

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
ISLAMABAD**

www.commerce.gov.pk



YEAR BOOK
2023-24

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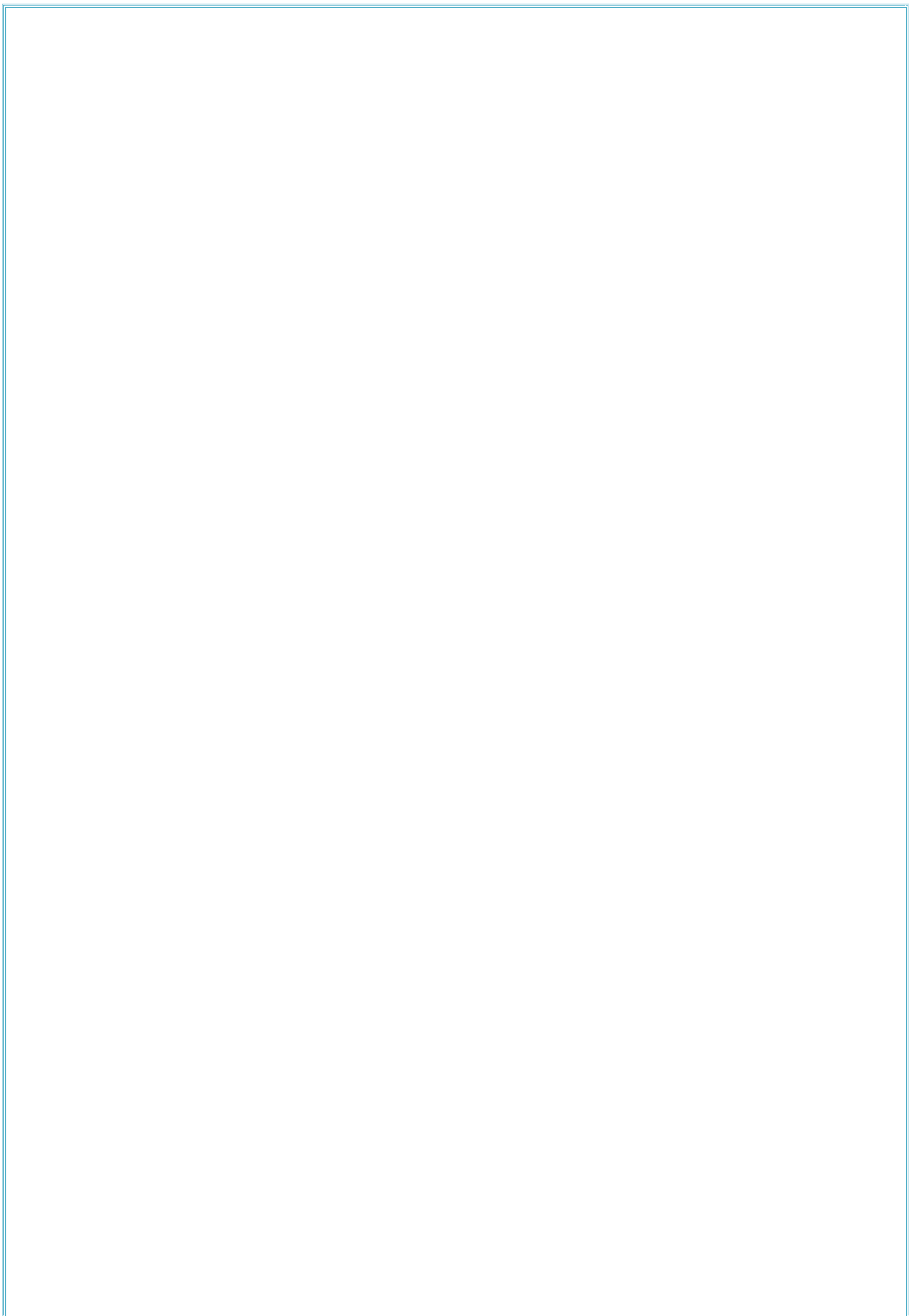
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**MESSAGE OF
MR. JAM KAMAL KHAN
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR COMMERCE**

The Year Book for financial year 2023-24 of the Ministry of Commerce highlights the Ministry's efforts to facilitate, support and promote trade and commerce of the country.

The Ministry of Commerce formulates and implements the national trade policies and contributes to the national economy by safeguarding and promoting Pakistan's trade interests through trade liberalization and facilitation, improving export competitiveness and reducing cost of doing business. It aims to achieve higher market access for Pakistani products in existing markets as well as new markets with ultimate aim of improving quality of life of the people of Pakistan.

Ministry of Commerce while playing its role in the government machinery to lift the economy of Pakistan has developed Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2020-25, as a milestone to harmonize regulatory regime and support the private sector.

This publication features achievements and activities of Ministry of Commerce and its attached departments for the FY 2023-24. It would be a useful document to the business community and researchers alike.

(JAM KAMAL KHAN)
Federal Minister for Commerce
Ministry of Commerce



MESSAGE OF SECRETARY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

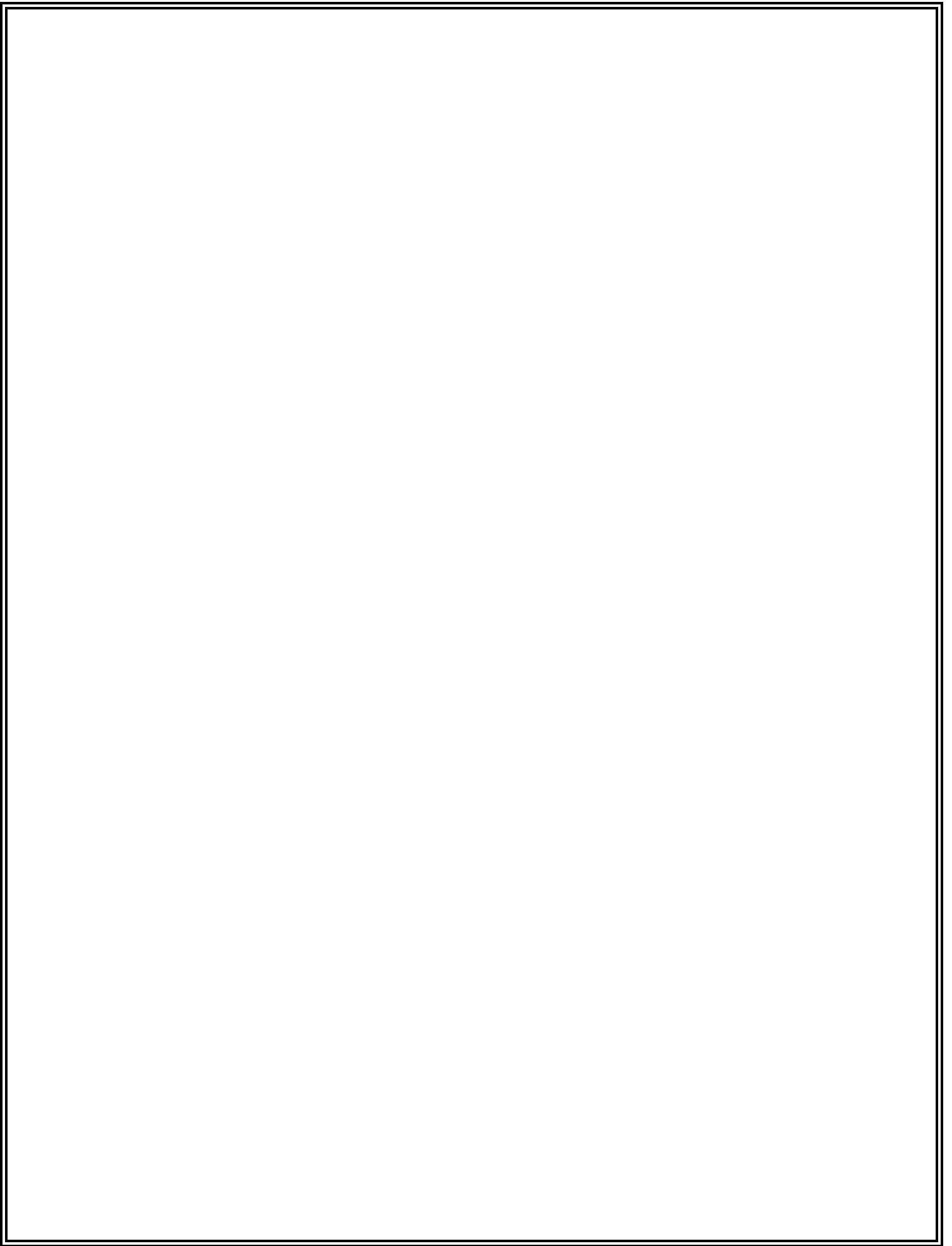
Year book of the Ministry of Commerce for the financial year 2023-24 has been prepared in pursuance of Rule 25(2) of the Rules of Business 1973. It elaborates functions, organizational structure and overall overview of the Ministry and its attached Departments/Organizations. The book represents the broad features of the Trade Policy and its achievements. It also gives an overview of the performance of the state owned insurance entities and other trade bodies and organizations i.e. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan and National Tariff Commission etc. which come under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce.

Every effort has been made to make this book a useful document to different stakeholders including researchers, scholars and general readers. Any suggestions/observations for further improvement of this publication are highly welcomed and will surely add value to the document.

(Jawad Paul)
Federal Secretary
Ministry of Commerce

ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CPFTA	China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
ECO	The Economic Cooperation Organization
EDB	Export Development Board
EPZA	Export Processing Zone Authorities
EDF	Export Development Fund
EPO	Export Policy Order
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
FGCC	Faisalabad Garments City Company
HLSCC	High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council
IPO	Import Policy Order
JTC	Joint Trade Committee
JETRO	Japan External Trade Organization
JRC	Joint Review Committee
KGCC	Karachi Garments City Company
LGCC	Lahore Garments City Company
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAMA	Non-Agricultural Market Access
NESPAK	National Engineering Services Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd.
NICL	National Insurance Company Limited
NTC	National Tariff Commission
NTTFC	National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee
NCC	National Compliance Centre
PAC	Public Accounts Committee
PITAD	Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development
PRCL	Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited
PSDP	Public Sector Development Program
SECP	Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan
SLIC	State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan
STPF	Strategic Trade Policy Framework
TCP	Trading Corporation of Pakistan
TDAP	Trade Development Authority of Pakistan
TDRO	Trade Dispute Resolution Organization
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TPRM	Trade Policy Review Mechanism
WTO	World Trade Organization
WEF	World Economic Forum



1. THE MINISTRY

1.1 Introduction

The Ministry of Commerce formulates and implements the national trade policy and contributes to the national economy by safeguarding and promoting Pakistan's trade interests through trade liberalization and facilitation, improving export competitiveness and reducing cost of doing business. It aims to achieve higher market access for Pakistani products in existing markets as well as new markets with ultimate aim of improving quality of life of the people of Pakistan.

The Ministry has developed a network of overseas Commercial Sections to facilitate the business community and to improve the prosperity of all Pakistanis in general. The network consists of 55 Commercial Sections in six continents and the officers deployed are highly skilled at their work which includes trade diplomacy, developing and implementing trade policy, negotiating international trade agreements and fetching investment opportunities for the country.

1.2 History

The Ministry of Commerce was established immediately after independence of Pakistan in 1947. Mr. I. I. Chundrigar took oath as Commerce Minister in the first Federal Cabinet on 15th August, 1947. Mr. A.D. Moss was appointed as first Secretary Commerce on 1st September, 1947.

1.3 Functions

As per Rules of Business, 1973 functions of the Commerce Division are as under:-

1. Imports and exports across custom frontiers.
2. Inter-Provincial trade.
3. Commercial intelligence and statistics.
4. Organization and control of Chambers and Associations of Commerce and Industry.
5. Tariff (protection) policy and its implementation.
6. Law of insurance; regulation and control of insurance companies; actuarial work; insurance of war, riot and civil commotion risks and life insurance but excluding health and unemployment insurance for industrial labor and post office insurance.
7. Export promotion.
8. Special Selection Board for selection of Commercial Officers for posting in Pakistan Missions abroad.
9. Anti-dumping duties, countervailing and safeguard laws.
10. Management of EDF/EMDF with representation of Textile Industry Division on their Boards.
11. Domestic Commerce reforms and development in collaboration with other Ministries, provincial and local government.
12. Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan).
13. e-Commerce Policy and its implementation.
14. Textile Industrial Policy.
15. Coordination and liaison with Federal Agencies/Institutions, Provincial Government and Local Government entities for facilitation and promotion of the textile sector.
16. Liaison, dialogue, negotiations, except trade negotiations, and cooperation with

international donor agencies and multilateral regulatory and development organizations with regard to textile sector.

