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PAKISTAN LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING PROJECT

Quarterly Report (January 1 – March 31, 2010)
Contract No. DFD-I-00-04-00129-00
(18th Quarterly Report for Task Order 01)

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Development Alternatives, Inc.

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(19th Quarterly Report for Task Order 01)

This quarterly report is submitted to the Project COTR Humaira Ashraf of the Office of Democracy and Governance of USAID-Pakistan Mission under the guidelines as stated in Clause A.6 of the contract.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	4
III. NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL PROGRAMMING	6
MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS	6
COMPONENT 1: REPRESENTATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH IMPROVED	7
TASK 1.1 ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY	8
TASK 1.2: INCREASE CONSTITUENCY OUTREACH	8
TASK 1.3 ENHANCE THE PUBLIC'S KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS	9
COMPONENT 2: LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES	11
TASK 2.1 BUILD CAPACITY OF PERMANENT PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES (PIPS)	11
TASK 2.2 SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES (FATA AND WOMEN'S CAUCUSES)	13
TASK 2.3 BUILD LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING CAPACITY	14
TASK 2.4 INCREASE QUALITY, TIMELINESS AND PUBLICATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS	14
COMPONENT 3: LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT	15
TASK 3.1 ENHANCE FUNCTIONING OF COMMITTEE SYSTEM	15
COMPONENT 4: INFRASTRUCTURE/MANAGEMENT CAPACITY	20
TASK 4.1 ENHANCE STRATEGIC PLANNING	20
TASK 4.2 ENHANCE SECRETARIAT HUMAN RESOURCES	22
TASK 4.3 ASSESS CURRENT IT INFRASTRUCTURE	25
TASK 4.4 IMPROVE LIBRARIES AS RESEARCH FACILITIES	26
COMPONENT 5: CROSS-CUTTING SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS	26
TASK 5.1 QUICK IMPACT MECHANISM	26
IV. COOPERATION WITH OTHER DONORS/PROJECTS	27
V. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	28
VI. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND REMEDIAL SOLUTIONS	29
APPENDICES	30

* Appendices are attached electronically

I. OVERVIEW

Politically this quarter, the National Parliament was consumed with final revisions and tabling (on April 2, 2010) of the 18th Amendment of the Constitution. The "18th Amendment Bill" – which was later passed – reverses the concentration of power that accumulated under the presidency of Musharraf. It returns important powers to the Prime Minister such as dissolution of parliament and appointment of the Army chief. In addition, it was expected to revise the "concurrent list" of legislation, giving more powers to Provincial Assemblies to legislate new areas such as education.

Although some elements of the reforms remain controversial, including how judges will be selected, overall this reflects an important move to reinforce a system of parliamentary democracy.

- The most significant event of this month from the project perspective is the **approval of the Executive Director of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)** by the Board of Governors, after a delay of six months. This news will allow PLSP to move forward quickly to help PIPS become fully operational before PLSP comes to an end. The significant lobbying efforts of USAID and PLSP personnel to move the process forward should be noted as a factor in the timing of the decision.
- **NWFP announced the formal launching of its Legal Drafting Unit**, with Mr. Hidayatullah, Assistant Secretary and PLSP Project Focal Person, being named as the head of the new unit. PLSP has been training and interns have assisted staff who will work in the unit, and PLSP is providing small office and IT equipment for its operation.
- **PLSP consultants completed HR Assessment** of Senate and National Assembly, with a final report expected mid-April, 2010
- **Balochistan Women Caucus Formalized**: Speaker Bhootani met with women members and decided upon an election process for the Chair of the Women Caucus. The election – between two members – will take place in the Speaker's office on April 5, and all women members will be invited to participate.
- **ICT Advancements**: PLSP received nearly all of its equipment procurement by the end of March, and deployment of major systems will begin in the **National Assembly** by the second week of April, and roll out to the other Assemblies in turn. In the provincial houses of Balochistan, Sindh and NWFP there are still outstanding stakeholder agreements that the Assemblies need to implement (such as hiring of new ICT staff, ensuring bandwidth, and issuing directives on new email protocols), although PLSP has worked feverishly with these Assemblies to finalize this.
- **Sindh Assembly announces Committees Participation in Budget Making**: Speaker of the Sindh Assembly on March 29 announced that the provincial government had decided to take all members of the Sindh Assembly on board in the budget-making process in the upcoming budget cycle by including Committee input in the Annual Development Plan (ADP). The local media reported that this would be for the first time in the recent history of the Sindh government that all members of the house would contribute their proposals to budget making and all standing committees would be activated for this purpose. This is a direct result of PLSP training and advocacy over several budget cycles.
- **Balochistan Strategic Plan Launched**: On March 5, the Balochistan Assembly created history by launching the first ever Strategic Plan for its legislature. The Speaker Balochistan Assembly was the chief-guest at the launch which was also attended by parliamentary leaders of all political parties, senior members, ministers and secretariat staff. It was well covered in the local media. During March, PLSP also held several meetings, including with the Speaker to insure the Assembly included the necessary line items in their house budgets.
- **Sindh Assembly drafts new Rules of Procedures**: The Sindh Rules Committee have drafted new Rules of Procedures, based on some of the recommendations of PLSP and of the strategic plans. PLSP

continues to assist the Committee to refine the draft and hopes the new Rules will be put before the house before project close.

Training on Parliamentary Management: PLSP trained a total of 86 staff members, including those from the Public Accounts Committees, in all Provincial Houses. Due to high demand, PLSP expanded the size of the classes.

PLSP consultants completed assessment of strategic communications capacity and recommendations in Punjab and Sindh Provincial Assemblies.

II. NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL PROGRAMMING

MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS

Balochistan LDSC: The Balochistan LDSC meeting was held on March 5 in the PITRC. Members present included: LDSC Chair Dr. Ruqqaya Saeed Hashmi, Minister for Quality Education Mr. Jan Ali Changezi, Advisor to Chief Minister Uzma Piralizai, and Secretary Mohammad Khan Mengal. The project provided various updates on activities in Balochistan, and discussed the NA Speaker's interest in launching the Women Caucus in Balochistan (see more information below.) She indicated two outstanding matters, which were decisions concerning the non-ICT portion of the Quick Impact Mechanism, and the Balochistan Assembly newsletter that had been prepared, but needed the signature of the Speaker.

Balochistan meeting with the SP Committee and Speaker: USAID Humaira Ashraf, PLSP CoP and Focal Person, and Strategic Planning Committee members were called to meet with the Speaker prior to the above-mentioned LDSC. The discussion revolved around some outstanding issues in the Strategic Plan (launched later that evening) that need the Speaker's leadership. These included:

- Balochistan commitments related to sustainability of ICT initiatives (for example, the purchase of more bandwidth to support equipment such as video conferencing) as well as to training, etc.;
- The activation of the Standing Committee system;
- Certain changes in the Rules of Procedure

The Speaker (along with the Focal Person and the Finance Officer, who were also present) assured PLSP and SP Committee that all the necessary line items applicable to the Strategic Plan had been/or were being added to this year's budget. With regard to Rules changes and Committees, the Speaker said that with the coalition government this was "very difficult" and that it could happen only with the support of the whole coalition (and the Chief Minister). He promised to continue to advocate for this.

Meeting with NA Deputy Speaker: CoP, DCoP and Representation Advisor met with the Deputy Speaker who has been out of Islamabad for the past several weeks, most recently in his constituency related to by-elections in his area. The group discussed outstanding issues that required his support, including approval of PIPS rules and NA telecasting launch. He reported that the NA Speaker has been out of pocket again due to death of her brother. The Deputy Speaker also raised the issue of the FATA Caucus. The result of that discussion is detailed below under Component II.

National Assembly LDSCs: On January 19 and on March 30, respectively, PLSP hosted LDSC sessions at PIPS.

In the January 19 meeting, the key point of discussion was the status of PIPS, as the ED was still not approved at that time. Much discussion revolved around the role of LDSC in pushing the Board of Directors towards a decision. By the end of the meeting, the Deputy Speaker had agreed to speak again to the Speaker of the National Assembly (and Mr. Goraya was later approved in February).

On March 20 the main issues discussed included the status of PIPS, and the process of project handover; the Senate – NA Library Consolidation. Key points include:

- PIPS Board of Governors needs to approve both the financial rules and the other administrative/recruitment rules of PIPS before it can become fully operational. This has become urgent, as PLSP is in close-down phase and needs to turn over modules and services to PIPS staff. PIPS ED and members of LDSC who are also members of PIPS BoG indicated that this should be resolved over the coming weeks, and the Speaker was aware of the urgency.
- Members believed there was support for Parliamentary Service in both houses, although they recognized this could be a threat to staff. They urged that when the PLSP HR report is launched soon, that a working group of members and Secretariat staff be formed to take up the issue.

