at Balochistan Assembly has been rehabilitated and new Network procedures and security practices put into place, enabling the full functioning of the system and improving the operating efficiency of the Secretariat. Already members, secretariat staff and leadership have noted that such a simple step has made an immense difference in their ability to function.



Delivery of Unicode-based Urdu font software has enable NWFP Assembly to began converting years of Assembly proceedings to be put into electronic format. The first product of their efforts was the recently completed 2007 Budget Debates which were in September. The particular challenge for NWFP was to find a solution which would allow them to produce trilingual debates (English, Urdu and Pashto). The experience of the production of these debates has proven that the Urdu Johar solution provided by the USAID PLSP has been successful.

صوبائی اسمبلی شمال مغربی سرحدی صوبہ

مباحثات

نگین 19 جون 2007ء
(3 بجے تا 5 بجے)

جلد 25

شمارہ 2

سرکاری رپورٹ



صفحہ 37

38

42

44

48

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مذہبات

1- صورت کوہا کے اس کو تہیز

2- قلمدانہ لکھنؤ کا پانچا

3- قرار و اجازت

4- برائیکٹی کی بحث

5- جناب سیکرٹری جناب سید خان

6- سالانہ بجٹ دے ناں سال 2007-8ء پر عام بحث

مولانا فضل علی (وزیر تعلیم): بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم۔ شکر ہے، جناب سیکرٹری صاحبہ! دا بیرہ اہم مسئلہ ہے کہ گوہر صاحبہ! صاحبہ! صاحبہ! اور ڈاکٹر سلیم صاحبہ! اور محترمہ! اولیٰ جی جو گوگور صاحبہ! نیا نہ دے موجود، چہ شکہ راشی نو روسی فرصت کیں بہ زہ ورسہ انشاء اللہ ملاقات اوکرم او دا بقیں دھانی ورکوڈ چہ زمونی بہ کوشش دا وی چہ ددے Affiliation د پشاور یونیورسٹی سرہ اوشی۔

جناب جاوید خان مومند: کہ ستا سوا اجازت وی جی نو یو پوائنٹ آف آرڈر پیش کوہ۔

جناب سیکرٹری:

جناب جاوید خان مومند: زمونہ جی دا ورسک لفٹ کینال او گریوٹی کینال یو سسٹم روان دے جی د پیر وخت نہ خو بہ ہفتے کیں د پد قسمتی نہ دا اوہو دیر Shortage دے۔ پد اوہو ہرہ ورخ زمونی د ہفتی سرہ لانیجہ وی، ہفتہ گریوٹی بانڈنے مسئلہ وی بہ دے ہم، نو لفٹ کینال د پارہ ہمپہ ہاؤس کیں خہ پراہلم راغلیے دے، زمونی وزیر ایریکشن صاحبہ ددے خہ غور اوکری چہ کم از کم، ہفتہ خلقو نہ دیر لوشے شارت روان دے خلورو او۔۔۔۔۔

جناب سیکرٹری: نوٹس تینے واغستو او انشاء اللہ کہ کلاہ دیمانہ نزا او دفعہ راغلی نو دا بہ ہفتے کیں۔ جناب انور کمال خان صاحبہ، 'General discussion on Budget' 2007-2008۔

سالانہ بجٹ برائے مالی سال 2007-08 پر عام بحث

جناب انور کمال خان: محترمہ! جناب سیکرٹری صاحبہ۔ (تایاں) میری بی، میری بی، بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم۔ سیکرٹری صاحبہ! میں آپ کا ممنون ہوں، یہ الحمد للہ اس اسمبلی کا موجودہ حکومت کا چھٹا سال ہے اور میرے خیال میں اس Tenure کا یہ شاید آخری بجٹ ہوگا۔ اس دوران اس سے پہلے بھی ہم نے کئی کئی بار بجٹ اس پاس میں پیش کئے اور یہ آخری بجٹ ہے اس

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Summary of Plans for Next Quarter

- Final delivery will be made of outstanding procured equipment to all Houses.
- Completion of all trainings related to Procurements for all Houses.
- Training for assembly staff on the new print shop equipment after installation
- Follow-up training for IT staff of all houses.
- Installation of Unicode-based Urdu font software in all Houses.
- Continuation of English Language and Computer Skills Enhancement Courses in all Houses.