17. Setting of standards; and monitoring and maintaining vigilance for strict compliance of the standard throughout production and value chain.
18. Textile related statistics, surveys, commercial intelligence, analysis and dissemination of information and reports on international demand patterns, market access etc.
19. Linkages with cotton and textile producing countries.
20. Training, skill development, research for quality improvement and productivity enhancement throughout the production/value chain.
21. Management of Textile Quotas.
22. Administrative control of Attached Organization of Textile.
23. Cotton Hedge Markets.

1.4 Policy Objectives

People centric: Poverty alleviation and employment generation through export led growth.

1.4.1 Supply side

- Value addition and Higher Unit Value
- Coordination for improvement of infrastructure
- Improving competitiveness through reduction in cost of doing business
- Facilitating investment in manufacturing sector

1.4.2 Market Side

- Focus on Export Marketing
- Better Commercial Intelligence
- Trade diplomacy/market access
- Diversification of export products and markets

1.5 Organizational Structure

1.5.1. Main Ministry

After merger of Textile Division in Commerce Division, restructuring in Ministry of Commerce has been made and following Wings are working under Commerce Division:

1. **Human Resource Management Wing**
 2. **Administration & Finance Wing**
-

3. **Trade Policy Wing**
4. **Textile Wing**
5. **Export-Import Wing**
6. **Tariff Policy Wing**
7. **Agro Products Wing**
8. **Non-Agro Products Wing**
9. **Foreign Trade Wings**

There are four Foreign Trade Wings in the Ministry:

 - i) Foreign Trade-I
 - ii) Foreign Trade-II
 - iii) Foreign Trade-III
 - iv) Foreign Trade-IV
10. **Services & e-Commerce Wing**
11. **World Trade Organization Wing**
12. **Development Wing**

1.5.2. Attached Organizations / Subordinates Offices

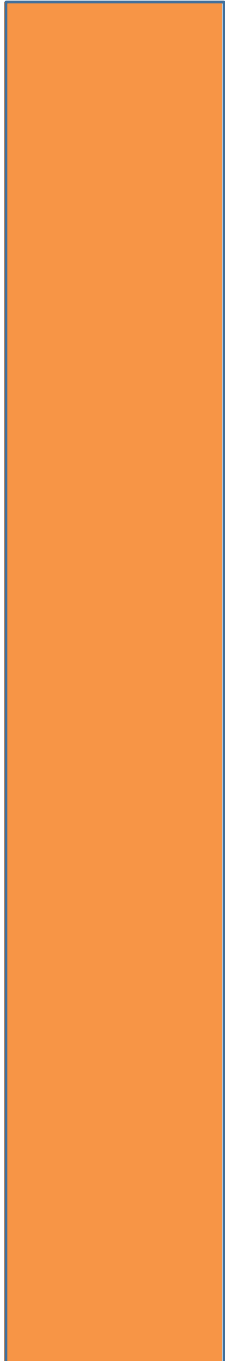
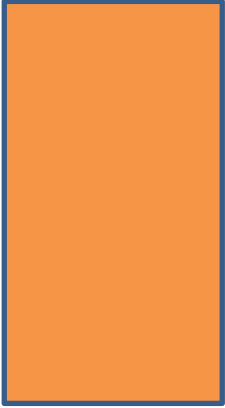
The following attached departments/subordinate organizations are operating under the administrative control of the Joint Secretary (Admin & Finance), Ministry of Commerce:

- 1) Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), Karachi
 - 2) State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC), Karachi.
 - 3) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Karachi.
 - 4) Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan), Islamabad.
 - 5) Pakistan Expo Centres (Pvt) Ltd, Lahore.
 - 6) Directorate General of Trade Organizations (DGTO), Islamabad.
 - 7) Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO), Islamabad.
 - 8) National Tariff Commission (NTC), Islamabad.
 - 9) National Insurance Company Limited (NICL), Karachi.
 - 10) Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PRCL), Karachi.
 - 11) Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (PITAD), Islamabad.
 - 12) Textile Commissioner's Organization (TCO), Karachi.
 - 13) Faisalabad Garments City Company (FGCC), Faisalabad.
 - 14) Lahore Garments City Company (LGCC), Lahore.
 - 15) Karachi Garments City Company (KGCC), Karachi.
 - 16) Export Development Fund (EDF), Islamabad.
 - 17) Liaison Office Afghan Transit Trade, Chaman / Quetta.
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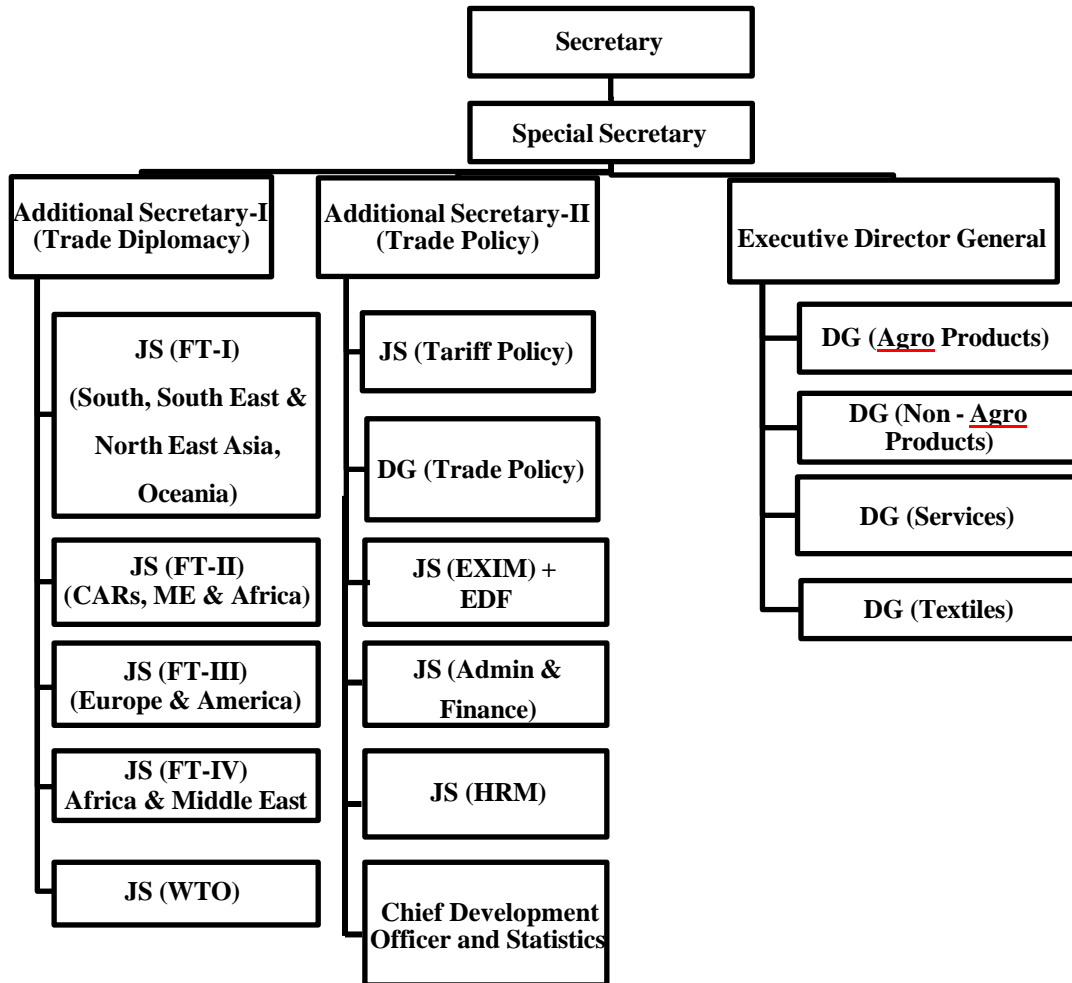
ORGANOGRAM

Year Book 2023-24

**Ministry of Commerce
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad**



Organogram of Ministry of Commerce



Human Resource Management Wing



3. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WING

HR-I & II

The HRM Wing is responsible for overall human resource management of main Ministry. HR Section's is responsible for better management of the human resource and capacity building of officer and staff. Posting, transfers, career planning, promotions, pay fixation and other services matters are dealt in HR Sections.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Commerce nominates its officers and staff for capacity building, job oriented and meaningful trainings for the National and International forums.

FOREIGN TRAINING OF OFFICERS: -

Invitation are received from different foreign countries like China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia etc for various training programmes, seminar, workshop, courses, degree programmes and long/short term training programmes. These International training facilities are offered through Economic Affair Division, Planning & Development Division, World Trade Organization Geneva and other government and non-government organizations.

LOCAL TRAINING FOR OFFICERS & STAFF:-

The Ministry encourages training of officers and staff from local Institutions offering various capacity building courses. Accordingly, officers/officials have been nominated for training courses offered by the following training institutes: -

- Pakistan Institute of Trade & Development (PITAD), Islamabad.
- Secretariat Training Institute, (STI) Islamabad
- National Information Technology Board (NITB)
- Pakistan Manpower Institute, (PMI), Islamabad
- Pakistan Institute of Management, (PIM) Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad
- Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI), Islamabad
- National School of Public Policy, Lahore.
- National Defence University, Islamabad.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF HR-I SECTION DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

- During the recruitment process of four (04) GSP Specialists for the FT-III Wing, liaison with the concerned Wing in each step of recruitment till their finalization. Case was taken up with TDAP and EDF to get their salaries started.
-

- Extension in contract of Research Associates and Trade Experts, under the Export Development Fund's (EDF) funded project 'Hiring of Consultants / Research Analysts' is under process.
- Appointments against vacant posts of MP Scales under Textile Wing have been finalized and Summary for the Prime Minister for final approval has been forwarded.
- Creation/Appointments against posts of Special Professional Pay Scale (SPPS) have been finalized within the given timeframe by the Establishment Division.
- Detailed working on TORs and Performance Evaluation Mechanism of contractual employees of different setups has been completed.
- Hiring of fresh Contractual Employees (25 Nos) have been initiated, initial process has been completed.
- HR-I section assisted CTG section with respect to provision of PERs record, Synopsis, ICP Chart, etc. of the officers whose names were considered for promotion during the meeting of Departmental Selection Board.
- Postings / transfers of regular officers of BS-17 & above was carried out within the Ministry in wake of acute shortage of officers belonging to Secretariat / Economist Group.
- Cases pertaining to administrative matters of regular officers of BS-17 & above of the main Ministry were processed diligently.
- Nomination of suitable officers / officials from the Main Ministry as well as its attached departments for foreign and local trainings was carried out from time to time.
- Timely collection of data regarding Declaration of Assets of officers / officials of main Ministry and Trade Missions abroad was ensured.

HR-II

Human Resource-II Section has performed the entire assigned task efficiently and effectively, within the available resources and allocated budget of FY 2023-2024. The prevailing rules, regulations and codal formalities, on case to case basis, have been fully observed.

FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN RESOURCE-II SECTION

- i. Administrative matters related to all officials of the Ministry (BS-1-16) and Superintendents/Private Secretaries.
 - ii. Recruitment promotion, posting and transfer of employees of all officials of the Ministry (BS 1-16) and Superintendents/ Private Secretaries.
 - iii. Processing of cases regarding training of staff in local institutions, etc.
 - iv. All general/coordination matters including performance agreement, national assembly/senate questions, distribution of work of the Ministry, etc.
 - v. Maintenance of service books, pay fixation, loan advances for officials only.
-

S. No.	ACTIVITY	CASES SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED
1.	Recruitment/Appointment of Ministerial Staff	00
2.	Marriage Grant	16
3.	G.P Fund Advance	49
4.	House Building Advance	26
5.	Motor Car/Motor cycle Advance	45

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF STAFF OF MAIN MINISTRY

No.	Name of Post	BPS	Sanctioned post
1	Secretary	22	01
2	Special Secretary	22	01
3	Additional Secretary	21	02
4	Executive Director General	21	01
5	Senior Joint Secretary/Joint Secretary	20	09
6	Director General	20	04
7	Director General (Textile)	MP-I	01
8	Chief Development Officer	20	01
9	Deputy Secretary	19	15
10	Director	19	05
11	Director	MP-II	02
12	Manager	MP-III	02
13	Technical Advisor	MP-III	01
14	Deputy Chief	19	04
15	Assistant Chief	18	07
16	Deputy Director	18	10
17	Accounts Officer	18	01
18	Section Officer	17/18	35
19	Statistical Officer	17	01
20	Research Officer	17	09
21	Assistant Accounts Officer	17	04
22	Assistant Director	17	04
23	IT Officer	17	01
24	Database Administrator	17	01
25	Private Secretary/Senior Private Secretary	17/18/19	12
26	Assistant Private Secretary	16/17	56
27	Superintendent	16/17	10
28	Translator	16	01
29	Assistant	15/16	90
30	Statistical Assistant	15	01

31	Steno-typist	14	71
33	Data Entry Operator	14	02
34	Marketing Inspector	11	01
35	Upper Division Clerk	13	31
36	Receptionist	11	01
37	Lower Division Clerk	11	46
38	Draftsman	7	01
39	Khidmatgar	5	01
40	Staff Car Driver	4/5/6/7	30
41	DMO	4	01
42	Photo State Operator	4	01
43	Dispatch Rider	4/5/6/7	06
44	Daftry	2/3	03
45	Qasid	2/3	07
46	Naib Qasid	1-2	140
47	Regular Frash	1-2	06
48	Chowkidar	1-2	03
49	Sweeper	1-2	04
	Total		647

TO-I SECTION

This section has been dealing with the administrative matters e.g. selection, posting of TIOs and creating/opening of new Trade & Investment missions and transferring etc in Pakistan Missions abroad. Following are the main tasks completed by this section.