- Members requested a “newsletter” describing all the ICT improvements and updates, as other members are often not aware of all that is going on. PLSP will do so in cooperation with the NA Automation Department, as soon as systems are near to final.
- Library Consolidation – PLSP reported that automation improvements and a union catalog for all houses was on schedule. As for the physical consolidation, the leaders of NA and Senate still need to issue a directive to the Secretariat. The PIPS ED pointed out the constitution allows for some facilities to be taken under a “joint service” agreement between the two houses, and the consolidated library would fall in this category. LDSC asked PIPS ED to draft such joint service rules. PLSP indicated that they would support this effort.

CoP also conducted in-depth meetings this month with new Senate Focal Person, Joint Secretary Mr. Abdul Sami Khan, and with NA Focal Person Mr. Bhatti on all outstanding issues, particularly the stakeholder ICT requirements as outlined in the approved ICT assessments.

COMPONENT 1: REPRESENTATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH IMPROVED

TASK 1.1 ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY

Telecasting

National Assembly: With installation completed at the end of December 2009, the telecasting vendor provided comprehensive user training to the limited telecasting staff at the National Assembly. Preliminary plans for an official handover ceremony with the Assembly Speaker and the US Ambassador were postponed. Coordination for the handover ceremony is now being coordinated with USAID directly.

Sindh Assembly: Installation work began and continued throughout the first quarter. Due to unanticipated delays caused by Assembly sessions, the installation process was delayed. Final installation is expected to be complete by end of April, with training of relevant staff to begin in May.

Videoconferencing

All Houses: Videoconferencing equipment was installed on-site in all four provincial assemblies and PIPS. One-year service contracts between the vendor and the respective houses were issued and signed. PIPS has indicated plans to hold an inaugural videoconference event (call) with all houses to discuss PIPS transition sometime during May.

Website Development

National Assembly PAC: A final, revised prototype of the PAC website was completed and placed online. While preliminary content was uploaded, the final design has yet to be official approved by the PAC Chairman. To best alert the public that the sight is “still under development,” a disclaimer is loaded for 10 seconds when one first visits the site indicating that it is still under constructions. Once the final design is approved, construction of the site will continue.

Other Parliamentary Websites: A final vendor was selected for the redevelopment of all assembly websites, Senate website, Punjab bylaws website, and the three existing standing committee websites. This includes the insertion of links to social networking sites, new media tools, and the incorporate of a Content Management System (CMS). Extensive development work was completed in consultation with each house, and final design prototypes were presented to each house for their approval. Once final approval is received for all 12 websites (including the National Assembly PAC), final construction of the sites will be completed.

TASK 1.2: INCREASE CONSTITUENCY OUTREACH

SMS Constituent Outreach System

Sindh Assembly: An STTA expert was hired to manage the preliminary phase of a test of an SMS-based system to facilitate communication between parliamentarians, the public, and the Assembly staff. Such a system will be tested in the Sindh Assembly during the early part of the second quarter. In preparation, information gathering meetings were held with key stakeholders in the Sindh Assembly and the selected SMS development vendor.

TASK 1.3 ENHANCE THE PUBLIC'S KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

NGO/Legislative Watchdog Activities:

In this quarter, PLSP continued to work with three NGOs – Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE), PILDAT and Aurat Foundation.

In this quarter PLSP and the **PCE** held policy dialogues and helped to translate the national policy on education in Urdu.

On January 30, 2010, PLSP assisted the PCE to hold a policy dialogue with the Members of the Punjab Assembly's Standing Committee on Education on the new government education policy, and its implications for the province. The dialogue was also attended by representatives from the international and local CSOs working in the education sector.

At the policy dialogues on the new education policy, the Members of the Balochistan and Punjab Assembly requested for translating the policy into Urdu. PLSP helped the PCE in translating the national education policy. The PCE is reviewing the translated version of the policy in consultation with the federal Ministry of Education.

Punjab Assembly evaluation: On behalf of USAID-PLSP, PILDAT is evaluating the two-year performance of the Punjab Assembly through consultations, data collection and media monitoring to prepare a legislative scorecard.

PILDAT held a Consultative Session on the Performance of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, chaired by Deputy Speaker Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan. A select group of Punjab MPAs participated alongside renowned opinion makers, and intellectuals and journalists. Recommendations such as giving *suo moto* powers to the Committees in Punjab Assembly, making Committees more effective, and support infrastructure for MPAs to carry out their roles effectively were also made at the Consultative Session.

PILDAT will hand over the draft report on the Punjab Assembly evaluation to PLSP by the end of April 2010. The evaluation report is expected to be launched in mid May.

Aurat Foundation/Women Legislative Agendas: Aurat Foundation is in final stages of completing the national and provincial desk reviews to determine the connection between the national policy agenda with the focus on provincial legislative status and needs, related to laws of interest to, or particularly affecting, women. The desk reviews are expected to be completed in the first two weeks of April.

PLSP held a meeting with Aurat Foundation at the PLSP's Islamabad office in March. The meeting, attended by the staff of PLSP including Provincial Coordinators and Aurat Foundation staff/consultants in Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta, reviewed the progress of the project and how to go about the activities in each provincial assembly. Aurat began its desk review of women-related legislation in each Assembly.

Strategic Communications: As recommended in the strategic plans, in this quarter PLSP worked with the Punjab and Sindh Assemblies in examining their current communication plans and what needs to be done to improve the image of the two provincial assemblies.

PLSP identified international and local consultants -- Mr. Jordan Day and Zia ur Rehman -- to conduct strategic communications assessment and recommendations for Punjab and Sindh Assemblies.

They visited the Sindh and Punjab assemblies and held meetings with the Assemblies' leadership, MPAs, secretariat staff from the Research, IT, Publication and Public Relation offices, journalists covering the assemblies, civil society representatives.

The findings and recommendations for the two Assemblies were similar in many respects. The report on the Punjab Assembly found that:

While the Punjab Provincial Assembly has high performing staff and good technical capacity, they are not performing up to internationally-accepted standards for timely information sharing (24 hours), public outreach and public access (publications, educational programs, community outreach), and establishing non-partisan communications offices.

The assessment found that the Punjab Provincial Assembly leadership has done an excellent job ensuring media access to the Assembly, providing facilities for the media, and generally being available to speak with the media. The Assembly gets high marks in media access.

The Assembly weakness in external communications is manifested by the lack of substantive – or event process-based - information that is available to the public – whether through the website, or hardcopy. (Websites are now considered the best medium for sharing Parliamentary information in a timely and comprehensive manner, according to the CPA).

Basic information, such as the daily agenda, minutes, and recently introduced Bills or enacted Acts are not available in a timely manner. Summary newsletters do not exist, and even live telecasting – widely accepted around the world, including in other provinces in Pakistan – has not been approved in the Punjab Provincial Assembly.

The report recommended:

Creating a **non-partisan communications office** is consistent with international standards, the CPA Benchmarks, and the (*draft*) Punjab Strategic Plan. The new office would substantially assist the Assembly in providing timely, impartial, and educational information to the public. The office would also ensure greater public outreach via community meetings, as well as strengthen public access to the Assembly.

Increasing information flow would ensure that recently introduced Bills, recently passed Acts, Question Hour transcripts, minutes of the proceedings and even the daily agenda are available electronically to the public within 24 hours – again the international standard.

Improving public outreach by the Assembly and **public access** to the Assembly would make the work of the Assembly better understood, and would generate stronger public input into the legislative process. Educational programming could target students and the young, while community outreach programming would engage civic groups, neighborhoods, Punjabi families. Public tours and an information center at the Assembly would educate the Punjab public about the institution and its relevance to their lives. Creating daily bulletins, quarterly newsletters, and info sheets would buttress this effort.

Creating a more **aggressive media relations** effort would ensure that the strategic messages the Assembly would like to share with the public are planned and executed. Using traditional press releases and press conferences is key, but so too is implementing the use of new media. The Punjab Provincial Assembly has a good start in this facet of external communications, but more can be done in a targeted and strategic manner. Finally, the Assembly must adopt a **core message** to highlight its role, purpose and commitment to the public. Without a unifying message, neither the legislators nor the public will have a clear picture of what role the Assembly plays in Punjabi life. The core message should guide communications, and could serve as the basis for a media and public outreach plan.

In terms of implementing these recommendations, the reports note that:

This communications strategy is expansive, but if adopted, will significantly strengthen the strategic communications capacity of the Punjab Provincial Assembly, as well as make the institution more transparent, accountable, and relevant to the Punjabi people.

The cost is minimal, as many of the activities can be undertaken with existing staff and resources. However, it is essential that the Assembly Leadership seriously consider the recommendation to create a new, non-partisan communications and information office. Implementing a communications strategy is difficult, at best, with limited staff and resources, and virtually impossible with no lead office to guide the communications effort. The report includes an aggressive timeline to begin implementing the changes, consistent with Punjab's (*draft*) three-year Strategic Plan.