IV. COOPERATION WITH OTHER DONORS

During this quarter the PLSP Project Director/COP Valentine met with Marvi Sirmed Project Manager of the UNDP UNDP Support to Democracy through Parliamentary Development (SDPD) project on several occasions. In July, the UNDP project shared their consultant's recommendations regarding the library and research services of the national parliament.

Although workplans are shared between the two projects and opportunities for cooperative efforts discussed, the UNDP SDPD conducted Rules Training for National Assembly member which were duplicative of previous efforts of PLSP.

PLSP collaborated with IRI in Pakistan to include a question on their quarterly survey regarding the public's interest in having live broadcasting of parliamentary sessions.

In July, PLSP cooperated with PILDAT, a local NGO implementing the Youth Parliament program under DFID funding to provide the PIPS interim facility for a meeting of the Youth Parliament. UK Foreign Minister David Milliband was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

PLSP cooperated with the Information Resource Center at the US Embassy regarding information services that might be extended to the PITRC's in the provincial capitals. Ellie Valentine and Bushra Naqvi attended a session on WEB 2.0 which was later shared with all the Provincial coordinators and librarians.

PLSP consultant, Andrew Ross met with a number of partners and donor colleagues while investigating the possibilities of the GIS-linked information database. This included UN agencies, USAID projects (Districts that Work), DFID projects, and the Asia Foundation.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

DAI was awarded a no-cost extension on September 6, 2007 to continue its work through March 31, 2008. A workplan for the NCE period was submitted to USAID on September 25, 2007.

Director of USAID Pakistan Office of Democracy and Governance, Julie Koenen-Grant departed Pakistan for a new posting on August 3. A number of officers from the DG office in USAID Washington were therefore assigned temporary duty in Pakistan. PLSP Project Director and staff met with Michael Hryshchyn, Hassan Baroudy and Barbara Smith during their assignments in Pakistan.

The project made a presentation to the new Mission Director Anne Aarness on the project goals and progress in August.

Secretary of the National Assembly Zia ul Haq retired from the Civil Service of Pakistan on August 8, 2007. On August 9, 2007 Special Secretary Karamat Niazi was appointed as the new Secretary of the National Assembly. Since the project has well-established ties with Secretary Niazi, this administrative transition was smooth.

COP Eleanor Valentine was on leave from August 15 to September 17, 2007.

Umbreen Salim was hired in July 2007 to fill the position of PLSP Program Assistant.

Nadia Batool was began work as PLSP's new Training Coordinator in July 2007.

In July, PLSP Legislative Capacity Coordinator Zafar Habib was given notice and a recruitment notice was issued. The position was in the final stages of the interview process at the time this report was compiled.

An extension of the current project office lease until March 31, 2008 was successfully negotiated with the landlord, who had been pressing to have the office vacate the premises in October

Contracts with all current PLSP technical and support staff were extended.

Patricia Gilbert who had been serving as Project Associate moved to new assignments at DAI. Jean-Marc Gorelick joined the project providing administrative assistance from the home office in August.

DAI Vice President for Conflict Mitigation and Democracy and Governance had an opportunity to meet with project staff and counterparts while on other DAI business in Pakistan.

VI. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND REMEDIAL SOLUTIONS

Task 0.1.2 LDSC Meetings – NWFP

Rifts within the majority coalition have marred relations among LDSC members and prevented the holding any LDSC meetings.

Remedial Solution: With the likely early dissolution of the NWFP Assembly, it is likely that no new LDSC meetings will be held, and a new LDSC will need to be constituted after the parliamentary elections expected in the first quarter of 2008.

Task 1.2 Website Developments – Senate Committees

While originally planned was to launch the three websites simultaneously in August, slow response from the Senate staff in taking over the management of the websites delayed the plan. Most of the Senate staff are not well versed with IT, and nor is it interested in taking up the task. The website of the Committee on Education and Science and Technology has been the most problematic as the focal person handling the website affairs was transferred, causing a delay in the transference of the website administration.

Remedial Solution: The Project is arranging a meeting with the Chair of the Senate Education Committee to resolve the issue. It is expected that once the new staffer understands the simplicity of the task, the issue will be resolved. Also the IT Department of the Senate Secretariat will take on responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of the Senate Committee websites. The Intern assigned to the committee will also be trained on the steps for uploading information to quickly complete the initial population of the site.