- i. Ministry of Commerce manages fifty-five (55) Trade and Investment Missions across forty-five (45) countries. These Trade and Investment missions headed by 57 Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) have a critical role in creating suitable environment in enhancing Pakistan's exports and attracting investment to Pakistan.
 - ii. Ministry of Commerce constantly strives to improve/update the policy for the selection of TIOs to choose/select very specific/competent TIOs to be posted across the Trade and Investment Missions.
 - iii. Ministry of Commerce constantly strives to improve the performance of Trade Officers (TOs) posted abroad. In this regard, a Trade Officers Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (TOMECE) has been formed in the Ministry of Commerce to evaluate the performance on the basis of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). TIOs whose performance is "below average" are recalled while those whose performance is "Average" are cautioned to improve their performance.
 - iv. Ministry of Commerce has revised the parameters of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and composition of TOMECE with the approval of Prime Minister after consultation of performance of TIOs.
 - v. Ministry of Commerce has also prepared separate parameters of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the officers posted at the permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO, Geneva and its final approval from the Prime Minister with the concurrence of SIFC.
-

- vi. MoC successfully completed the process for selection of 39 new TIOs for various stations and were posted after completion of their mandatory training at PITAD where they were given training on Pakistan's Trade profile, Expert Performance and Trade Policy etc.
- vii. MoC successfully selected and posted a new Ambassador/PR to the permanent mission of Pakistan in WTO-Geneva on replacement basis. A total of 22 candidates appeared before the Special Selection Board for interview. A panel of 03 candidates were submitted to the Prime Minister for selection of the Ambassador/PR.
- viii. The process of selection for the post of Director (Trade) ECO secretariat, Tehran has been initiated and will be completed soon in near future.
- ix. MOC has recently created 09 new Trade and Investment Missions with the approval of the Prime Minister. The requisite codal formalities for creation/opening of these 09 missions with the host government of the respective countries have been initiated and are being completed ASAP.
- x. The process of selection of new 26 TIOs has been initiated i.e against 09 newly created missions and 18 other missions on replacement basis. The requisite codal formalities are being completed i.e .to hire agency for conducting written test for new TIOs selection, interview from SSB and final approval of the Prime Minister. Afterwards, the completion of pre-departure of the new TIOs so selected.
- xi. The matters pertaining to the Community Welfare Attaché/Labor Attaché of Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development (OPHRD) are also being dealt to this section.
- xii. The filling up, handling and settlement of Court cases pertaining to this Section.
- xiii. Preparation and submission of National Assembly and Senate questions pertaining to this section.
- xiv. Accreditations of countries with the Trade & Investment Missions where there is no Missions available
- xv. Apart of the above, TO-I section oversees the overall administrative work of these Trade Offices including leave/disciplinary proceedings, TA/DA matters and posting/transfer etc.

TO-II SECTION

This section deals with the administrative matters related to selection, posting of official staff in Trade Mission abroad, and creating/opening of new Trade & Investment Pakistan Missions abroad. Following are the main tasks/functions performed by this section.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The duties of Section (TO-II) is to select/post staff in Trade Mission abroad:

- i. Successfully supervised recruiting exam (conducted by PITAD) and also Conducted interviews (by Ministry of Commerce).
 - ii. Posted 55 officials at the Foreign Trade Missions of different cadres i.e., Commercial Assistant (APS, Assistant, Stenotypist), Driver/Messenger cum Driver and Security Guard.
 - iii. Facilitated in pre-departure formalities of officials
-

iv. Assisted in recruiting/hiring of local staff in several Missions abroad

TASK/FUNCTIONS:

- i. Clearance of staffs' intelligence from Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- ii. Obtaining medical fitness certificate from approved Government hospitals.
- iii. Interaction with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Official/Private passport matters to the officials, their family members and obtain note verbal from MOFA for processing of Visa.
- iv. Issuance of Gratis/Official Passports and arranging Tickets through quotations.
- v. Extension of tenure of posting;
- vi. Intermission transfer and leave transfer of staff posted abroad.
- vii. Sanctions/remittances of posting/transfer, transportation charges, and airfare package;
- viii. Adjustment of TA/home/emergency/Home leave passage etc. of staff
- ix. Local staff matters, maintain seniority lists of staff, TDO cases (appointment/extension etc.);
- x. Dealing with Court cases related to staff posted abroad.
- xi. Dealing with National Assembly/Senate questions

CTG SECTION

OVERVIEW/ FUNCTIONS OF CTG SECTION:

CTG Section deals with the management of Commerce and Trade Group which, *inter-alia*, include:

- i. Recruitment matters in BS-17 through Competitive Examination in C&T Group.
 - ii. Maintenance and updation of Seniority Lists of BS-17 to BS-21 officers.
 - iii. Transfers / Postings of officers.
 - iv. Deputation of officers to other Organizations.
 - v. Mandatory Trainings of officers i.e. MCMC, SMC, NMC and NS&WC.
 - vi. Career Planning Policy of Commerce & Trade Group.
 - vii. Promotion matters pertaining to BS-17 to BS-22, which includes holding/management of meetings of High-Powered Selection Board (HPSB), Central Selection Board (CSB), Departmental Selection Board (DSB) and Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC).
 - viii. Disciplinary and Litigation cases of officers.
 - ix. Leave Encashment and Retirement of officers.
 - x. Grant of NOCs to CTG officers for foreign trainings/scholarships and other exams.
 - xi. Other Personal and Miscellaneous matters of C&T Group officers dealt on their personal files.
 - xii. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (*only matters related to postings / transfers of C&T Group officers on the Cadre Posts of Commerce and Trade Group*)
-

- xiii. Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (*only matters related to postings / transfers of C&T Group officers on the Cadre Posts of Commerce and Trade Group*)
- xiv. Directorate General of Trade Organizations (*only matters related to postings / transfers of C&T Group officers on the Cadre Posts of Commerce and Trade Group*)
- xv. Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (*only matters related to postings / transfers of C&T Group officers on the Cadre Posts of Commerce and Trade Group*)

CTG Section has successfully conducted following meetings of CSB, DSB and DPC during the period 2023-2024.

S. No.	Activity	Frequency	Number of Officers Promoted
1.	DPC	01	12
2.	DSB	02	06
3.	CSB (BS-19 to BS-20)	01	03
4.	CSB (BS-20 to BS-21)	01	00

Pension Cases 2023-2024 of CTG Officers

S. No.	BPS	No. of Pension Cases
1.	17	08
2.	18	03
3.	19	04
4.	20	-
5.	21	-

Admn & Finance Wing



4. ADMIN & FINANCE WING

The Administration & Finance Wing deals with the administrative, financial and budgetary affairs of the Ministry, its attached departments, insurance companies and trade offices abroad. The working/activities of Admn & Finance Wing during the financial year 2023-24 are given below: -

4.1 BUDGET SECTION

Finance Division allocated Indicative Budget Ceilings (IBC) of recurrent budget Rs. 9,260.187 million in respect of Commerce Division under demand No. 23 during the Financial Year 2023-24. Budget Orders/NISs and Fund Centre Forms of the Main Ministry, 8th attached Departments and 55 Trade Missions Abroad were prepared within stipulated period, set by the Finance Division. The same were submitted to Finance Division for punching in SAP System.

Distribution of the above ceiling among the spending units of Commerce Division is given below:-

(Rs. in million)		
Sr.	Name of Departments	Budget 2023-24
1	Main Secretariat (Commerce Division), Islamabad	881.908
2	Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (PITAD), Islamabad	141.000
3	Directorate General of Trade Organizations (DGTO), Islamabad	62.506
4	National Tariff Commission (NTC), Islamabad	385.500
5	Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Karachi	2,131.500
6	Liaison Office Afghan Transit Trade, Chaman,	3.276
7	Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO), Islamabad	46.500
8	Trade Missions abroad	5,064.234
9	Textile Commissioner Organization (TCO), Karachi	81.137
10	Textile Commissioner Organization (TCO), Faisalabad	2.868
11	Pay & Allowances to The Ministry and its Attached Departments	459.758
	GRAND TOTAL	9,260.187

Re-appropriation cases in respect of 55 Trade Missions, 8th attached departments and release cases in respect of National Tariff Commission (NTC), Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) were finalized during year 2023-24.

4.2 AUDIT SECTION

Overview:-

Audit Section is responsible for coordinating Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) & Public Accounts Committee (PAC) matters for settlement of the Audit Reports of Main Secretariat and its attached departments. This Section is also responsible for

conducting of Internal Audit of Main Secretariat and its attached departments and deals the cases wherein opinion / clarification required from Finance Division / Law Division / MOFA etc.

Achievements:-

01	Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meetings	01 Public Accounts Committee meeting on the accounts of Ministry of Commerce was held during the year 2023-24
02	Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) meetings	10 Departmental Accounts Committee meetings on the accounts of Ministry of Commerce were arranged during the year 2023-24
03	Advice/Comments on financial & services matters as and when sought for	Approximately 300 No. of cases received for opinion and fully complied

Other misc. matters deals during the year 2023-24:

- i. Correspondence with the Departments for compliance to PAC / DAC directives.
- ii. Cases for regularization / clarification from Finance Division, Law Division, MOFA etc.
- iii. Circulation of misc. orders / directives of PAC Secretariat, AGPR, Finance Division, AGP's office etc.

4.3 Council & Coord Section:

Council Section works under Admin & Finance Wing handles the business of National Assembly and Senate Secretariat which includes getting replies of Questions/Resolutions/Motions/Bills Assembly Session and working papers along with presentation National Assembly Standing Committee's Meetings. During the Financial Year 2023-24, following functions are performed by Council & Coordination Section:-

- i. Preparation of Year Book 2023-24 and its uploading on Ministry's Website in pursuance of in pursuance of Rule 25(2) of the Rules of Business 1973.
 - ii. Preparation of Annual Report on the observance and implementation of principles of policy (2023-24) under articles 29(3) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and forwarded to Cabinet Division for preparation of comprehensive report.
 - iii. Council Section also arranges pre-briefing with Minister for Commerce, Parliamentary Secretary, Secretary Commerce on upcoming Session/Questions/Bills/agenda items of Standing Committee's meetings.
 - iv. Nominating officers to attend Sessions of both Houses and arranging their entry cards during the Financial Year 2023-24.
 - v. Circulation of Orders/Directions/Recommendations received from President Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office and difference Ministries/Divisions for information and compliance.
 - vi. Provision of updated status of Implementation of Decisions made by Cabinet/ECC/CCoP/CCLC etc.
-

- vii. Provision of requested Information under the Right of Access to Information to general public.