Finally, the report offers a sample "media and public outreach" plan for the Assembly to consider as it strives to improve its public perception through a targeted, strategic communications plan.

PLSP is planning to bring Jordan Dey back to Pakistan to present his reports at the national conference of assembly secretaries in April and to the two assemblies and to hold consultation with journalists and others in order to finalize the report.

Articles on Parliament: In this quarter PLSP worked with Syed Fakhar Imam, former Speaker of the National Assembly and Technical Advisor of the project, to publish articles on the parliament, in a bid to highlight the positive aspects of the National Assembly.

The first article – Pakistan and Parliamentary Democracy, The News, <http://www.jang.com.pk/thenews/jan2010-weekly/nos-24-01-2010/pol1.htm#7> – highlighted the achievements of the parliament such as the opposition leader getting the chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee and the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Education consulting experts on the national education policy.

The second article – Vital Issues for Parliament, Dawn, <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/editorial/vital-issues-for-parliament-120--> highlighted issues for the parliamentarians for discussion in the House such as war on terror, food security and the energy crises.

Youth Civic Education: PLSP approached several local NGOs to develop a scope of work for some publication(s) related to the role of parliament, aimed at a youth (high school/university) audience. None of the NGOs – who were already doing work with youth and governance – could create a coherent proposal for funding.

PLSP is now planning to prepare a module on orientation of youth on the parliament, which will be part of the transition material to Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS). After the passage of the 18th amendment, an updated easy-to-understand module will be timely addition for the PIPS. It will help the PIPS in fulfilling the public outreach function as mentioned in the PIPS Act.

Newsletters: PLSP continued to work with the three provincial assemblies – Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – on making public their newsletters. After the trainings held in the four provincial assemblies, Sindh and Balochistan assemblies have prepared draft newsletters and awaiting the approval from the Speaker's office.

The staff of two assemblies have worked in close partnership with PLSP staff in preparing the draft newsletter. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly is in the process of preparing the newsletter. The Punjab Assembly has said that they will publish the newsletter bi-annually.

Priorities for Next Quarter

- Development of Orientation Module on Parliament for Youth

- Launch of PILDAT Evaluation Scorecard for Punjab Assembly
- Undertake Urdu Translations of PIPS Training Modules especially viz a viz Rules of Procedure, Legislative Research and Business of the House.
- Conduct of Media Trainings for NA/Senate in partnership with PIPS
- Preparation, editing and printing of closing conference book
- Turning over youth module to PIPS

COMPONENT 2: LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES

TASK 2.1 BUILD CAPACITY OF PERMANENT PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES (PIPS)

Development of PIPS Research Services and Documents

Establishing PIPS: In a meeting of the PIPS Board of Governors on Feb., 23, 2010, the issue of the PIPS Executive Director was resolved as the Board vested their confidence in the Speaker to take the final decision. In this context, the Speaker and the BOG approved the appointment of Mr. Khan Ahmed Goraya as the PIPS Executive Director. The BOG also approved the PIPS budget for the fiscal year June 2009 – June 2010.

This breaks the log jam of the last six months, whereby PLSP could not officially begin to turn over staff, equipment and services for full PIPS operation. PLSP Project Director met briefly with Mr. Goraya on February 26, 2010, to congratulate him on his appointment and update him on PLSP activities. A more formal meeting was held in March concerning details of PLSP transition.

While the PIPS Board of Governors has approved the Executive Director and its first year budget, it has not yet finalized PIPS rules that will govern administration, recruitment, etc. Therefore PIPS ED cannot hire new staff yet, nor sign any checks (because there is no finance officer). PLSP has continued to advocate with Board and LDSC members that this be finalized as soon as possible, or a smooth transition from PLSP to PIPS will be jeopardized. PLSP was informed that the Board plans to resolve this by the end of April.

In the interim, PLSP has actively started preparation for transformation its research and training programs to the PIPS. In this context, the following training modules are being translated into Urdu, upon repeated demand by members, for future use by the PIPS trainers:

- i. Legislative Research
- ii. Question Hour
- iii. Privileges and code of conduct
- iv. Public Hearings
- v. Conflict Resolution
- vi. Assessing and Drafting Legislation
- vii. Business of the House (NA, Senate and all provinces)

Development of PIPS Research Services and Documents: PLSP continues to support PIPS “**Research on Demand**” Services. The project delivered a total of 20 exclusive researches to the parliamentarians that included five requests for specialized legislative research and informational reports in January 2010, seven in February, 2010 and another eight in March, 2010 respectively.

In January, 2010, PLSP provided two quick Research Requests for **MNA Dr. Donya Aziz** related to Legal standing of Informed Consent. It is noteworthy that Dr Donya Aziz is an active member of the Standing Committee on Health, which required above request on 24 hours notice for a parliamentary meeting on the subject of negligence at hospitals. It is noteworthy that the Standing Committee set up a subcommittee to hold a hearing with leading lawyer Aitezaz Ahsan as a follow up.

Dr. Donya Aziz then contacted us again for a lawyer's opinion about Legal Standing of Informed Consent within a few hours. Mr. Sohail Ansari, one of the members of PIPS ToT Network on Legislative Drafting submitted a two page legal opinion, which was utilized for questioning in the sub-committee on health meeting. MNA Dr Donya Aziz informed PLSP that the Committee is in light of PIPS/PLSP researches is drafting bill on hospital reforms and informed consent.

The law making team also undertook two researches for Deputy Chairmen Senate Jan Muhammad Jamali, one on WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT- THE QUESTION OF RESERVE SEATS, and another on PAKISTAN'S POLICY OPTIONS ON WOMEN REPRESENTATION. Both researches were done by the PLSP law making team. These researches were asked for information required for discussion in the Joint Parliamentary Committee of both Senate and the National Assembly debating the 17th amendment so as to bring the women in active electoral politics rather than reserve seats, where they are primarily nominated at the whims of party chiefs.

The sixth informational research in January 2010 was asked by the Sind MPA Heer Soho from MQM regarding the recently discussed bills on Domestic Violence and Harassment at Workplace bill . The MPA intends to bring a private members bill in Provincial Assembly in Sind on similar lines.

In February, 2010, PLSP on behalf of PIPS, provided a quick comparative Research Request to MNA Mr. Balighur Rehman on a few hours notice. The MNA asked for a research on **Best Laws on Plant Breeders Rights viz a viz Farmers Rights**, a comparison of TWO BEST Legislations regarding the issue reached in India and Norway. It is noteworthy that PLSP Law making Team conducted the research themselves. (See Annex A)

MNA Mr. Balighur Rehman, Member, Standing Committee on Food and Agriculture, then contacted us again for **5 page Research Paper on the concept of Plant Breeders Rights and evolution of its legislation in Pakistan**, which was utilized for questioning in the subcommittee on assessing the Plant Breeders Right Bill 2009-10 under discussion. The research was conducted by the Legislative Capacity Advisor, PLSP.

The law making team also drafted four MOTIONS and one RESOLUTION for MPA Ms Heer Soho, from the MQM. The MPA had sent numerous clippings and newspaper excerpts with comments to draft said motions, which she has put forth during the present session of the Provincial Assembly of the Sindh. (See Annex B)

In March 2010, PLSP conducted a total of eight researches for three different parliamentarians. PLSP on behalf of PIPS undertook four researches, two analytical and two informational, for **MNA Mr. Balighur Rehman, a member Standing Committee on Food and Agriculture**, in the second week of March 2010. The MNA utilized a key role in said Standing Committee that drafted, reviewed and finalized the Patent Law 2010 and the Pesticide Legislation 2010, respectively. The three researches conducted by PLSP law making Team are:

Analytical 17 page paper on Pesticide legislations in US, Canada and India prepared by Mr. Akmal Waseem, a Karachi-based lawyer and a member of the PIPS Legislative Drafting and Assessing ToT Network.

Definition of Fake Pesticides

FAO's International Code of Conduct for Pesticides

Summary of the Taiwan Pesticide Legislation

Senator S M Zafar requested for the following three informational researches in the month of March 2010:

Text of Criminal Amendment Ordinance 1968

The Criminal Law (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1968

List of Authorities and Rulings on National Accountability Bureau

PLSP delivered the three informational researches within hours on March 10-12, 2010 respectively. Mr. Sohail Ansari, Lawyer at the Baluchistan High Court, Quetta, one of the members of the PIPS Legislative Drafting ToT Network undertook the researches.

PLSP conducted a 10 page research on US AFPAK policy: Implications for Pakistan's foreign policy for MNA Noor Alam Khan, who was on a study tour of the US. The research was conducted by Ms. Mussarrat Jabeen, Head of the Department, International Relations, Baluchistan University, Quetta, who is one of the members of the PIPS cadre of researchers.

