

PRESS RELEASE

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS (PIDE) TO LAUNCH PROGRAM TO UPGRADE SKILLS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

PIDE has taken new initiative to launch a program to strengthen economic management in Federal Ministries by holding tailor-made intensive short-term diploma courses and degree program for serving government officials in Islamabad at all levels. This will concentrate lecturing over the week-end so that officials can attend while course work/assignments can be done by them on week days.

A major factor in Pakistan not realizing its full economic potential is the lack of competent professional economic management skills in government at all levels. This has also resulted in low returns, high costs, long delays and poor governance of the public sector development program which has retarded private sector development due to poor social and physical infrastructure support facilities.

The aim of this program is twofold: (i) to strengthen economic management skills in the economic and sectoral Ministries at the Federal level; and (ii) to provide fresh graduates in the field of economic and business management.

PIDE as a leading research and teaching institute is ideally suited to fulfill this role. It is the research arm of the Planning Commission and think tank to the Government of Pakistan together with a vibrant PhD, MPhil and MSc program in economics and business studies.

The diploma courses to be organized by PIDE will cover economic management, project planning monitoring and evaluation, and specific courses in specialized fields. At a time 4 such diploma courses will be held of around four months duration for 25-30 students in each course. To also encourage upward mobility of lower grade staff with degrees, PIDE will hold one to two years programs in economics leading to a BSc/MSc degree. These will also be held on same lines as the diploma courses so that they do not clash with their office timings.

In addition PIDE will help realize the recommendations of the National Commission for Government Reforms that research centers be set-up in sectoral ministries (e.g. energy, environment, infrastructure) to provide them with state-of-knowledge technical support. PIDE can serve as an umbrella organization for these ministerial research centers by providing facilities for training of researchers, help drawing up their research programs and giving diplomas and degrees for courses held by them by prescribing course content and setting standards.

To support PIDE post-graduate programs (PhD, MPhil and MSc) the proposed campus will also run an undergraduate 4 year program in Economic and Business Studies. The total student strength (over 4 years) of this undergraduate program will be around 750 students.