4.4 AOs-Coord Section:

AOs-Coord Section is dealing all administrative and financial matters of the 17 Attached Organizations, Autonomous Bodies / Corporations of this Ministry:

- 2 During Financial Year 2023-24 following achievements have been made by this Section:
 - i. Amendment in Anti-Dumping Duties Act-2022 to give retrospective effect to cover the period from Financial Year 2020-2021 has been moved to Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) for approval.
 - ii. In accordance of National Tariff Commission (NTC) Act, 2015 NTC (Procedural), Rules and Anti-Dumping Rules, 2022 have been notified in the official Gazette.
 - iii. As per direction of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), help desk counters of Federal entities i.e FBR/Customs, Power distribution companies (DISCOs), Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) have been established at Business facilitation centers in following cities of Punjab: -
 - i. Lahore
 - ii. Rawalpindi
 - iii. Multan
 - iv. Faisalabad
 - v. Gujranwala
 - vi. Sialkot
 - iv. In accordance of SOE Act, 2023, categorization of 05 Commercial State Owned Stated (SOEs) under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) and ratified by the Cabinet.
 - v. A Summary for the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) for Privatization Program 2024-29 Decision of the Cabinet Committee on Privatization have been moved to Finance Division.
 - vi. Circulation of Orders/Directions/Recommendations to Attached Organizations of this Ministry received from President Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office and difference Ministries/Divisions for information and compliance.
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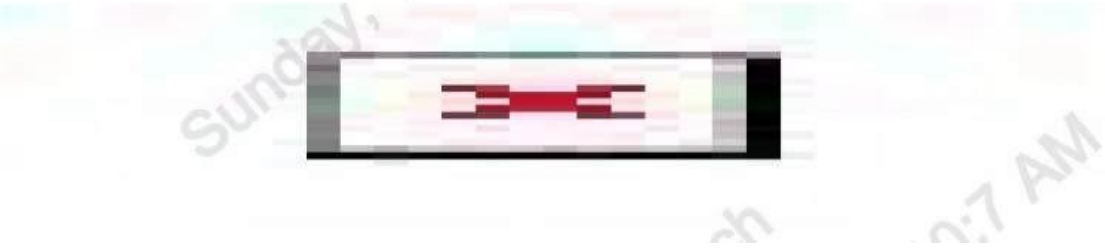
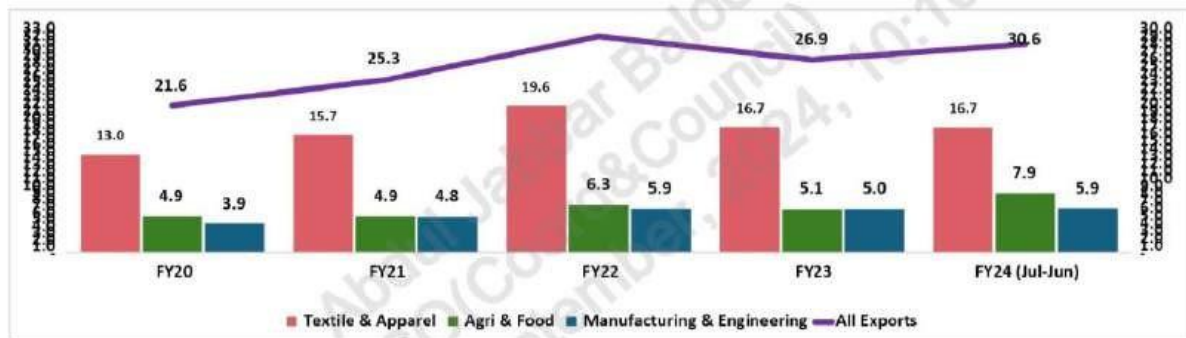
Trade Policy Wing



5. TRADE POLICY WING

Export Overview

Pakistan's exports increased to USD 30.6 billion in FY 24 from USD 26.9 billion in FY 23. The agriculture sector contributed the most to the increase in exports with a growth rate of 54.8%. The manufacturing and engineering sector also increased by 17.8% while the textile and apparel sector remained stagnant. The sectoral shares in the total export basket also changed as illustrated in figure 2, as the share of textile and apparel decreased from 62.1% to 54.6% while agriculture and manufacturing increased from 19.1% to 26% and 18.8% to 19.4% respectively.



Committee on Export Facilitation

The Prime Minister directed to constitute the Committee on Export Facilitation to resolve issues of the private sector concerning exports. Two meetings of the Committee were held on 14th May and 27th May 2024 with representation from relevant Ministries and the private sector.

Minutes of the two meetings were circulated to the concerned Ministries/Departments and final consolidated matrix of proposals considered by this Committee along with their status was prepared and sent to Finance Division on 07-06-2024 for consideration in the budget exercise as appropriate.

Roadmap for Effective International Trade Dispute Resolution under the New Trade Dispute Resolution Act 2023

A robust and comprehensive road map was developed by Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO) with technical assistance provided by USAID Investment Promotion Activity (IPA). The implementation process is underway

Growth for Rural Advancement & Sustainable Progress (GRASP) Project:

GRASP is a six-year project implemented by the International Trade Centre and funded by the delegation of the European Union to Pakistan. Ministry of Commerce with the support of GRASP is undertaking the following activities:

- Providing support to MoC for Digitization of Policy Intervention Record
- Study on the Impact of EU-CBAM on Pakistan Economy
- Establishment of facilities for Horticulture Hub Study.

Revenue Mobilization, Investment & Trade (ReMIT) Programme:

Revenue Mobilization Investment and Trade (ReMIT) is a 4-year project funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office which aims to promote and enhance international trade competitiveness of Pakistan. Ministry of Commerce with technical assistance from ReMIT has worked on the following activities:

- i. Support provided to the National Compliance Cell (NCC), aimed at enhancing regulatory compliance processes and ensuring adherence to trade regulations.
- ii. Implementing trade facilitation initiatives aimed at reducing trade barriers and improving the overall trade environment for businesses. These initiatives encompass capacity-building programs, technical assistance, and institutional reforms designed to streamline trade processes, enhance customs efficiency, and promote trade facilitation best practices.
- iii. Targeted training sessions focused on trade negotiation. These capacity-building activities equip government officials, trade negotiators, and other stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage in successful trade negotiations, advocate for Pakistan's interests, and secure favorable trade agreements.
- iv. Support for activities initiated by the International Trade Centre (ITC), focusing on sector-specific value chains, certification, and compliance.
- v. Focused on green technology addressing the NTBs that are limiting the transition to green technology for Pakistan along with the sector-level engagement for developing the implementation roadmap.
- vi. Transforming Export Development Fund. Working is being undertaken on developing a comprehensive plan of action with EDF to redesign the fund structure, SOPs, and processes to make it more impactful and easier to utilize facility.

EXIM Wing



6. EXIM WING

Import-I Section:

- i) SRO No. 430(I)/2024 dated 25-03-2024 was issued during the period increasing the extra mileage limit from 500 km to 2000 km.
- ii) Nine (09) condonation cases were processed giving one-time waiver for extra mileage during the year 2023-2024.

Import-II Section:

- i) Vide SRO 628(I)/2024 dated 30.04.2024, major amendments were introduced in the Import Policy Order, 2022.
- ii) Authorizations were issued for the duty-free import of cars up to 1350CC by the disabled persons.

Import-III Section

Import-III Section issued following Import Authorizations during the year 2023-24

- i. 7 cases of WHO regarding import of LLINS (6) Consignments Vaccine Carriers (01 Consignment).
- ii. One time Condonation of 10 consignments imported, with shelf-life less than 66% (M/S NutriCo Morinaga (Pvt) Ltd).
- iii. One time condonation of 5 consignments, imported with shelf-life less than 66% (M/S Nutr-X Health Products).
- iv. One time condonation of 4 consignment import with shelf life less than 66% (M/S Azone Pharmaceutical).
- v. One time condonation of extra mileage (M/S AG&CO).
- vi. 18 Import Authorizations were issued on one-time condonation for release of vehicles imported by the Overseas Pakistanis.

Export-I Section

i. Recommendations for Airport Passes

In accordance with the Aviation Division Policy, this Ministry recommends the names of the leading exporters performance USD 15.00 million in the preceding year.

2. Additionally, we forward requests from Presidents and Vice Presidents of Trade Associations and Chambers.

3. A total 64 exporters were recommended to Aviation Division for Protocol Passes who achieved an export performance of USD 15.00 million.

ii. Coordination with the Prime Minister's Office.

Export Wing of the Ministry liaised with the Prime Minister's Office and provided requisite information for the following events organized by Chambers/Associations during the FY 2023-24:-

S.no.	Details	Date	Status
1	Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI)	15-07-2023	Meeting
2	Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), 46 th FPCCI Export Awards Ceremony	22-07-2023	Event
	Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI)	July-2023	Meeting
3	Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) on	29-07-2023	Meeting
4	Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI)	July-2023	Meeting
5	Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI)	07-09-2023	Meeting
6	Prime Minister Visit to Karachi CCI and Pakistan Business Council	March-2024	Visit

iii. **Coordination with the President's Secretariat**

Export Wing of the Ministry liaised with the President's Secretariat and provided requisite information for the following events organized by Chambers/Associations during the FY 2023-24:-

S.no.	Details	Date	Status
1.	Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Former Vice President's Recognition Ceremony	19 th July,2023	Event
2.	Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), 46 th FPCCI Export Awards Ceremony	22.07.2023	Event
3.	Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) on job quotas & employments for DAPs	06.09.2023	Meeting
4.	LCCI Annual Ambassador's Dinner-2023	14.09.2023	Event
5.	Rice Exporter Association of Pakistan (REAP), 15 th Export Trophy Ceremony	September, 2023	Event
6.	Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI), Mid Health Expo & Summit-2023	16-08-2023	Event
7.	Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) regarding facilitation for Persons with Disabilities	19.09.2023	Meeting
8.	Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA)	28-09-2023	Meeting
9.	Korangi Association of Trade & Industry (KATI), Achievement Recognition Ceremony-2023	17-10-2023	Event
10.	Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), 14 th Achievement Recognition Ceremony-2023	08.11.2023	Event

11.	Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries (ICSTSI) Achievement Recognition Ceremony	29.11.2023	Event
12.	Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI)	05-12-2023	Meeting
13.	Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry (PAEI), 3 rd Pakistan International Property Housing Construction Expo & Convention (PIPEC)	21-12-2023	Event
14.	Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), Women Entrepreneurs Recognition Ceremony	24.01.2024	Event
15.	Employers Federation of Pakistan	29.01.2024	Meeting
16.	Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Women Empowerment, Breast Cancer and Welfare for PWDs	22.02.2024	Event
17.	Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ambassador Grant Dinner & Appreciation Ceremony	February 2024	Event
18.	Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Women Entrepreneurs & Young Entrepreneurs Recognition Ceremony	01.02.2024	Event
19.	Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Senior Vice President & Special Person Entrepreneurs Recognition Ceremony	26.02.2024	Event
20.	Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI)	15-16 May 2024	Meeting
21.	Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI)	June- 2024	Meeting

iv. Hearing of Appeals by the Federal Committee against the order of DGTO

Trade Organizations (TOs) are regulated under the Trade Organizations Act (TOA), 2013 and Trade Organizations Rules (TOR), 2013. The act and rules define the purpose, role responsibilities and operational framework, including code of corporate governance for TOs and their ancillary matters. Any part aggrieved by a decision of the Regulator, DGTO, may file an appeal under Section 21(2) of the TOA 2013.

In this regard 03 of Meetings of Federal Committee for hearing of Appeals were held and following Appeals were heard by the Committee during July 2023 to June 2024 under TOA, 2013.

S.No	Name of Association/Chamber	Date of hearing
1.	Hajj organizers Association of Pakistan	26.12.2023
2.	Ch. Muhammad Naeem Gill & Others	26.12.2023
3.	Chaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry	26.12.2023
4.	Syed Nadeem Mansur, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry	16.05.2024
5.	Pakistan Solar Association	16.05.2024

6.	Mansehra Chamber of Commerce & Industry	16.05.2024
7.	Gwadar Chamber of Commerce & Industry	16.05.2024
8.	Pakistan Animal Natural Sausage Casings Association	16.05.2024
9.	Pashin Chamber of Commerce & Industry	16.05.2024
10.	Pakistan Dairy Association	16.05.2024

Export-II Section

The Export-II Section looks after the affairs of exports. The NOCs, amendments in the EPO 2022 through SROs are issued after approval of high authorities. Following main actions have been taken by the Export-II Section to facilitate the promotion of exports in the country;

1. **Detail of SROs**
Following SROs/Notification were issued by Export-II Section;
2. Worked on the export related matters of the following sectors;
 - i. Surgical Sector
 - ii. Gems & Jewellery Sector
 - iii. Agro-based items
3. Coordinated meetings with stakeholders for EPO related issues.

S.No	SRO No.	Subject	Date
1.	SRO 433	Permission to Import Wheat and Export of Wheat Flour under Export Facilitation Scheme 2021	25-03-2024
2.	SRO 382	Ban on Export of Bananas and Onions	12-03-2024
3.	Change in Date of Export of Kinnow	Amendment in Export Policy Order, 2022	30-10-2023
4.	Change in Date of Export of Kinnow	Amendment in Export Policy Order, 2022	24-10-2023
5.	SRO 1087	Amendment in the Export Policy Order 2022	18-08-2023

4. Prepared and finalized consultations regarding Minimum Export Price on Pink Salt
5. Prepared briefs/presentations for the Economic Coordination Committee and Federal Government relating to Export Policy Order 2022.
6. Prepared Summary for Economic Coordination Committee and Federal Government on 27th December 2023 regarding importation of Sahiwal Bull from Pakistan as Semen Donors for National Artificial Insemination (AI) Program in Sri Lanka.