PIPS Training and Training Network, and Legislative Drafting Initiatives:

PLSP Law making Team has completed working on an 80 page module on Research Methods, which was pre tested in the Legislative Researchers Trainings in two provinces. The finalized version is now ready to be used in a residential PIPS Researchers ToT in May 2010 once the Assembly sessions conclude.

J-STOR Online Research System: The project renewed the current J-Stor subscription through the end of 2010. Based on statistics provided by J-Stor, there has been only moderate usage of the site's resources by the Parliament staff.

TASK 2.2 SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES (FATA AND WOMEN'S CAUCUSES)

Women's Caucus: PLSP intern Fatima Hashmi was given a research task by the Speaker National Assembly Dr. Fehmida Mirza to present a paper on Regional Women parliamentary Caucuses. The PLSP law making team guided Fatima Hashmi to undertake that research on five hours notice. It is noteworthy that the research is being utilized by the Women Caucus of Parliamentarians, WPC, with regard to aligning future relationships with other women caucuses around the world as well as Pakistan's WPC leading the way to establish a regional women caucus for SAARC countries. Madam Speaker specially acknowledged the research and appreciated the PIPS/PLSP intern. PLSP Intern was also assigned the task to coordinate Madam Speaker's visit to Baluchistan for establishing Baluchistan Women Caucus.

As mentioned above, PLSP has engaged Aurat Foundation to undertake consultative and training activities to assist the Women Caucus' (formal or informal) in developing legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative year. PLSP believes this activity will lead to the formal launching of a Women Caucus in several provinces.

Women Caucus Balochistan: The National Assembly Speaker Mirza travelled to Balochistan to discuss the launching of the Women Caucus there. She asked the women members to finalize the draft by-laws that had previously been prepared with PLSP assistance. While the Speaker was there, the women members decided to nominate two candidates, MPA Dr. Ruqiyua, and MPA Uzma Pirazali, to run in the election of a Chair for the Caucus. The Speaker was made aware of the Aurat activities, and is supportive that this concrete initiative is complimentary to the Speakers plans to link all the provincial and national women's caucuses.

FATA Caucus: In January 2010, the PLSP disseminated the translated Urdu version of ICG's report on FATA to all Members of the FATA Caucus.

In March, 2010, the PLSP CoP and DCoP met with Deputy Speaker Kundi to discuss the future of the FATA caucus and PLSP's engagement with it and to express concerns raised by USAID and PLSP that members did not appear to be serious about addressing substantive issues like development and political normalization, and used the caucus as only a place to sound off about the perceived failings and shortcomings of US policy in FATA. The recent incident in which MPs decided to go home to Pakistan rather than subject themselves to the indignity of a full-body scan at the airport only heightened these concerns. The Deputy Speaker assured us that caucus members were serious and that the organization had value.

As one way of focusing the caucus and its members on more substantive issues, we discussed the possibility of preparing reports on development activities currently underway in one or more of the members' constituencies. The Deputy Speaker felt that a report like this would encourage MPs to be more constructive and substantive, because they would have an objective account of activities and needs in a specific area. While MPs frequently say they know what is going on in their area, which is usually very general and vague knowledge and is not the basis for a substantive policy discussion. Each report would compile of work being done by the various

agencies of the Government of Pakistan, international donors and local or international NGOs. They would also include as much data about the demographics and development needs of the constituency as possible. After discussion with USAID it was determined not to go forward with this concept, due to skepticism about the seriousness of the FATA members and small time remaining in the contract.

TASK 2.3 BUILD LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING CAPACITY

Session of Legislative Process and drafting laws: PLSP was requested by a Group of four MPAs from the Provincial Assembly of Punjab led by MPAs Mian Nasser with fellow members Ms. Rahila, Ms Anum, and Mr. Imran Bhatti, to conduct a session on legislative process and drafting laws. On March 15, 2010, the PLSP conducted an interactive consultation on Rules of Procedure on legislation in addition to its need and process in the Punjab Assembly. The Members were keen to ask various questions as to how to bring an idea from the conceptual to the legislative phase. In this context, a Problem Identification Exercise was conducted whereby the MPAs identified local issues like plaza demolition without rules, building of mosques on government land, qualifications of Imam Masjids, punishments to crimes such as rape of minor victims, fitness of public transport, private societies and water problem, etc. The members practiced the first step to draft legislation to develop an idea and streamline the same to write the Statement of Objectives/Purpose for the legislation. While the Members appreciated the session, they suggested following steps to PLSP:
Request for provision of an Intern by PLSP to draft Questions and assist MPAs to write ideas for legislation (this will be referred to PIPS for future intern program)
PLSP arrange a follow up presentation with a lawyer on next steps of Legislative Drafting (PLSP will accommodate).

Assisting MPAs to draft legislation on an issue and hold a policy dialogue of stakeholders, if necessary, on the subject legislation so that a bill is finally drafted on an important public issue and the people may know that their Members are trying to overcome the problems faced by Members day to day.

TASK 2.4 INCREASE QUALITY, TIMELINESS AND PUBLICATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

Improve Document Workflow for Proceedings Transcripts

A complete, 109-page assessment/report was finalized based on the recommendations of expert consultant Don Schneider. Individual reports for each house were then assembled and sent to the Secretary and other key stakeholders in each house. PLSP scheduled follow-up meetings with each house to secure endorsement of the report's key recommendations. In anticipation of this, vendor bids were solicited for an automated system that would directly connect to the microphone systems in the respective houses and allow for faster, electronic workflow of transcript creation. Upon IRM approval, such a system may be procured and installed during the second quarter.

Priorities for the Next Quarter

- Complete Formal Transition of PIPS Research on Request Services to the PIPS through development of PIPS Research brochure and holding of Advanced Legislative Research Workshop
- Pursue PLSP Rules Harmonization Initiatives pro actively with Provincial Assemblies of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtounkwa
- Legislative process conferences by Aurat Foundation in the four provincial assemblies
- Complete a Comparative analysis regarding implications of the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Conduct for Members of all Provincial Assemblies Policy Dialogue on 18th amendment and their implications of Provincial Legislators.
- Conduct ToT Reflections Exercise with all Houses
- Contribute in development of Closing Conference Material

- Contribute to Women Conference scheduled for May 24.

COMPONENT 3: LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

TASK 3.1 ENHANCE FUNCTIONING OF COMMITTEE SYSTEM

PAC Capacity building: PLSP completed delegate selection and all other logistical arrangements necessary for MNAs and staff of the PAC to participate in the World Bank's Parliamentary Accounts Committee training program at Latrobe University in Melbourne Australia from 7-13 February 2010.

The course, is practically designed, with intensive training in the following areas:

- Understanding Public Financial Documents and Public Sector Oversight
- Working with the Auditor General
- Can public sector efficiency be adequately assessed?
- Issues for Public Accounts Committees and Auditors General
- Building More Effective Public Accounts Committees
- Developing Country Action Plans for the Public Accounts Committee

Latrobe Training Report: PAC Members who returned from the PAC course at Latrobe University, Melbourne Australia. The detailed report of the training was sent to USAID and is attached as Annex in the quarterly report. Professor Peter Looney, who is the course coordinator at Latrobe, indicated interest in Pakistan PAC's work and appreciated the level of detail in the Pakistan PAC Needs Assessment. According to MNA Yasmeen Rehman, Professor Looney expressed his interest in visiting the Pakistan PAC in the future.

The delegation produced a detailed report upon their return, which was shared with PLSP and sent to USAID.

Improving the Public Accounts Committee website and IT: The PLSP met with the PAC Chairman and senior staff to begin an evaluation of the committee's information and communication technologies requirements. Final recommendations and follow-on procurement is anticipated in early February.

On February 10, the **Public Accounts Committee tabled a report in the National Assembly for the first time since 1985.** The report covered PAC findings on the Federal Government of Pakistan's accounts for the years 1989-90, 1991-92 and 2005-2006. The Chair of PAC has requested plenary debate on the report.

NA Public Accounts Committee Capacity Building:

Training Program for PAC: PLSP met with Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) concerning the development of specific financial management training courses for PAC members and secretariat staff. This emanates from the report on PAC Need Assessment conducted in August 2009.

Based on the recommended courses PLSP contracted Mohsin Khan, local consultant on the PAC Needs Assessment and former Controller General Accounts (CGA) of Pakistan, to develop a training matrix with course and content outline, which he then shared with LUMS.

National and Provincial PAC members and staff will attend the training course in LUMS expected to be held in May.

PAC Handbook: As also recommended in the Needs Assessment, Mr. Khan is developing a Handbook for PAC members and staff that will assist them in carrying out their responsibilities. Once ready the handbook will be a first of its kind guide that will provide all the essential information required to participate in the PAC. The handbook will also be provided to the provincial PACs, and to all interested members.