Task 1.2 Website Developments – Provincial Assemblies

The project has experienced serious delays in the development of the provincial assembly websites. Some of the delays were delays in decision-making on the part of the counterparts (late approval of designs, lack of closure on static text) and some are due to delays in the design of the Content Management System by the contracted local firm. At end of the quarter training of the three Provincial Assemblies on the administration and maintenance of the websites was still not completed:

Remedial Solution: PLSP has requested from the Website designers a precise accounting of when each phase of the project would be completed and gave a non-negotiable “go live” date of October 12 (Eid) for all four sites. It is understood that the preliminary sites of all the assemblies will be online by that date. The virtual tour, which was delayed by the continued construction issues, will be completed in time for the site to go online.

Task 1.3 Broadcast of National Parliamentary Proceedings

Despite promising developments in the previous quarter, the Senate Finance Committee Special Sub-Committee on Telecasting did not meet as expected during this quarter. While there is often reference to the importance of reporting the work of a legislature live, real progress in this area has been hampered at the highest levels. However, the change in leadership of the National Assembly Secretariat has changed this situation, although the current political uncertainty has continued to hamper development in this area. It is hoped that there will be movement in the next quarter on this matter.

Remedial solution: The project will reformat its draft telecasting proposal and draft broadcasting policy guidelines into a White Paper for submission to the Special Sub-Committee which will hopefully form the basis for a plan of action.

Task 1.4.1 Budget Workshop for Journalists in National Parliament

The PLSP had scheduled a series of Parliamentary Procedure and Rules Workshops for Journalists at the National Parliament beginning on 31 July, but the introduction of strict security measures at the Parliament Lodges the previous night forced postponement of the workshops. New Security Regulations have been introduced by the administration of Parliament Lodges, requiring 7 days notice in writing of any non-authorized personnel gaining entrance. The continuing political upheaval prevented any speedy rescheduling of the workshops.

Remedial Solution: Discussions have been held with national journalists to determine how best to address this issue and decided to postpone the series of workshops to the next quarter, focusing on provincial workshops for the remainder of the current quarter. The national workshops have now been rescheduled and will be held in November.

Task 1.4.3 Press Gallery Enhancements

The National Assembly and Senate did not agree to deliver and install the Press Gallery equipment prior to the presidential elections for security reasons. In Punjab Assembly, the Press Gallery has no space for installing computers in the current assembly building.

Remedial Solutions: The National Assembly and Senate Press Gallery equipment will be installed after the presidential elections.

The new Punjab Assembly building, slated for completion at the end of December 2007, will have dedicated space for Press Gallery computer stations. In the interim, and after consultation with members of the Press Gallery Committee of Journalists, the equipment is being installed in the PRO office, which is from where journalists currently file their stories.

Task 2.1.2.2 General Training Issue – TA/DA payments

During the final quarter of CY 2006, it was determined in conjunction with USAID that the Project would pay TA/DA for counterparts who traveled to participate in Project Legislative Working Group meetings during the first two quarters of the year. The purpose of this move was to enable all houses to include funding in their respective Financial Year's budget that began on 1st July. In the instance of Balochistan, however, the Secretariat had so narrowly defined the request to the

provincial finance ministry (i.e. travel to USAID activities) that it was turned down, thus leaving that Assembly without travel funds for participation for any training purposes.

Remedial Solution: The Project has provided the Secretariat of the Balochistan Assembly with a better wording formula for resubmission of the request for TA/DA to the ministry and is awaiting the results of this re-submission.

Task 2.4.2 Intern Program – Sindh

After one month two interns withdrew from the program. One left the program because he felt that the attitude of the supervisor was not encouraging because he was not allowed to be included in all meetings, even meetings regarding personnel, administrative finance and other confidential matters. The second intern decided to leave the program because he attempted to be both a student with classes preparing for the Civil Service Exam, as well as an intern. At the time of his interview he was taxed with this question by the interviewers, but had presented a convincing case for being able to handle both.

Remedial Solution: The Provincial Coordinator, acting in coordination with the Intern Coordinator in the Islamabad Project office, will select replacements from those interviewed by the selection committee, based on their ranking.

Task 4.1 PITRCs – Sindh & NWFP

The unstable political situation, frequent strikes, protests also hamper the working of the PITRC and project activities.

Remedial Solution: The staffs of the respective PITRCs have been instructed to act with caution in cases where the possibility of unrest or violence exists, and operate accordingly.

Task 4.1.2 PITRC Air Conditioner Procurement – Sindh

The split air conditioner which was sent for installation in the press gallery was requested by the assembly to be installed in another office of the assembly instead of its designated place. The assembly was willing to give us a window AC instead of the new split AC for their new office as they were of the view that a split AC couldn't be installed in the press gallery.