7. **DEVELOPMEWNT OF GUIDELINES FOR IMPORT/EXPORT OF ELECTRICITY**

The Export-II Section shared the following comments regarding request of Textile Wing regarding guidelines of import/export of electricity:

- i. There is no restriction on the export/import of electricity from or to Pakistan in the Export Policy Order, 2022, and the Import Policy Order, 2022;
- ii. Owing to absence of banking channels between Pakistan and Iran, the Government of Pakistan has operationalized a barter trade mechanism with Iran. However, the electricity is not included in the list of Export/Imports items. Therefore, it may be examined in light of this and the State Bank of Pakistan may be requested for further views/comments in this regard;
- iii. As regards exports/import of electricity to and from Afghanistan, India and China, the respective Foreign Trade Wings and Non-Agro Product Wing may be approached for views/comments;
- iv. The consumer protection may be ensured through devising a special mechanism/strategy, keeping in view the international best practices in this regard;
- v. A feasibility study may be conducted for assessing the impact of cross border trade of electricity of Pakistan on Industrial, Agricultural and Services sectors of Pakistan;
- vi. May devise a mechanism either for levying or exempting export/import/duty/levies/fees, etc., for cross-border trade and exchange of electricity between buying and selling entities;
- vii. May consider devising a dispute settlement mechanism in export/import of electricity from and to Pakistan;
- viii. While finalizing the electricity agreements, it may be ensured that the export oriented industry may get electricity at the regionally competitive rates in order to achieve trade competitiveness.

Court Cases in Courts

Export-II Section is pursuing following cases in different courts:

- i. Suit No. 1577/2023 Filed by M/S Alfalah International Traders Before The High Court Of Sindh At Karachi
 - ii. Writ Petition No. 143 of 2024 Misc. other (SB) filed by M/S Assabeqoon versus Animal Quarantine Department, etc. in the Islamabad High Court, Islamabad.
 - iii. CP No. D-413 of 2024, Mr. Manzar Alam & Others versus Federation of Pakistan & Others in the High Court of Sindh, Karachi.
 - iv. C.P No. 670/2023 Filed By M/s Dawood Oil & Ghee Mills versus Federation of Pakistan & Others in the Honorable High Court of Balochistan, Quetta.
 - v. Writ Petition No. 3564-P/2024 Titled “M/s Chashma Sugar Mills Ltd vs Federation of Pakistan etc” before the Peshawar High Court, Peshawar
 - vi. Writ Petition No. 3563-P/2024 Titled “M/s Tandlianwala Sugar Mills Ltd Vs Federation of Pakistan etc” Before The Peshawar High Court, Peshawar
 - vii. C.P No. D-1458 of 2024 filed by M/s Imran Ullah Versus Federation of Pakistan & Others in the Honorable High Court of Sindh, Karachi
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Tariff Policy Wing



7. TARIFF POLICY WING

The Tariff Policy Board (TPB), with administrative and technical support of Tariff Policy Centre (TPC) analyzed numerous tariff rationalization proposals as well as possible anomalies for budget exercise (F.Y. 2023-24). Besides, proposals received from public and the private sectors for budget exercise (F.Y. 2023-24) were also analyzed. Considering these proposals, and sectoral studies conducted by the TPC, custom tariffs have been rationalized on a number of tariff-lines, as per the objectives of the National Tariff Policy (2019-2024). The work undertaken by the TPB and Tariff Policy Wing/TPC since June till June 2024 is as follows:

- Conducted annual tariff rationalization (budget) exercise with the public and private stakeholders for the F.Y. 2023-24. The Tariff Policy Board evaluated 102 proposals received from the public and the private sectors suggesting changes in 1381 tariff lines, throughout the year. Consequently, rationalization of 30 tariff-lines were approved with the Finance Bill for F.Y. 2023-24.
 - Pursuing the policy of exploring avenues of renewable energy as a prime objective of the government, in the 47th TPB meeting, RD and ACD was reduced to zero on inputs used in local manufacturing of solar panels and allied parts. Details of parts / components of Solar Inverters, material/parts of Lithium Ion Batteries, and machinery/equipment for solar assembly/manufacturing industry have been provided by EDB's OM No. 3(43)/SPP/SDG/EDB/2022 dated 21-03-2023.
 - Forty (40) proposals were discussed by the Board under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Commerce. Aside from these proposals, the cases decided include Finalization of the offer-list for Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as proposed by FT-II Wing, localization of mobile phone manufacturing, ban on Export of wooden Match Splints" referred by MoC (EXIM wing) and rationalization on medicine and chemical inputs to pharmaceutical inputs and medicines was done to facilitate consumers specifically kidney and cancer patients.
 - Examined the tariff structure of the offer list of Pakistan for the negotiations of the bilateral trade agreement between Pakistan and UAE (Pakistan UAE CEPA Agreement). Most importantly, TPB defined the customs duties as collective of Customs Duty, Additional Customs Duty, and Regulatory Duty, in order to ensure transparency while entering into bilateral trade agreements.
 - Impact analysis of tariff regime was initiated, including review of existing tariff policy (2019-2024) and formulation of draft new National Tariff Policy (2025-2030) as the current policy will expire in FY 2024.
-

- In order to boost value added local production for export growth and competitiveness, Pre-budget seminar was conducted on 4th April, 2024. Product Associations, FPCCI, OICCI, ABC, PBC, Sectoral Councils, Chambers of Commerce & Industry from Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and Quetta presented their budget proposals.
- 50th to 55th meetings of the sub-committee of Tariff Policy Board (TPB) were held from 6th May – 24th May 2024. Moreover, 54th to 59th meetings of Tariff Policy Board were held between 8th May – 10th June 2024. More than 2,280 proposals received from more 150 public and private bodies were analyzed at TPC. TPB recommended changes in tariff structure of 302 Tariff Lines. Tariff rationalization on smuggling-prone items was recommended by TPB to discourage smuggling and encourage legal trade from Western borders.
- Inputs were provided on Ministry of Industries and Production's Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy, Auto Policy, Industrial Policy; Ministry of Communications' National Freight and Logistics Policy (NFLP), and Ministry of Interior's National Anti-Smuggling Policy
- The TPB in its 60th meeting approved tariff concessions of Pakistan to Azerbaijan under Preferential Trade Agreement.
- Initiated Consultation with stakeholders to discuss the technical, administrative and legal aspects of the Technology & Innovation (T&I) Fund, and a Legal Instrument/Act for the Fund was prepared. Moreover, draft Summary for the Federal Cabinet has been circulated to Finance Division. FBR, MoIP, MoST, MoITT for views/comments.

Textile Wing



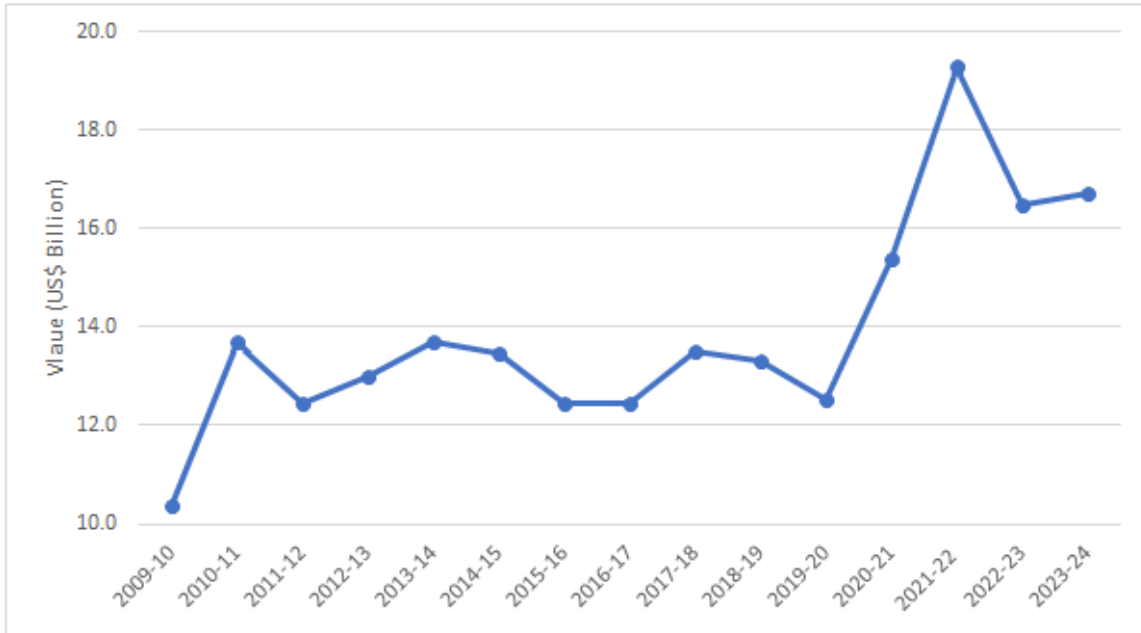
08. TEXTILE WING

Textile Wing, Ministry of Commerce oversees the matter related to entire value chain of the textiles, apparel, jute and carpets sectors. It is mandated for formulation and implementation of textile industrial policies; coordination and liaison with Federal agencies/ institutions, Provincial Governments entities for trade facilitation and promotion; liaison, dialogues, negotiations, and cooperation with international donor agencies and multilateral regulatory and development organizations, trade analytics, surveys, commercial intelligence, analysis and dissemination of information and reports on international demand patterns, market access etc., matters related to cotton and energy, linkages with cotton and textile producing countries; training, skill development, research for quality improvement and productivity enhancement throughout the production/value chain and consultation on trade negotiations and promotion.

Additionally, Textile Wing oversees the matters related to garment cities at Lahore, Faisalabad and Karachi, Textile Commissioner's Organization, Textile Testing Laboratory Faisalabad, and all textiles related EDF funded institutes concerned with skill development in various sub-sectors. It also manages a second-generation online portal for registration of textile companies which carries a window for textile cess collection as well. Additionally, it has also been assigned to oversee the matters related to tanneries, leather made-ups, footwear and gloves sectors.

The textile and apparel sector occupies a pivotal position in Pakistan's economy contributing around 55% in total exports, 40% in industrial employment and 24% in value addition. It encompasses distinctive and self-reliant value-added production chain that is developed by its own industrial resources starting from cotton farming, ginning, yarn manufacturing, fabric manufacturing, processed fabric manufacturing and finished product manufacturing like apparel, home textiles, technical textiles, etc. Pakistan is 5th largest producer of cotton; 2nd largest exporter of home linen and denim fabrics; 3rd largest exporter of towels, cotton cloth and cotton yarns; 6th largest exporter of hosiery products; and 15th largest exporter of apparel products.

Keeping in view the internal market situation in the aftermath of Ukraine war, strict IMF conditionalities, resulting in withdrawal of subsidies and pressure on foreign exchange reserves, there was a decline in exports in Financial Year 2022-23. However, Pakistan's textiles and apparel sector has been able to achieve nominal increase in FY 2023-24 despite facing external and internal shocks. Table below shows export performance of textiles and apparel sector since FY 2009-10 (the year in which first Textile Policy was announced):



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Key Activities/Tasks Undertaken during FY 2023-24:

The following key activities/work were performed by Textile Wing on the FY 2023-24 among the other routine tasks:

- i. **Review of Policies/Summaries submitted by various ministries/divisions**
 - a. Cotton Intervention Price (CIP) for 2024-25 Crop Season.
 - b. National Electricity Plan, 2023-27.
 - c. Natural Gas Revised Sale Pricing.
 - d. Winter Incentive Package for Industrial Electricity Consumers on Incremental Consumption.
 - e. Tariff Rationalization of Power Sector.
 - f. Petrochemical (Mid-Stream) Products Manufacturing Policy 2023.
 - g. Introduction of Large Scale Solar IPPs: Financial Viability Report.