Conference of Committee Chairs in the Senate: Senate Committee Chairs Conference: On 18 January 2010, on an earlier request of the Chairman Senate, PLSP organized the first ever Conference of Senate Committee Chairs – titled “**Empowered Committees lead to a Strengthened Legislature**” at the Serena Hotel Islamabad. The first half of the Conference was chaired by the Honorable Chairman Senate, Farooq H. Naek and the second half by the Honorable Deputy Chairman Senate, Jan Muhammad Jamali. The objective of the conference was for Honorable Chairs of Committees to debate and discuss how committee systems and structure could be further improved to enhance their role in oversight, legislation and representation.

The conference lasted more than four hours and was divided into three main sections. Project Director Carmen Lane moderated the conference after the Chairman made the opening speech. In his speech the Chairman highlighted the importance of the conference and also showed displeasure for a relatively thin attendance from the Chairs. Out of the 38 chairs 14 attended the conference. Staff attendance was robust and all senior officers including the Secretary, Special Secretaries and Research Officers were present at the conference.

Tomas Bridle, Deputy Project Director PLSP and Fakhar Imam Former Speaker National Assembly and PLSP Chief Technical Advisor made presentations on international comparisons of Committee systems and powers and authority of Senate Committees respectively. This was followed by presentations on suggested reforms to enhance committee functioning and the need for infrastructure support. ICT Director PLSP, Ray Short, also gave a presentation on infrastructure needs of the findings from the Committee Chairs Needs Assessment undertaken by PLSP.

Chairman and Deputy Chairman Senate in their respective remarks greatly appreciated PLSP’s contribution in holding the conference and separately suggested that this should become a regular feature to solicit advice from Committee Chairs so as to strengthen the legislature in Pakistan. Chairs also actively participated in the proceedings and shared their respective views on their committee performance and functioning.

Conference Agenda and Presentations are attached in Annex.

Sindh Assembly announces Committees Participation in Budget Making: Speaker of the Sindh, Nisar Khuhro Assembly on March 29 announced that the provincial government had decided to take all members of the Sindh Assembly on board in the budget-making process in the next and all future such exercises by including their input in the Annual Development Plan (ADP). The ADP is the budget document that indicates development expenditure of the government and highlights all development schemes that are being undertaken in the province.

Speaker of the Assembly Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, indicated the cooperation of the Finance Department, and informed the house about the decision and directed the chairmen of all standing committees of the house to convene their meetings.

This would be for the first time in the recent history of the Sindh government that all members of the house would contribute their proposals to budget making and all standing committees would be activated for this purpose.

The announcement is a huge success for PLSP as it had been advocating throughout the five years of its project that members participation had to be enhanced in both budget formulation and scrutiny. MPA Sardar Ahmad Ali, former Minister for Finance in Sindh and Parliamentary Leader of the MQM, has been the most vocal supporter of this initiative and had participated in all PLSP Budget workshops. He called the Project Director after the announcement to convey his gratitude to USAID and PLSP for their assistance and guidance in making this happen. He said that this was a historic occasion for the Sindh Assembly and PLSP played an important role by continuously building capacity of members on budget processes and analysis.

National Assembly Defense Committee: CoP and oversight advisor met with Defense Committee Chair Dr. Azra Pechuho, Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defense on March 25. The NGO PILDAT has been conducting a series of seminars and roundtables on the committee regarding its role. PLSP requested as to whether this project could add substantive follow-up that would add value to the ongoing events.

The group discussed the issue of the Defense Committee having a greater role in the oversight of the Defense Budget. The Chair suggested that frankly this was a very difficult issue, and that she had to balance her role as part of the “government” with that of Committee Chair. She mentioned that she has tried to call the Secretary of the Defense Ministry before the committee, but he has not been available for one reason or another. She mentioned the PILDAT events were not well attended by members, and she also opined that the expert speakers were too harsh or bold in their comments, which were off-putting to the audience.

PLSP also offered to assist in publishing the report of the defense committee that the Chair said needed prior approval of the Speaker before it’s presented in the Assembly. In addition PLSP offered to conduct a policy dialogue on the locally published book *Military, Inc.* authored by Dr. Ayesha Siddiqa Agha. If agreed by the Chair, Dr. Agha will present her findings to the committee. PLSP will follow-up with Dr. Agha on her availability as she is often out of the country.

Enhance Fiscal Oversight

Mid-Term Budget Review for Standing Committee Chairs of the Senate and National Assembly: On 28 January PLSP held an exclusive Mid-term Budget Review Exercise for Committee Chairs of the Senate and the National Assembly. Since the Senate prorogued earlier than anticipated Senate Chairs were unable to attend. From the National Assembly 8 Committee Chairs attended the Exercise. PLSP will hold a separate exercise for Senate Chairs as soon as the next session is called.

The primary objective of the Exercise was to provide Standing Committees the opportunity to assess information of their respective subjects/areas of oversight on the volume of expenditure that had already been undertaken, the various time lags against development projects and the flow of expenditure during the current fiscal year.

Historically in Pakistan the Development Budget which is part of the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) is typically reviewed at the half year stage by the federal Planning and Development (P&D) Division during the month of January. For various reasons, the majority of the development budget remains under-spent at the end of the first half of the fiscal year, and bulk of the expenditure takes place during the last two months of the fiscal year. This exercise served as a unique opportunity as for the first time Committees were able to understand the midterm budget review process and put them in a position to request their relevant ministries for update on the findings of the review. Rules Committee Chair, MNA Nadeem Chan, who is member of the Food and Agriculture Committee appreciated the exercise so much that he stated that he would request his Committee Chair to request the Ministry for Food and Agriculture to present their findings from the Ministerial Mid-term Review. Similarly, Health Committee Chair, MNA Dr, Nadeem Ehsan, requested for a briefing for his Health Committee, which PLSP helped plan for February 3.

Budget Analysis

Mid-Term Budget Review for Members of the Balochistan Assembly: On March 5, PLSP held an exclusive Mid-term Budget Review Exercise for members of the Balochistan Assembly.

The primary objective of the exercise was to provide members the opportunity to assess information of their respective subjects/areas of oversight on the volume of expenditure that had already been undertaken, the various time lags against development projects and the flow of expenditure during the current fiscal year.

Historically in Pakistan the Development Budget which is part of the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) and the Annual Development Plan (ADP) in the provinces is typically reviewed at the half year stage by the provincial Planning and Development (P&D) Department during the month of January. For various reasons, the majority of the development budget remains under-spent at the end of the first half of the fiscal year, and bulk of the expenditure takes place during the last two months of the fiscal year. This exercise served as a unique opportunity as for the first time members were able to understand the midterm budget review process and put them in a position to request their relevant ministries for update on the findings of the review.

MPA Dr. Ruqqaiya Hashmi and other members present at the workshop appreciated the contents of the workshop and showed their commitment to follow up with the Planning and Development Department to present findings of the development budget to members of the Assembly. PLSP assisted to draft a letter addressed to the Secretary of Planning and Development on behalf of MPA Hashmi.

Updation of Budget Analysis Tools (BATs) and Resource Monitors:

- BATs
- During the quarter PLSP outsourced updation of the existing Budget Analysis Tools to PFM Consultants for the federal and provincial sectors and the Resource Monitors.

The BAT provides information to MPs so they can be better informed in the budget debates and better prepare specific recommendations for the Government regarding the budget in different sectors. Initially two Budget Analysis Tools for the federal health and the education sectors were developed. These were later replicated into the six more sectors (for a total of eight): Food, Agriculture and Livestock; Environment; Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis; Women Development; Population Welfare and finally Communications. In 2007, the tools were replicated in all the four provinces for the respective provincial education and health sector. The tools will now be updated with budget figures till 2009-10.

The tools will seek to strengthen the existing processes for parliament to play a more active consultative role throughout the budget cycle. Shared with respective committees of the National Assembly, Senate and provincial assemblies it is hoped that these Tools will allow legislators to get a comprehensive budget overview of the sector under their committee's jurisdiction, thus enabling them to be more empowered and informed in conducting their oversight role.

Resource Monitors

The updation of existing Resource Monitors for the Federal sector and the provinces of Punjab and Sindh and development of new Resource Monitors for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan will seek to strengthen the existing processes for parliament and provincial assemblies to play a more active consultative role throughout the budget cycle. Shared with members of the National Assembly, Senate and provincial assemblies it is hoped that the tool will allow legislators to get a comprehensive budget overview of the resources that are available to the federation and provinces thus enabling them to be more empowered and informed in conducting their oversight role especially on the revenue side of the budget which is hard to find.

The Resource Monitors will serve as a unique tool that will present historical trends of the different sources of resource allocation from the federal level to the provinces. The tool will give a detailed breakdown but will not be limited to the following areas:

- National Finance Commission (NFC) Award (recent)
- Provincial Finance Commission Awards (all 4 provinces)
- Details of federal transfers to the provinces including breakdowns from tax and non-tax revenues (all components of direct, indirect taxes and non-tax revenue will be included)
- Other provincial receipts
- Loans and grants incurred by the provinces
- Borrowing (national and provincial)

The PRM will also include commentary on resource allocation that may need further explanation to make it user friendly. For example, one of the sources of revenue at the provincial level is the distribution of GST collected by the federally government and transferred to the provinces in proportion as per a set formulae.