Remedial Solution: It was explained to the Sindh secretariat that under the terms of the MOU, the equipment must be installed as originally planned. The placement in the PITRC of an older, but functioning air conditioning unit (from the national PRC in Islamabad) allowed the unit that had originally been supplied by the Sindh Assembly to be used for other purposes.

Task 4.1.7 IT and English Courses for Punjab MPAs

It has proven somewhat problematic in providing regular courses for Punjab Assembly MPAs owing to their sometimes unpredictable schedules. The current political situation, coupled with the anticipated election campaign, has seen most MPAs remain in their constituencies.

Remedial Solution: The computer course instructor has made himself available for individual training sessions with MPAs, as needed, but in the meantime will concentrate on Secretariat Staff Training.

Efforts are underway to develop a series of one-day English language enhancement courses that focus on specific topics, i.e. legislative definitions and usage, in order to provide enhancement to legislators English language skills that can have immediate impact on their needs.

Task 4.2.1 Procurement Delivery Problems – Balochistan.

The shipment of Print Shop and Proceedings Reporting Audio equipment dispatched to Balochistan suffered serious damage owing to the negligence of the local shipping company. Not only did the company fail to exercise prudence by having a driver attempt to deliver the equipment in the midst of extreme flooding through areas known to have damaged roads and bridges, but the company had neglected to inform the Project of the fact that it did not have landing rights at the Quetta airport, thus forcing it to fly the equipment to Karachi, and continuing the routing by land transport, thus creating the problem.

Remedial Solution: Replacement equipment has been ordered and compensation from the transport company for the loss has been requested.

Task 4.2.2.3 Upgrading Recording/Editing Capacity of the Reporter Sections

While most of the recording equipment was delivered and installed in all the house, a technical issue related to the custom-built audio system arose during installation.

Remedial Solution: A solution was identified and the appropriate equipment is being sought to solve the problem.

Task 4.4.3 Rules Training Duplication by UNDP

On 22 August, USAID CTO Saad Paracha informed PLSP that UNDP-SPDP had scheduled a "Parliamentary Procedures" Seminar for 28th August, in which the Project's Technical Advisor, Mr. Goraya Khan, would be featured as a key speaker. However, until Mr. Goraya requested a copy of the agenda of the event he was unaware that he was listed as one of the resource persons. While termed a CSO-targeted event, with Media invited, it involved Members, Secretariat and former Members and the Secretariat and UNDP did not inform the Project of this event, contrary earlier promises to share information to help ensure that the two projects did not engage in duplicate efforts. This event was held adjacent to a UNDP-SPDP Education Policy Dialogue with parliamentarians, mirroring the PLSP event held in March of 2007. In both cases, upon notification of the events by USAID, Project staff made repeated efforts to obtain copies of the agendas of the two events in order to discuss with UNDP-SPDP the need to avoid duplication of effort.

Remedial Solution: The Project Director is seeking to re-establish regular discussions with UNDP-SPDP aimed at reviewing upcoming programming to ensure that both projects' resources are applied to maximum efficacy through the avoidance of duplicative programming.

VII. UNRESOLVED ISSUES OR CONSTRAINTS ON THE PROJECT

The constantly shifting political situation created considerable unpredictability in scheduling programming, with planned assembly sessions shifting and/or being postponed. This impacted efforts to conduct national and provincial LDSC meetings. Sudden shifts in security levels also led to postponement of planned trainings for journalists on parliamentary procedures and rules. Sudden changes of traffic patterns, particularly determination by government officials to completely block roads in Islamabad on numerous occasions prevented Project staff living in Rawalpindi from coming to work at the office.

Similar issues are present for Project staff at the Provincial Assemblies, particularly Sindh and NWFP – the former owing to its close proximity to the Sindh High Court, which is involved in hearings related to the 12 May shootings in Karachi, the latter being a potential target for insurgents. Sindh Assembly has had its operations disrupted by civil unrest more than NWFP, but both offices are still able to meet most Members' needs at this point. However, the continued political instability in both locations raises security issues for Project staff. The instruction to staff continues to be that they consider safety and security issues above all else.

With presidential elections pending under unusual circumstances of judicial proceedings questioning the eligibility of the candidates and then the parliamentary election campaigns beginning, these disruptions are likely to be more frequent. However the project will continue to work with the secretariats of the assemblies, the Senate and develop New Member Orientation activities as planned