- ii. **Evaluation of the Proposals submitted by the private stakeholders to Export Development Fund (EDF)**
 - a. Establishment of digital traceability system in Pakistan for Textile Exporters
 - b. Establishment of DNA based Testing Laboratory for Cotton Traceability.
 - c. 50% subsidy on individual treatment plants at Tanneries in Pakistan
 - d. Funding required under Sialkot Tannery Zone (STZ)
 - e. Support Center for Protective Equipment (SCPE) at Sialkot

Formulation of Export Strategy on Textiles and Apparel Sector

After critical appraisal of the previous policies, SWOT analysis, study of incentives being offered by the regional competitors, consultations with the private sector and overview of global trends, Textile Wing formulated a five years export strategy to boost exports of textiles and apparel sector. This strategy paper outlines the key interventions needed to improve perception of country and industry; reduce cost of manufacturing; improve resource productivity; diversifying to non-traditional, high value, and non-cotton based value-added finished products and potential/new markets; and improve conformity to ESG compliances.

iii. Preparation of Reports, Surveys on Sectoral Matters/Issues

- a. Material for Economic Survey of Pakistan
- b. New National Narrative centered on Economic Security
- c. A survey on thermal efficiency of captive power plants in textiles and apparel sector, as compared with Generation Companies (GENCOs) and K-Electric, and its Independent Power Plants (IPPs).
- d. Analysis of Export contribution of Captive power plants.
- e. Analysis of energy tariffs as compared with regional competitors.
- f. Impact assessment of General Sales Tax over the Industry Competitiveness in Pakistan.
- g. Analysis of Impact of hike in Power Tariff on net margins.
- h. The existing landscape of used clothing supply chain in Pakistan.
- i. Mapping of sectoral issues for export facilitation.
- j. Trade analytics and sectoral review.

iv. Initiatives/Activities to Support Trade Diplomacy

The following bilateral/multilateral engagements/activities (including FTA, PTA, JMCs, JTCs, JWG, etc.) were undertaken:

- a. A Study on Competitiveness of Pakistan's Apparel Sector to US Market and submission to United States International Trade Commission (USITC).
 - b. Proposals for Pakistan-Japan Joint Trade Committee (JTC) to enhance Pakistan's textiles and apparel exports to Japan by capturing available business opportunities.
 - c. Proposals for 8th Japan-Pakistan High Level Economic Policy Dialogue.
 - d. Review of Pakistan-Germany Government to Government Negotiations 2023 on technical cooperation projects.
 - e. Potential areas of collaboration for 16th Pakistan China Joint Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation (JEC)
 - f. Market access for the value-added textiles (apparel, home textiles), leather goods and footwear under the upcoming Canada General Preferential Tariff Plus scheme.
 - g. Pitching of Trade and Investment Opportunities to China at Pakistan-China Executive Business Summit at Kunshan, China
 - h. Identification of Pakistani companies to attract investment from China.
-

- i. Finalization of negotiations on goods under Pakistan Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Free Trade Agreement.
- j. Finalization of indicative request and offer lists for preferential tariff treatments under Pakistan United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
- k. Key Highlights for High Level Engagement at Kenya
- l. Proposals for Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council Intersessional in respect of enhanced market access, technology transfer and capacity building.

v. Technical Cooperation with International Partners/Donor Agencies

Coordination with international partners/donor agencies on technical cooperation projects:

- a. Technical cooperation projects with the GIZ on “Improvement of Labor and Environment Standards” and “Women Empowerment”.
- b. Collaboration with GIZ FABRIC team for enhancing awareness to textiles and apparel industry of Pakistan on EU Strategy on Sustainable and Circular Textiles, EU Due Diligence Directives on Sustainability, New York Fashion Act, US Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, EU Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation, EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, EU Microplastic Regulation, UK Plastic Packaging Tax, EU Textile Regulation and EU Taxonomy.
- c. Cooperation with ILO on Decent Work Country Program (DCWP-IV) and Improvement of Labor and Environment Standards (ILES) Project.
- d. Review of “Terms of Reference” for Inter-Ministerial Committee on “Just Transition”.
- e. Critical review of the report on Addressing Constraints Limiting the Flow of Private Sector Investments for Climate Change across the Textile value chain commissioned jointly by ReMIT and CDPR.
- f. Identification of micro level study/assessment areas for collaboration with the USAID.
- g. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between International Labor Organization (ILO) and Government of Pakistan on 9th March 2022, Better Work Pakistan has so far enrolled 94 companies (out of total 120 companies in three-year pilot phase) across Karachi, Faisalabad and Lahore by implementing factory engagement model.

vi. Sustainability and Climate Change

- a. Consultation on industrial best practices and way forward for climate change mitigation.
 - b. Prepared a Report on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and Exports Reforms to review Climate Change Governance and access to global climate funds.
 - c. Proposed Federal Board to install track and trace at ginning factories in Pakistan.
-

vii. Budgetary Proposals and Impact Assessment of Budget

Comprehensive budgetary proposals were provided to various ministries/divisions encompassing every parameter which may affect textiles and apparel exports:

- a. Coordinated with trade association to ascertain budgetary proposals.
- b. Submission of tariff rationalization proposals to National Tariff Policy Board after critical review of custom tariffs imposed by Pakistan and global leading producers (India, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Vietnam, Turkey) on MMF materials, anti-dumping duties imposed by different countries, domestic production and trade data, and sectoral consultation.
- c. Submission of proposals related to energy, liquidity, financing, taxations, tariffs, and sector specific initiatives for the consideration of the Committee on Export Facilitation constituted as per the PM's directive.
- d. Coordinated with Finance Division for allocation of funds in the Federal Budget to clear the pending verified claims under Government Support Schemes.
- e. Critical evaluation of Federal Budget and impact of tax measures over exports.

viii. Sectoral Councils

The Ministry of Commerce has constituted sectoral councils for Textiles, Apparel and Leather and Footwear with an objective of bringing together private and public sector expertise to formulate the policies to sort out the sectoral issues and boost exports. Textile Wing coordinated with these sectoral councils and facilitated meetings of these councils to devise a strategy for boosting exports mainly of value-added textiles, leather goods and footwear products.

ix. Parliament and Senate Matters

Submission of Presentations, Briefs and Replies for the President Secretariat, Prime Minister Office, Senate, National Assembly, Committees of Senate and National Assembly on Commerce.

During the year, various issues of prime importance were also raised, and proper analysis were carried out to resolve the sectoral issues. Details are as follows:

- i. Policy formulation and implementation to promote industrialization, enhance exports and generate employment.
- ii. Regional competitive energy tariffs for export-oriented sectors including textiles.
- iii. Domestic cotton production and its impact on textiles and apparel value chain
- iv. Improvement of Labor/Social, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) Compliance Standards in Pakistan textiles and apparel industry.

Agro Products Wing



09. AGRO PRODUCTS WING

1. Trade Agreements and Market Access:

- i. Finalized the list of agro products for GCC FTA, UAE-FTA, and PTA with Azerbaijan.
- ii. Facilitated export protocols with China for various products, including citrus, mango, cherries, rice, cooked beef, forage/Rhodes grass, dry chilies, milk buffalo genetic resources, donkey hides, onions, and dairy products.
- iii. Taken up matter of ban of shrimps by the US with the relevant mission in the US. It has been requested to invite the US inspectors to Pakistan. Response from the US side is awaited.
- iv. Addressed SPS issues related to mango exports to Iran and facilitated the release of 200 trucks of mangoes at the Taftan border.
- v. Coordinated mango diplomacy with MNFSR, DPP, and TDAP for quality assurance and packaging through reputable third-party validation.
- vi. DPP accredited 17 Hot Water Treatment Facilities for Iran for mango exports in collaboration with MoC.
- vii. Improved compliance standards in the meat export industry to restore trade relations with the UAE.
- viii. Released 1,300 containers of Pakistani rice stuck in Kenya.

2. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs):

- i. Signed MoUs for the export of donkey meat to China and mangoes to Uzbekistan.
- ii. Implemented SIFC decisions on halal food labeling and signed MoUs on halal products.

3. Development and Implementation of Export Strategies:

- i. Developed protocols for rice export to the EU and UK to address interception issues.
- ii. Identified and developed export strategies for non-traditional agro products.
- iii. Formulated an export enhancement strategy for agro products.
- iv. Facilitated B2B meetings with delegates from KSA and China.

4. Efforts to Enhance Cherry Exports to China:

- i. Facilitated the signing of a phytosanitary protocol for cherry exports to China.
- ii. Organized a visit for a Chinese business delegation to cherry orchards in Gilgit-Baltistan.

5. Sectoral Councils for Agro Products:

Constituted councils for Rice, Agriculture Products, and Meat & Dairy to devise strategies for boosting agricultural production and exports. In December 2023, notified a new Sectoral Council for the Dairy and Dairy Products.

Non-Agro Products Wing



10. NON-AGRO PRODUCTS WING

The Non-Agro Products Wing (NAPW) is dedicated to a multifaceted approach to enhance the sector of Non-Agricultural Products. It undertakes a critical analysis of trade dynamics and associated issues, aiming to address and resolve challenges that impact NAPW. This includes monitoring market trends, trade policies, and barriers that could affect the sector. Additionally, the wing focuses on supporting and evaluating the domestic production of Non-Agro products, with the goal of improving local manufacturing capabilities, product quality, and overall competitiveness. To achieve these objectives, it liaises with relevant ministries and departments, ensuring effective coordination on regulations, support programs, and policy implementations. Through these efforts, the wing plays a vital role in promoting and advancing the non-agricultural sector.

Mandate of NAPW:

- To work on supply side issues of Non-Agro products
- Identification of supply side constraints in consultation with Private & Public Sectors stakeholders
- Inputs for preparation and implementation of Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF)
- Develop workable proposals for strengthening the supply side of products in order to generate exportable surplus.
- Liaison with the business community through their respective registered trade organizations
- Coordination with Ministries / Divisions / Departments to minimize regulatory burden to make market more investment and business friendly
- Facilitation in sector-based product certifications & standardization
- To maintain updated sector specific data/information

Recent Activities of NAPW:

- a) **Pak-Saudi Business Forum:** On 5th May 2024, Pakistan had the honor of hosting a prominent Saudi Business Delegation in Islamabad. The visit of the Saudi Business Delegation to Pakistan aimed at fostering bilateral economic ties and exploring investment opportunities in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. The Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum held on May 6, 2024 in Serena Hotel. It served as a platform for fostering business relationships between the two countries and generating potential business opportunities. The delegation, comprising representatives from prominent Saudi businesses and investors, expressed keen interest in tapping burgeoning Pakistani market. Discussions during the visit centered on enhancing economic cooperation and identifying potential areas for collaboration. The visit signifies a positive step towards strengthening the economic relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, paving the way for future investments and partnerships. About forty-three (43) Pakistani Companies from Energy, Minerals and Mining, Petrochemicals and Construction Sector held investment B2B meetings with Saudi Companies. Wherein, Non Agro Product Wing was responsible for conducting break-out sessions for construction, Energy, Mining & Chemicals and B2B meetings for energy, mining, petro chemicals and real estate and construction sectors etc.
- b) **Submission of Industry Budget Proposals to TP Wing:** This wing's ongoing efforts to ensure that industry needs are adequately reflected in policy planning, it has successfully collected budget proposals from various industry stakeholders. These proposals have been carefully compiled and shared with the Trade Policy (TP) Wing. This crucial step will help in aligning industry needs with the policy framework and facilitating a more inclusive and effective budget planning process. The submission includes detailed inputs and recommendations from different sectors, addressing their specific financial

requirements, challenges, and opportunities for growth. By incorporating these insights, the TP Wing can make more informed decisions, ultimately supporting the overall development and competitiveness of our industrial sectors.