Punjab Assembly Committee Strengthening: On January 19 PLSP met with the secretary of the Punjab Assembly, the Assembly Focal Person, the Assembly Speaker and Chair of Local Government Committee. They proposed assisting the Assembly and the Local Government Committee by arranging a hearing at which members could hear from and discuss certain aspects of the proposed changes in the local government laws with experts on those aspects of the laws. Specifically, PLSP proposed discussing the process by which local

government body elections would be held, a subject that was discussed at the Electoral Support Group meeting and which USAID identified as an issue of interest. The Secretary and staff Focal Person were dismissive of the value of such an event, saying that “the law will be written by the Law Ministry, the Assembly can make only very small changes to the Law,” but the Speaker and the Chair recognized that the Assembly has an important role to play in shaping and overseeing important pieces of legislation and asked PLSP to hold the hearing. After some delays due to the availability of the room, the Secretary of the Senate scheduled the hearing for Friday, January 29 from 4-6 PM. PLSP informed staff of DTW and IFES.

Punjab Assembly Public Expert Hearing on Local Government Legislation Framework, Jan., 29, 2010:

Parliamentary Chair MPA Tahir Ahmed Sindhu opened the proceedings and congratulated the Members on attending the first ever public hearing of Experts in Punjab. Mr. Inayat Ullah Lak, DG Legislation, Punjab Assembly recited the verses of Holy Quran to start proceedings. DCOP of PLSP spoke on importance of Committees and the public hearing which empower members with information and knowledge to ask the right questions from the Executive. He also explained the objectives of the Hearing. Mr. Ole Holtved, an election expert from IFES, deliberated in detail about the Local Government Elections. Salient Features of his presentation included following points:

- i. Local Elections Authority must be independent and transparent with appointment of its Head with consensus of Leader of the House and Opposition.
- ii. All elections for different levels on local government should be direct so as to discourage and eradicate corruption and bribes from elections.
 - a. Local Government Legislation must discuss even the minutest details as devil is in the details and the Executive sometimes utilizes the lack of comprehensiveness of legislation to frame subsequent rules that favors it.
 - b. Political Authority must not be given up in favor of Bureaucrats.
 - c. Central electoral rolls must be utilized as ECP has lately computerized them and any duplication of effort by Provincial Authority would incur undue loss to national and provincial exchequer which should be avoided.

The Six MPAs present took very keen part in the discussion and reiterated their commitment to assess the Local government Legislation in detail once it is tabled in front of them. The Chair requested PLSP to hold another session in forthcoming weeks regarding comparative analysis of quality local government legislations and some of the good practices a local government law must possess. The Chair also encouraged PLSP to draft legislation and forward to them so that the Committee can add in valuable suggestions in the new bill expected to be tabled in the next session in February 2010.

- i. **Consultation on National Education Policy (NEP) with MPAs of Provincial Assembly of Punjab, January 30:** PLSP held the important consultation in cooperation with Pakistan Coalition for Education, PCE. Four MPAs, including one male and three female MPAs, representatives from international and local CSOs working on education sector participated. Ms. Beila Jamil and Mr. Abu Bakr from PCE, deliberated on various pros and cons of NEP, 2009-10. The MPAs took keen interest in recommending the following steps to be made part of NEP, 2009-10:

Instead of large cadet colleges a standardized system must be ensured where all schools have a minimum mix of facilities like specific number of trained and qualified teachers, adequate building with drinking water, electricity, boundary wall, wash rooms etc.

MPAs were of the opinion that Monitoring of Education Departments must be decentralizes. It should be done a committee headed by a local MPA and consisting of EDOs and administrators, who can on regular basis apprise the Minister for Education about implementation of state policy.

An MPA suggested that Punjab needs a bigger pool of trained and qualified teachers; He also endorsed that appointment of 34, 000 teachers on merit is a right step and must be continue.

MPAs also reiterated the need that Federal Education Ministry must share the NEP 2009-10 with the Provincial Assembly of Punjab.

COMPONENT 4: INFRASTRUCTURE/MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

TASK 4.1 ENHANCE STRATEGIC PLANNING

During the quarter, PLSP supported the formal launch of the Strategic Plans of Balochistan and of Sindh, and continued work with the National and Punjab Assemblies toward finalization of their respective plans.

Dawn

Plan to modernize Sindh Assembly

KARACHI, Jan 12: A three-year Sindh Assembly modernization plan was initiated by Speaker Nisar Ahmed Khuhro on Tuesday. The plan is aimed at making the assembly an effective, representative and empowered institution committed to a democratic and open society.

The plan — Strategic Plan 2010-2012 — will facilitate the assembly’s core tasks.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Mr. Khuhro said: “Our mission is to become an effective assembly that could protect rights of citizens and work towards providing them a better quality life.” He stressed the need for a long-term planning and consistent budget support to modernize the assembly. In February last year, the speaker had set up a strategic planning committee comprising some MPs and senior secretariat staff with the task of chalking out the plan. After a series of meetings, consultations and planning sessions, the committee evolved the plan and submitted it to the speaker. It was formally adopted in December last.

Michael Hrychshychyn, Director of the Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID-Pakistan, expressed his gratification over the initiation of the plan and said that the Sindh Assembly had taken lead in launching the process of modernizing itself.—APP

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/local/karachi-plan-to-modernise-sindh-assembly-310>

Sindh: On 12 January, the Sindh Assembly was the first to launch its strategic plan, following nearly a year of meetings and consultations supported and facilitated by PLSP. In addition to the support for the content, PLSP had the plan professionally published and distributed to all members, and assisted with the launch logistics. The Speaker Sindh Assembly was the chief-guest at the launch ceremony, which was also attended by parliamentary leaders of all political parties, senior members, ministers and secretariat staff. Both print and electronic media were present and the event was covered nationwide. USAID was represented by Michael Hryshchshyn, Director Democracy and Governance Unit and Humaira Ashraf, CTOR of PLSP.

Balochistan: On March 5, the Balochistan Assembly launched its first ever Strategic Plan. The Speaker Balochistan Assembly was the chief-guest at the launch which was also attended by parliamentary leaders of all political parties, senior members, ministers and secretariat staff. Both print and electronic media were present and the event was covered nationwide. USAID was represented by Humaira Ashraf, CTOR of PLSP. In addition to the support for the content, PLSP had the plan professionally published and distributed to all members, and assisted with the launch logistics.

Balochistan Assembly Committees Soon

QUETTA, March 5: Speaker of Balochistan Assembly Mohammad Aslam Bhootani has said that setting up of parliamentary committees was necessary if the legislature wanted to monitor performance of the government in an effective manner.

Speaking at launch of the –Strategic Plan for the Balochistan Assembly (2010-12)” here on Friday night, he said that Balochistan Assembly would soon have standing committees.

Mr. Bhootani said the launch of the strategic plan was part of the ongoing efforts aimed at turning the assembly into an effective institution. He said the plan would be implemented with assistance provided by the USAID over the next three years.

—We will bring the performance of the Balochistan Assembly at par with those of other legislatures,” Mr. Bhootani said.

He said the National Assembly had passed an act for setting up an institution called the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services for which a building would be constructed in Islamabad. It would organize seminars and training programmes for members and staff of various assemblies.

Mr. Bhootani told the gathering that at a recent conference speakers and deputy speakers of the national and provincial assemblies had decided to launch a television channel for coverage of parliamentary proceedings in the country.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/national/balochistan-assembly-committees-soon-630>

Punjab Assembly: During the quarter, PLSP undertook several rounds of edits given by the SP committee and the Secretariat through the Focal Person. By the end of the quarter, the final draft was awaiting its validation by the committee.

National Assembly: After repeated reminders and follow-ups the National Assembly Strategic Planning Committee finally met on 19 January to validate the framework that it had developed during the Strategic Planning Retreat in Lahore in June 2009. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi who is the convener of the committee attended the validation exercise along with other committee members MNA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, MNA Yasmeen Rehman and from the secretariat, Mr. Tahir Hanfi, Director General Library and Research and Mr. Tariq Bhatti, Director Automation and PLSP Focal Person. The Framework was presented to the committee by Project Director to incorporate comments and suggestions. The committee slightly altered the mission statement and suggested some changes to the Framework. These changes were incorporated during the quarter, and the final drafts were distributed to the SP members. PLSP made several unsuccessful attempts to have the committee meet, but key members including the Deputy Speaker were unavailable.