- c) **Development of Strategy to Enhance Export of Non-Traditional Goods:** To diversify our export portfolio and reduce dependency on traditional goods, we are actively developing a comprehensive strategy to enhance the export of non-traditional goods. This strategy aims to identify and capitalize on emerging opportunities in global markets, fostering growth in sectors that have previously been underrepresented in our export landscape.
 - d) **Policy Input for Gold and Jewelry Sector Submitted to TP Wing:** To support the growth and competitiveness of the gold and jewelry sector, we have provided detailed policy input to the Trade Policy (TP) Wing for onward submission to the Prime Minister's Task Force on Jewelry. This initiative is part of our broader effort to develop and implement strategies that enhance the sector's contribution to the national economy.
 - e) **Brief on International Certifications and Regulatory Framework for Gems Submitted to Petroleum Division:** In our commitment to bolster the gems sector and ensure its alignment with international standards, we have provided a comprehensive brief on international certifications and regulatory frameworks to the Petroleum Division. This brief aims to inform and guide policy development, ensuring that our gems industry can compete effectively in the global market.
 - f) **Inputs on Bilateral Trade Relations with Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Malaysia Provided to Respective Foreign Trade Wings:** To strengthen our bilateral trade relations and enhance economic cooperation, we have provided detailed inputs on trade relations with Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Malaysia to the respective Foreign Trade Wings. These inputs are aimed at identifying opportunities, addressing challenges, and fostering mutually beneficial trade partnerships.
 - g) **Assistance in Removing Sales Tax on Entrustment Scheme Under SRO 760(I)/2013 for Gold Imports:** To support the gold and jewelry sector and enhance its competitiveness, we are aiding in the removal of sales tax on the entrustment scheme under SRO 760(I)/2013 for the import of gold. This initiative aims to reduce the financial burden on the industry, facilitate easier access to raw materials, and promote the growth of the sector.
 - h) **Imposition of Minimum Export Price (MEP) on Export of Pink Salt:** To regulate the export of pink salt and ensure that it is traded at fair value, we are considering the imposition of a Minimum Export Price (MEP). This measure aims to protect the interests of local producers, prevent undervaluation, and ensure that pink salt exports contribute optimally to the national economy.
 - i) **Sectoral Councils for Non-Agro Products:** As envisioned in the Strategic Trade Policy Framework, 2020-25, Ministry of Commerce constituted Sector-Specific Councils and the following number of meetings are held to create link between the public and private stakeholders for ensuring an environment of collaboration, trust and ownership, and convergence of diverse set of approaches and thinking on a well thought out, considered and balanced set of recommendations for consideration of the Government:
-

Sectoral Council	No. of Meeting	Key Recommendations
Marble Granite and Minerals	- 6 meetings	Short-term: Formation of delegations, participation in international exhibitions, reversal of duty concession removal, promulgation of Mining Law, virtual exhibitions. Long-term: Focus on marble reserve exploration, discourage raw mineral exports, explore Lithium and Nepheline Cyanide reserves, amend mineral export valuation, provide warehousing in GCC (UAE).
Pharmaceutical & Cosmetics	- 5 meetings	Address industry challenges, government support for bio-equivalence labs, R&D investment, technology import, establish WHO certified testing labs, develop export strategy by PPMA.
Engineering Goods	- 6 meetings	Address high financing rates (KIBOR), tariff rationalization, develop 10-year EGMP, combat smuggling and under-invoicing, increase DLTL on exports, promote import substitution, expedite e-governance for business ease.
Sports Goods	- 6 meetings	Develop sectoral strategies with USAID IPA, government support for export-oriented sectors, address raw material and utility cost issues, improve trade dispute handling, strengthen SIDC for product diversification, support local raw material availability, promote e-commerce, establish international testing facility in Sialkot.
Chemicals	- 4 meetings	Comply with packaging and labeling requirements, provide subsidies for private exhibitions, include paints and coatings in zero-rated items for Afghanistan export, support LC opening for value chain industries, arrange B2B meetings, resolve banking and logistics issues.
Surgical Instruments	- 6 meetings	Regular meetings for export initiatives, address supply chain challenges with USAID, remove SIMTEL certification requirements for export, identify key industry problems, promote stakeholder collaboration.
Gems & Jewelry	- 3 meetings	Amend SRO-760(I)/2013 to increase exports, permit raw gold import, support online B2C selling system, review GGIP's role in providing trained human resources.

- j) **Capacity Building of the Surgical Instruments Sector for Compliance with the EU MDR:** The European Union Medical Device Regulation (MDR)/Regulation (EU) 2017/745 (EU MDR) entered into force on 26 May 2021, and will be fully implemented from May 2024, which now has been extended further till 2027. Manufacturers will have to enhance their quality systems, and introduce new procedures for document storage, postmarket surveillance, and risk assessments for their products. Non-Agro Products Wing is working for the development of the testing infrastructure at one place that could cater to the needs of the entire industry located in the Golden Triangle (Gujranwala, Sialkot, Sheikhupura, and Wazirabad), providing services to the sectors like Medical devices & surgical instruments, leather goods, sports and other allied industries at their door step. Project of Accredited Facilities under ISO/IEC: 17025:2017 for compliance with MDR is under consideration in EDF Secretariat.

Foreign Trade-I Wing



11. FOREIGN TRADE-I WING

YEAR BOOK DATA OF FT-I WING	
1.	Attended 7 th Supervisory Committee meeting of the Developing-8 (D-8) and 3 rd Meeting of the Trade Ministers of D-8 on PTA in March 2024 in which Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) was adopted.
2.	Meetings with stakeholders (government and private) on expansion of the China–Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA)
3.	In-house review of Malaysia-Pakistan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) initiated and Working Groups (WGs) for review negotiations from Pakistan side notified.
4.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Cambodia on Joint Trade Committee (JTC).
5.	Development of a draft Concept Paper for submission to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Trade Ministerial in September 2024.
6.	Summary approved for participation of Osaka Expo 2025. Matter taken up case with Finance Division for funding of Expo and Opening of Bank Account in Japan.
7.	Shifting of Commercial Section from Morocco to Philippines

Foreign Trade-II

Wing



12. FOREIGN TRADE-II WING

1. ECO & CARS REGION

Pakistan's total trade with ECO & CARs region was US\$ **3504.52** million in 2023-24, with exports of US\$ **1641.728** million and imports of US\$ **1862.79** million.

The Trade Statistics are given as under:

BILATERAL TRADE OF PAKISTAN WITH AFGHANISTAN, IRAN, TURKEY AND CARS (US\$ MILLION)

Pakistan's Bilateral Trade with ECO Economies (\$ Million)											
S. No	Country	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
1	Afghanistan	857.49	472.53	1022.21	583.59	763.98	801.26	953.99	892.84	1064.84	538.59
2	Azerbaijan	11.08	0.26	3.35	3.78	9.7	0.78	10.84	24.38	4.18	10.81
3	Iran	0.01	437.49	0	518.62	0	773.77	0.1	880.38	0.02	1036.76
4	Kazakhstan	64.11	0.81	103.5	0.45	162.9	56.22	50.94	5.72	170.82	1.68
5	Kyrgyzstan	1.75	0.11	1.91	0.04	4.09	0.18	10.95	0.25	7.69	0.25
6	Tajikistan	4.19	0.57	2.05	0.77	3.52	4.6	23.57	1.04	14.69	0.50
7	Turkey	272.04	354.33	277.52	478.19	365.58	517.7	321.38	349.61	298.78	244.63
8	Turkmenistan	2.07	3.95	3.46	7.6	1.66	10.54	1.91	6.14	1.21	3.64
9	Uzbekistan	21.5	5.52	30.81	26.8	56.61	35.12	68.73	37.9	79.50	25.91
Total		1234.24	1275.57	1444.81	1619.84	1368.04	2200.17	1442.41	2198.26	1641.728	1862.79
Total Trade		2509.81		3064.65		3568.21		3640.67		3504.52	

Source: FBR/PRAL

Following measures have been taken by the Ministry of Commerce for export diversification in the non-traditional market of Central Asian Republics, 36 which resulted in export enhancement to the region.

2.1 DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC CORRIDOR AND REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

As envisaged under para 5.4.4 of the STPF 2020-25, Ministry of Commerce has taken following actions to develop Economic Corridor and enhance regional connectivity with landlocked CARs:

a) Signing of Transit Trade Agreement with Azerbaijan

The Pak-Azerbaijan transit trade agreement has been signed on 11th July, 2024 during the visit of president of Azerbaijan to Pakistan. All the background work was done during 2023-24.

b) Negotiations on Transit Trade Agreement with Turkmenistan

Pakistan and Turkmenistan started negotiations on Transit Trade Agreement on 2nd June, 2023 as part of Regional Connectivity Policy and were continued during 2023-24.

c) Signing of Transit Trade Agreement with Tajikistan

Pakistan-Tajikistan Transit Trade Agreement was signed during the visit of the Tajik President to Islamabad on 14th December, 2022. The Agreement has been operationalized from February, 2024.

d) Trilateral Meeting on Trade & Transit

Pakistan hosted first Trilateral meeting of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan on 14th November, 2023 to discuss trade & transit issues. The three countries decided to constitute a Joint Trilateral Working Group on Trade & Transit. Ministry of Commerce shared draft Agreement and TORs of the Working Group with Uzbekistan and Afghanistan for their concurrence.

2.2 TRADE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

a) Pakistan-Azerbaijan Preferential Trade Agreement:

The Pak-Azerbaijan preferential trade agreement has been signed on 11th July, 2024 during the visit of president of Azerbaijan to Pakistan. All the background work was done during 2023-24.

b) Single country exhibition “Made in Pakistan”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The first single country exhibition “Made in Pakistan” was held from 28th – 30th June, 2024 in Uz Expo Centre Tashkent and Inaugurated by Deputy Minister of Industry, Investment & Trade, Uzbekistan, Secretary Commerce, Government of Pakistan Chief Executive, Trade Development Authority Pakistan Ambassador of Pakistan to Uzbekistan. 84 Pakistani exhibitors from various sectors participated. Over 2000 multi-sectoral B2B meetings held Business deals of approximately USD 10.4 million reported by exhibitors. MOU worth USD 40 million reported between a Pakistani company and the Provincial Govt of Bukhara. 5 MOUs in the Auto parts and Light Engineering sectors were also signed. Estimated footfall of visitors was around 5000.



c) **Pakistan-Uzbekistan logistics forum” 29th June 2024, Tashkent.**

Pakistan-Uzbekistan logistics forum was organized on 29th June 2024, Tashkent in which 14 logistic companies of Pakistan participated in the event and held 300 B2B meetings with 50 Uzbek logistic companies. NLC signed an MoU with Uzbekistan Railways. Trade volume of more than 90 containers was confirmed by Logistic companies while further inquiries are in the pipeline. Trans Afghan Railways and connectivity through land route were discussed. NLC signed MoU with Uzbekistan Railways.



d) Notable G2G Meetings:

A number of important G2G meetings were held among the Secretary Commerce, Secretary Railways Pakistan, CE TDAP and Custom Authorities of Pakistan with their counterparts of Uzbekistan on the sidelines of single country exhibition and logistics forum. The meetings are detailed below;

- Meeting of Secretary Commerce Pakistan and CE TDAP with H.E. Kudratov Laziz Shavkatovich Minister of Investment, Industry & Trade Uzbekistan
- Meeting of Secretary Railways Pakistan with Minister of Transport, Uzbekistan
- Trilateral meeting between Pakistan Railways, Uzbekistan Railways and Russian Railways
- Meeting of CE TDAP with President Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Uzbekistan
- Meeting of CE TDAP with Deputy Chairman Textiles Association of Uzbekistan(Uztexprom)

e) Visit of Pakistani delegation led by Secretary Commerce to Afghanistan

A high-level delegation from Pakistan led by Secretary Commerce visited Afghanistan from 26-27th March, 2024 to discuss bilateral trade and transit issues especially implementation of TAD and Pakistan-Afghanistan PTA.

f) Implementations of TAD

In compliance of the decisions taken during the meeting in Kabul the TAD mechanism was implemented from 1st June, 2024. Pakistan Embassy in Kabul and Consulate General in Kandahar have issued 1750 TADs to Afghan transporters. Consulates General of Afghanistan in Peshawar and Quetta have issued 750 TADs to Pakistani transporters till date.

g) Pakistan-Afghanistan Preferential Trade Agreement

During the visit of Pakistan's delegation to Kabul in March 2024, both sides agreed to revive PTA negotiations. Two sessions of Technical level negotiations have been held so far to finalize request lists from both sides.

h) 2nd Meeting of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Trade

2nd Meeting of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Trade was held in Islamabad on 14th November, 2023. Issues related to enhancement of trade, transit and regional connectivity were discussed in the meeting.

i) Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum

3rd Pakistan-Uzbekistani Business Forum was held on the sidelines of the 2nd Meeting of the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Trade. 30 companies from Uzbekistan participated in the Forum and held B2B meetings with their Pakistani counterparts.

Foreign Trade-III

Wing



13. FOREIGN TRADE-III WING

FT-III Wing of Ministry of Commerce has been mandated, inter alia, to promote Pakistan's trade with American and European Regions and to ensure optimum market access opportunities for Pakistan's export products in these regions. In this regard, Pakistan's trade performance and initiatives taken to promote and facilitate trade in the regions are given below:

1. AMERICAS REGION

i. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Pakistan has had a decent trade surplus with the USA and bilateral trade in goods totaled US \$ 6.55 billion during FY 2023-2024. Exports to US remained at USD 5,287 million while imports figured to be USD 1,263 million.

The agendas of 9th Pakistan-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council Meeting held on 23rd February, 2023 in Washington D.C. were carried forward in FY 2023-24. A follow up meeting with USTR was held on 21st February, 2024 to discuss the agricultural agendas under TIFA. Furthermore, the 7th Intercessional on Pakistan-US TIFA was held in Islamabad on 25th April, 2024.