Senate SP Framework Finalized: The Chairman Senate sent to PLSP a copy of the Senate's revised framework on February 25. The Senate had decided to undertake another series of meetings, involving a wider scope of members, to refine the framework completed last summer by the original Strategic Planning Committee. The final framework includes almost all of the original activities, with a few additions. PLSP has offered to assist the Chairman with the final plan, but PLSP does not plan to actively force its strategic planning methodologies on the Senate, who have gone in a different direction than the other houses, upon the direction of the Chairman Senate. It is not likely that the plan will be launched before the end date of PLSP, but the Framework remains a relevant guide for future USAID programming.

TASK 4.2 ENHANCE SECRETARIAT HUMAN RESOURCES

Internship Program: In February, PLSP extended the term of the intern contracts by two months on the request of the Assemblies. Those contracts now expire on April 5 in the Provincial Assemblies and Senate. NA interns are still working for another month, as they began later due to a delay in receiving security passes.

Projects and activities undertaken by the interns include:

- Coordinating and preparing minutes for a meeting of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs and Statistics at which the Economic Affairs Division gave the Committee a presentation about the funds provided by USAID and their utilization.
- Preparing a study for the Economic Affairs Committee of the Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan Reorganization and Conversion Ordinance in preparation of the referral of legislation concerning the Bank to the Committee. The Ordinance affirms the conversion of IDBP into a public limited company incorporated under Company's Ordinance 1984. This ordinance was re-promulgated on 26th November, 2009 for the period of 120 days and it was presented in the Parliament for legislation which further refers it to the Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue for review.
- Attending a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Assurances in which the Ministry of Health explained the issue of promotion and fixation of seniority of assistants in medical facilities.
- Attending a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue at which the committee discussed the IDBP Reorganization and Re-conversion Bill and the Pro-Poor Housing Schemes, and preparing a summary report of the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue for members and drafting the section of minutes related to the presentation given by IDBP Officials on the IDBP Reorganization and Re-conversion Bill.
- Preparing a brief for members of the Finance committee on the Ministry of Finance's 2009 granting of permission to import 10 million tons of waste lube and furnace oil.
- Researching and preparing minutes of the Committee on Minorities meeting on "~~Kidnapping of~~ Minorities in Sindh and other parts of the country".
- Attending and preparing material for the Standing Committee on Finance and Revenues meeting on introduction of the VAT. The Committee also discussed the plight of Industrial Development Bank and the sugar supply crisis.
- Attending the meeting of Standing Committee on Stats and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) on "~~Briefing on~~ all donor assisted projects in FATA".
- At direction of Mr. Jawad Naqvi (Secretary to Commerce Committee), prepared a research report on the World Trade Organization, its functions, impact on developed and developing countries and what should be the country's future course of action for it in preparation for the Commerce Committee meetings related to the WTO and the Trade Organization Bill, which is under discussion in the Standing Committee and final discussion will be in the next meeting of the Standing Committee. The purpose of the research report was to analyze the entire situation carefully so that the Committee reaches towards a final conclusion.
- Preparing research report on the economic and political statistics related to Turkey in preparation for National Assembly Speaker's visit to Turkey
- Updating of website of Women's' Parliamentary Caucus and coordinating information and requests related to upcoming women's parliamentary caucus meeting. Material edited, formatted and placed on

website include the Working Council Meetings, General Assembly Meetings and the Special Meetings ever held.

The complete summaries of the research projects and other activities undertaken by the interns are attached.

Training of Committee Staff on Parliamentary Office Management: Successful Parliamentary Office Management trainings were held in four provincial assemblies. This two day training was designed to improve the office communication skills of the parliamentary staff. In these trainings basics of effective writing, drafting official letters, official filing management and taking meeting minutes were covered. During trainings participants were given an opportunity to practice skills and analyze their current official communication practices.

Mr. Israr ul Haq conducted these workshops. He has 37 years of government service experience and has also served as training director of a govt. training institute. This was one of PLSP trainings where attendance was full for two days.

Participants in these trainings were committee staff including PAC staff. Initially in each training maximum number of participants was kept to 25 but because of great interest of the staff in some provinces number of participants was increased to 35.

Copies of Secretariat Rules and Procurement Rules were provided to the participants with other training materials.

Participants Reflections: Most of the participants rated this training as successful and found useful in their daily routine work. —“This training helped us in analyzing our routine work” Participant Balochistan Assembly —“After attending this training we will try to improve our letter writing skills and other official communication” Participant Sindh Assembly —“We enjoyed attending this training, trainer was friendly and we felt comfortable discussing different issues” Participant Punjab Assembly —“We need such workshops to further improve our official communication” Participant NWFP Assembly.

Further Recommendations: In all houses participants a longest duration course on the same topic should be organized, where more time is spent on practice and feedback. NWFP Assembly Secretary has requested to repeat this course in April for the remaining staff of the secretariat. He considered this training crucial for better working of the assembly.

Rules Harmonization Consultations, Provincial Assembly of Sindh, March 30-31, 2010: The PLSP law making team conducted the following Rules Harmonization consultations to advocate Strategic Plan Goal 1.2 (amend the rules and procedures to enhance role of Assembly) in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh:

- March 30: Secretary Sindh Assembly
- March 30: Consultation with Parliamentary Leader of the MQM, MPA Syed Sardar Ahmed and MPAs Muhammad Adil and Mozammil Qureshi.
- PLSP advocated following amendments in the rules:
- New Rule for convening of Standing Committees within 30 days
- Suo moto powers for Committees
- Increased Time for Question Hour
- Public Hearing provision for Committees
- Provision of Council of Committees
- Greater time in Budget Cycle.

This follows on previous discussions concerning Rules Harmonization, which has apparently resulted in some action. The Rules Committee of the Sindh Assembly has drafted a new set of rules with *some* of the PLSP and Strategic Plan recommendations, including convening Standing Committees within 30 days of an election. The Parliamentary Leader of MQM Syed Sardar Ahmed appreciated the PLSP analytical presentation and brief on Rules Harmonization. He has also asked PLSP law making Team to analyze the new draft rules for and present them to the Rules Committee and MQM Parliamentary Leadership for advocacy, which is tentatively planned for April.

Human Resource Assessment: The draft Strategic Plans of both Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan clearly identify the need to enhance the Human Resources of the Houses. With the assistance of two international and one local HR consultants, PLSP undertook and presented a comparative analysis of parliamentary service systems and conducted an assessment of NA and Senate Secretariat.

(1) Desk Research, was conducted by Brian Weberg, a US legislative staff member and consultant on HR systems from subcontractor National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). He prepared a draft research paper and produced a comparative review of HR policies, institutions and practices in Scotland, South Africa, Australia and some of the US state legislators. PLSP received his preliminary report in the first week of February.

(2) On-site Presentation and Analysis: Tim Storey, an HR advisor to NCSL for more than two decades, presented the findings of the above-mentioned desk research to Senate and NA members and staff leaders from February 15-27. Before arrival, he reviewed a number of documents, including strategic plan documents, Members Survey 2008-09, Assembly and Senate Rules of Procedure, and draft PIPS Rules of Business. In Pakistan, he was joined by local consultant Mr. K. P. Malik, who has experience with both public and private sector HR systems. Mr. Goraya, PIPS Executive Director, also assisted in setting up meetings.

Mr. Storey and Mr. Malik with the PLSP law-making team held a set of consultations and interviews with members and staff, as follows:

- **February 15, 2010:** Meeting with PLSP COP and DCOP at PLSP. Mr. Storey presented a matrix of key findings of the research conducted by Brian for presentation to staff and members.
- **February 16, 2010:** Meeting with Khan Ahmed Goraya, ED, PIPS, to discuss PIPS structure and how it will tie into/supplement the Secretariats. Mr. Goraya also provided thoughts on the NA structure and issues based upon his past experience as Secretary General of the NA.
- **February 18, 2010:** Meeting with Javed Akhter Sheikh, Former Additional Secretary, National Assembly, at PIPS.
- **Friday, February 19, 2010:** Meeting with Syed Fakher Imam, Former, Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan at PLSP; meeting with Mr. Pervaiz Khan, MNA from Awami National Party and Chairman, Standing Committee of Housing and Works. at PRC. Tim also edited the Preliminary Comparative HR Research put forth by Brian Weberg in light of review of literature that included strategic plan documents, Members Survey 2008-09 and Rules of Procedure as well as the Legislative Service Working Group folder (2007-08) the same day.
- **February 20, 2010:** Public Presentation and Focus Group Discussion on Parliamentary Comparative HR Report to the Senate of Pakistan. Participants included Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babur, Special Secretary, Mr. G M Chadhry, Additional Secretary (Legislation), Mr. Amjed Pervez, Additional Secretary (HR and Administration), Mr. Sami, Joint Secretary (Administration), Mr. Jamil Qureshi, Joint Secretary and PLSP Focal person.
- **February 22, 2010:** The comparative matrix and draft research study was shared with Mr. Tariq Bhatti, Director of Automation and PLSP Focal Person at the National Assembly.
- **February 24, 2010:** Tim Storey and Mr. K P Malik conducted a Public Presentation and Focused Group Discussion on Parliamentary HR Assessment Report to a select group of parliamentarians. Five MNAs participated, including: Ms. Yasmeen Rehman; Justice (retd) Fakher un Nisa from PPP; S.A Iqbal Qadri and Abdul Rasheed Godil from MQM; and Ms. Ishrat Ashraf from PML-N. Senator Saeeda Iqbal from PPP also participated. The Honorable MPs candidly discussed some of the grave challenges with regard to optimum HR support at their respective Secretariats. The issues raised by the members included:
 1. No professional staff with most of the standing committees, and the members called for a pool of professional subject matter experts
 2. The personal staff (i.e. secretarial) assigned to them by the Secretariat do not meet even minimum qualifications, such as the ability to take meeting minutes.
 3. The recruitment policy of the NA Secretariat either does not exist, or is not followed; recruitment is not merit based.
 4. The NA doesn't have intranet communication for Members and staff

5. No drafters available to assist MNAs and Senators in respective legislation wing (Most of these issues have also been raised during Strategic Planning process, and some are addressed in the draft Strategic Plan of the NA; through its ICT initiatives, PLSP is also addressing the issue of 24 hour internet access.)
 - **February 25, 2010:** The consultants and PLSP staff met Senator Ishaq Dar at the Punjab House to present the HR Report as well as undertaking discussion with regard to HR assessment of existing secretariats of National Assembly and the Senate.
 - **February 26, 2010:** Tim Storey and Mr. Malik held a Public Presentation and Focus Group Discussion on Parliamentary HR Assessment Report to the PLSP program staff, for further feedback on the report and comparative matrix, in light of strategic plans

The above assessments aim at making recommendations related to the HR structures in the National Assembly and Senate, in particular regarding the establishment of a parliamentary service that would be both legally and functionally separate and independent from the executive civil service. The consultants completed their draft reports and provided them to PLSP in March. PLSP is working with them to produce a final joint report by the end of April, 2010 that would be presented to the National Assembly and Senate and serve as the basis for HR system reforms.

The resulting presentations on the HR recommendations will provide the platform for reinvigorating the Parliamentary Service Working Group.

PLSP will make the final presentation to Secretaries and Speakers of all houses, in relationship to strategic plans.

IT Courses & English Language Courses:

- Ongoing trainings are being held in NWFP, Sindh and Balochistan on Computer Skills and English Language for the secretariat staff.
- Senate IT Course
- A training plan in close coordination with Senate staff has been developed to train all computer users including,
 - Reporters (English/Urdu Cell)
 - Private secretaries of Standing Committees
 - Editors and staff of printing branch
- This course will completed in groups and each course duration will be one week.

ICT Assessment

All Houses: As part of the preparation for deployment of ICT-based equipment and training, each house was requested to provide clear commitments to increase their IT/Automation staffing levels per the recommendations of the ICT Assessments. All houses committed to such changes, and the project will follow-up on this during the second quarter.

TASK 4.3 ASSESS CURRENT IT INFRASTRUCTURE

ICT Procurements & Deployment Preparation: Based on the comprehensive ICT Assessments completed for all six houses last fall, procurement of all ICT-based equipment and training was completed. This included all network servers, routers, library automation equipment, information display systems, antivirus software, computers, scanners, printers, email services, and supporting network software. Letters were sent to each house Secretary outlining the action items required by the Secretariat in advance of systems deployment. This included decisions on email address format, decisions on network file sharing, provision of staff lists, assurance of 24-hour power to server equipment, and communication of ICT usage guidelines to Secretariat staff.

ICT Assessments for Public Accounts Committees: Preliminary meetings were held with the PAC management for the **National Assembly** and **Punjab Assembly** to assist in determining their ICT requirements. Follow-up meetings will be held during the second quarter with all PACs to finalize relevant ICT equipment and training interventions.

TASK 4.4 IMPROVE LIBRARIES AS RESEARCH FACILITIES

Library Software and Systems Upgrades

All Houses: The catalogs of all six parliamentary libraries were converted to KOHA-based databases. All library staff members were trained on the new software. Book scanners, barcode scanners, and book digitization software was purchased in anticipation of the second phase of the library automation process during which digital scans of library content will be linked to the KOHA databases. As part of the redevelopment of the parliamentary websites, online linkages to the KOHA databases will be incorporated to allow staff and public to search the libraries' digital catalogs. This will be completed during the second quarter.

Senate and NA Library Consolidation: In December 2010, the Deputy Speaker appointed MNA Yasmeen Rehman to further facilitate consolidation. At this stage, the Senate has moved forward, and all 12,000 books have been digitalized, making it easier for physical consolidation. The final step is the Directive that needs to be issued by the Senate Chair and the NA Speaker to the respective Secretariats. The Senate Chair is on board, but the NA Speaker is not engaged. PSLP raised the issue in the LDSC held on January 14., 2010 at PIPS in which the Deputy Speaker informed the LDSC that he would request MNA Yasmeen Rehman to hold the subcommittee meeting within January and furnish their suggestions and recommendations to the Library and House Committee, which would expedite the matter. Senator Sughra Imam, Senate Chairperson for Library Committee was written by the PLSP COP Carmen Lane about the KOHA conversion of library data, to which the Honorable Senator has expressed her desire to undertake the same at Senate library at the earliest in addition to some IT support.

COMPONENT 5: CROSS-CUTTING SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS

TASK 5.1 QUICK IMPACT MECHANISM

In early March, PLSP Director sent letters to all the Speakers and the SP Committees reminding them of the *non-ICT* use of the Quick Impact Mechanism (\$10,000 for each house). To date, the status in each house is:

Sindh Assembly: PLSP paid for the renovation and furnishing of a room in the Assembly hostel for use as a Satellite PITRC. From the ICT budget, PLSP was also able to purchase computers. With the remainder of \$4000 of the QIM, Sindh Assembly has elected to purchase books for the library.

Punjab Assembly: PLSP had a vendor produce, purchase and deliver (January) desk diaries to the Assembly members and senior staff, which had been a long-standing request of the leadership. The expended the entire fund.

Balochistan: In late March, Balochistan Assembly leadership indicated that it wanted to renovate the library space and purchase new books. In April PLSP staff will begin this process.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly: The leadership and SP Committee has asked for software to upgrade their financial systems. Although this could be considered ICT, PLSP recommends moving forward with this request, as it will also assist in their ability to track the budget, including that related to Strategic Plan.

National Assembly: NA has given no indication, but it also has not approved its final plan.

Senate: PLSP will not provide the Senate with these funds, as the Senate has elected not to participate in the strategic planning process, at least not during the time PLSP has left.

III. COOPERATION WITH OTHER DONORS/PROJECTS

- PLSP representatives participated in the regular meetings of the Election Support Group organized on a bi-weekly basis by IFES.
- PLSP cooperated with a recently established EC project to strengthen the parliament's role in electoral reform by engaging an EC expert in discussions with the Punjab Assembly on electoral reform and discussing political and practical consequences of the parliament's electoral reform process.
- PLSP attended the roundtable of the election commission's strategic plan, which was inspired by PLSP's efforts to introduce a similar strategic planning process in the National Assembly.
- PLSP met with USAID staff from Pakistan and Washington to discuss future parliamentary strengthening projects in Pakistan.
- PLSP met with staff of the House Democracy Partnership to discuss Pakistan's participation in the US House of Representatives' program to engage with parliaments in developing and transitional countries.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Personnel

- **Bilal Mustafa** was hired as an IT Project Manager to assist with the deployment and coordination of ICT equipment and training. It is anticipated that he will work full-time until the end of the project.
- **Murray Osgood** was hired as an STTA expert on SMS technologies. He is assisting with the initiation of the test of an SMS-based constituent outreach system in the Sindh Assembly.

V. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND REMEDIAL SOLUTIONS

The major issue continued to be ensuring PIPS is operational as PLSP closes. During this quarter, PLSP continued to lobby the LDSC to encourage the Speaker and members of the PIPS Board to a) approve the Executive Director; b) Approve the Budget; and c) approve the PIPS Rules to ensure other recruitment could take place. By the end of the quarter, the Board had completed tasks A and B. However, as of this writing, the Board has still not approved the Rules, which holds up recruiting and hiring for positions such as Finance Director, Research Director, Training Director and eight researchers. The NA Speaker, who is also the Board Chair, did take the move of replacing the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as the Chair of the Rules Subcommittee, who was tied up in Constitutional affairs and who also experienced health issues – both limiting his availability for this task.

PLSP continues to lobby members of the Board, including the Provincial Secretaries. PLSP also drafted a letter for the signature of the USAID Mission Director regarding outstanding issues, including also the telecasting launch.

APPENDICES (ATTACHED)