Ministry of Commerce represented the Government of Pakistan in Public Hearing on USITC Investigation no. 332-602 on Apparel: Export Competitiveness of certain foreign suppliers to United States held on 11th March, 2024 at Washington DC. Furthermore, Ministry of Commerce also participated in USITC Public Hearing for Investigation No. 332-603 on Rice: Global Competitiveness and Impacts on Trade and the U.S. Industry held on 30th April, 2024.

Ministry of Commerce also continued to lobby for the renewal of US General System of Preferences (GSP) Program which expired on 31st December, 2020, and in collaboration with US Embassy for joint collaboration with respect to women economic empowerment.

ii. PAK-CANADA STATES BILATERAL TRADE

The total trade volume between Pakistan and Canada amounted to USD 525 million during the FY 2023-2024. Pakistan's exports to Canada during the same period stood at USD 392 million while imports amounted to USD 133 million.

Government of Canada is working on creating a new GPT + program for the developing countries that meet and progressively improves their adherence to international

labour rights and environmental standards and would be eligible for tariff benefits to additional products that are currently not subject to the GPT, such as apparel, footwear and Ships, which otherwise face MFN tariffs of up to 25 percent. Ministry of Commerce in consultation with relevant stakeholders prepared a list of tariff lines to seek concession under GPT+ program and shared it with Department of Finance Canada for consideration.

iii. 2nd Session of Pakistan and Mexico Joint Commission (Virtual Format)

An inter-Ministerial meeting was held in Ministry of Economic Affairs Division in July, 2024. This meeting was attended by officials from the relevant Ministries and Divisions. In this meeting, it was decided to ask from concerned Ministries /Divisions to provide their feedback regarding the agenda for 2nd session of Pakistan and Mexico JC. After receiving the feedback from all the concerned Ministries /Divisions, the dates for 2nd session of JC will soon be finalized with Mexico.

iv. Lifting of Ban on Import of Rice from Pakistan

In July, 2023, a delegation of the officials of the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA), NPPO, Mexico visited Pakistan to oversee the fumigation services in rice export facilities and establishments. They visited different export facilities in Lahore, Faisalabad and Karachi and assessed the arrangements at the rice factories and stations destined for exports to Mexico. After the visit, the SENASICA officials has submitted a report and have put recommendations to the Pakistan's Department of Plant Protection (DPP) for implementation. The DPP has also submitted its compliance report on all the recommendations and suggestions of the SENASICA and it is expected that the ban will be lifted soon.

v. Trade Performance (Americas):

Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade				
USD Million				
Country	Exports		Imports	
	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
USA	5239.35	5287	2033.06	1263.06
Canada	366.01	392	492.06	133

Mexico	126.90	138.61	76.90	58.20
Brazil	102.43	150.16	844.14	273.73
Chile	61.24	74.61	36.99	19.78
Colombia	40.85	31.76	0.82	4.69
Argentina	45.09	39.89	261.36	136.29
Peru	27.79	24.52	2.83	4.66
Panama	25.38	18.61	0.08	1.38

Source: FBR

2. EUROPE REGION

a. Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus):

Pakistani products have duty free access in all 27-member states of the European Union (EU) since 1st January 2014. This duty-free access is available under European Union's '**Special Incentive Arrangement for Good Governance and Sustainable Development**' (GSP Plus) which is a pivotal mechanism for improving economic relations between Pakistan and EU, whereby Pakistan is given zero rated preference on almost 66% tariff lines to the EU market. This arrangement has helped Pakistani products to compete successfully with similar products originating from other competing countries such as China, India, Bangladesh, Turkey and Vietnam etc. Because of GSP+, Pakistan has similar access in the European Union as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Turkey and better market access than India and China.

After every two years, a review is carried out by the European Union to ensure the commitment of the beneficiary countries to effectively implement the 27 UN Conventions. Pakistan has successfully completed four biennial reviews 2016, 2018, 2020 & 2022. The latest assessment review report has been released by EU in November 2023.

The European Commission has released its 4th Periodic Assessment Report for GSP Plus from 2020 to 2022. Pakistan has been found compliant with all the 27 international conventions. During the review, Pakistan's exports to the European Union grew from 5.9 billion euros in 2019 to 9.4 billion euros in 2022 registering a growth of 58.9%. It is worth noting that out of the total export of 9.4 billion euros, exports worth 8 billion euros enjoyed zero import tariffs due to GSP Plus arrangement.

Since the EU has rolled over GSP Scheme till 31st December 2027 and the 4th Periodic Assessment Report has not mentioned any "serious and systematic violation" of any of the GSP related conventions which can trigger temporary withdrawal of the tariff concessions under GSP

Regulation, therefore, the tariff concessions to Pakistan under GSP arrangement will be continued.

b. Pakistan EU Sub Group on Trade

Pakistan EU Sub Group on Trade is a bilateral trade forum under the umbrella arrangement of Pakistan EU Joint Commission where both sides discuss the issues of common interest. Ministry of Commerce is co-chair for the said sub group.

So far 13 sessions of Pakistan EU Sub Group on Trade have been held, 13th being the latest held in Brussels, Belgium on 21st June 2023. Both sides discussed to enhance cooperation in the various fields including agriculture, customs and road & transit arrangement.

c. European Green Deal /Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

Pakistan is strengthening its position in addressing climate-related challenges and making meaningful strides towards a greener and more sustainable future.

The European Green Deal provides a road map with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and stop climate change, revert biodiversity loss and cut pollution. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals.

The carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) has been introduced by the European Union (EU) to make sure that its climate objectives are not negotiated by carbon imports intensively. CBAM mechanism imposes prices on certain commodities to achieve the emission mitigation targets. Initially, CBAM was adopted by the European Union (EU) in May 2023. It entered the transitional phase in October 2023. By January 2026, CBAM will be permanently applied to certain carbon-intensive imports. During its first phase, six sectors were added which include Cement, Iron & Steel, Aluminium, Fertilizers, Electricity & Hydrogen sector. EU has a plan to add all Emission Trading System (ETS) products by 2034.

Ministry of Commerce is actively following the legislative development on the EU Green deal and relevant legislation in collaboration with ITC-GRASP and technical analysis on CBAM and its Impact on Pakistan. Webinars were also organized for the awareness session of the business community on the CBAM Regulation.

UK:

- The forum of UK-Pakistan Trade Dialogue is envisaged to provide an avenue for discussion on diverse matters pertaining to trade & investment between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Several High-Level and Technical-Level meetings have been held. Both countries are currently working towards launching the Dialogue at the Ministerial level in the year 2024-25.

ITALY:

- An SME Internationalization / Export Readiness Programme is currently being coordinated with the Milan Chamber of Commerce & Industry which will train Pakistani SMEs in skills and tools to explore and enter international markets.
- In July 2023, the Italian Trade Agency established a dedicated office for Pakistan in Islamabad, which was previously operating from Dubai.

1.4. Trade Performance:

Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade				
USD Million				
Country	Exports		Imports	
	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2020-21	FY 2022-23
UK	1,943.11	2,015.94	555.66	578.47
Germany	1,579.12	1560.64	780.17	755.90
Netherlands	1,580.63	1484.02	487.86	447.94
Spain	1,415.75	1407.01	170.61	132.39
Italy	1,162.96	1120.92	355.61	315.33
Belgium	723.90	646.35	321.49	270.88
France	499.09	469.98	394.55	251.11
Sweden	152.92	149.39	209.18	129.42
Switzerland	14.61	12.67	206.77	157.04
Hungary	16.29	29.35	34.92	41.01z

FT-IV Wing



14. FT-IV WING

1. AFRICA REGION

Total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Africa was US\$ 5.45 billion in 2023-24. Exports were US \$2.28 billion, while imports were US \$3.16 billion in 2023-24. The details are provided below:

BILATERAL TRADE OF PAKISTAN WITH AFRICA (US\$ BILLION)

Year	Pakistan Imports (US\$ Billion)	Pakistan Exports (US\$ Billion)	Total Trade (US\$ Billion)
2017-18	2.74	1.51	4.25
2018-19	2.92	1.36	4.28
2019-20	2.70	1.48	4.18
2020-21	3.11	1.37	4.48
2021-22	4.80	1.54	6.34
2022-23	2.89	1.55	4.44
2023-24	3.16	2.28	5.45

1.1 LOOK AFRICA POLICY OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

In order to enhance trade and increase outreach to major African economies, the Ministry of Commerce launched “Look Africa Policy Initiative”, which envisaged various measures to enhance trade with Africa. The initiatives have been under taken by the Ministry of Commerce to diversify exports to Africa including enhancing Commercial representation, enhanced participation in exhibitions, coordination with regulatory authorities, organization of Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conferences and Single Country Exhibitions in regional trading hubs of Africa. In pursuance of this, following initiatives have been taken during fiscal year 2022-23:

1.2 4th Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition

4th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition (PATDC) was held at Cairo, Egypt from 9th – 11th January 2024. Federal Minister for Commerce led the Pakistani delegation which include 113 companies from Pakistan. This was a state level participation in Egypt after 18 years. An estimated US\$ 5 million worth of trade deals were penned during the event. More than 1900 B2B meetings took place during the two-day Single Country Exhibition.

1.3 Preferential Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Mozambique

Negotiations on Pakistan-Mozambique PTA have been initiated

1.4 Trade Promotional Activities

During FY 2023-24, Trade Missions in collaboration with TDAP arranged 300 delegates/buyers from Africa to participate in the 3rd Engineering and health care show held on 18th – 20th January 2024. Similarly, around 150 buyers/delegates from Africa participated in FoodAg Pakistan held on 10th -12th August, 2023.

2. MIDDLE EAST REGION

2.1 Removal of restriction on sea food exports to Saudi Arabia

Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with Mission in Riyadh, successfully removed the restriction on exports of sea food products.

2.2 Exchange of Trade Delegation with Saudi Arabia

A high level business delegation led by Commerce Minister visited Saudi Arabia and a delegation from Saudi Arabia led by Assistant Minister of Investment visited Pakistan.

Services Wing



15. SERVICES WING

ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY THE GEROGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS CELL DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR (2023-24)

Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection), Act was enacted in March 2020 and Rules thereunder were notified in December, 2020. 65 products for were notified by the Federal Government in the year 2020 as potential GIs for registration.

2. On the direction of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Commerce established the GI-Cell in 2022 which is functional since 1st February 2022. The purpose of establishment of the GI Cell is to conduct research and develop a baseline review on the potential of different goods to be tagged as GI, facilitation to registrant in preparation of the Books of Specifications and to expedite the process of GI protection and registration. In addition to that, it provides awareness sessions and seminars to relevant stake holders to highlight the economic and legal benefits of GI protection.

The list of activities performed by the GI Team during the financial year i.e. **2023-2024** is as follows:

1. Registered GI Products

The GI Cell completed Books of Specifications (BOS) for **Six (6) Agriculture and Arts & Crafts** after a series of consultative sessions with the relevant registrants and stakeholders. The final BOS were handed over to the registrants to initiate the registration process in IPO- Pakistan. Consequently, all Six GI products were registered in 2023-24, bringing the total number of registered GI products to **Twelve (12)**. Details of the registered GI products are as follows:

SN	Name of GI	Registrant	Date of Registration
1	Basmati Rice	Trade Development Authority of Pakistan	21.01.2021
2	Hyderabad Bangles	Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives, Department Sindh	01.07.2022
3	Khewra Pink Rock Salt	Pakistan Minerals and Development Corporation	18.07.2022
4	Sindhri Mango	Trade Development Authority of Pakistan	03.01.2023
5	Chaunsa Mango	Trade Development Authority of Pakistan	03.01.2023
6	Sargodha Kinnow	Trade Development Authority of Pakistan	03.01.2023

Registered GI Products 2023 - 24			
7	Begum Jangi Dates	Agriculture Department Balochistan	25.10.2023
8	Mouzawati Dates	Agriculture Department Balochistan	25.10.2023
9	Aseel Dates	Agriculture Department Sindh	02.11.2023
10	Dhakki Dates	Agriculture Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	11.12.2023
11	Sindhi Ajrak	Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives, Department Sindh	20-05-2024
12	Multan Blue Pottery	Industries Department Punjab	17-01-2024

2. **Finalized GI Products**

The GI Cell finalized the BOS of **Five (5)** notified GI products and handed over to the concerned registrants to begin the registration process in IPO-Pakistan. These finalized GI products will be registered after a period of three months from the date of advertisement by the IPO-GI Registry Karachi, in accordance with the GI Act, 2020. Details of the finalized GI products are as follows:

SN	Name of GI Products	Registrant
1	Peshawari Chappal	Industries & Commerce Dept. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
2	Sindhi Topi	Culture Dept. Sindh
3	Sharaqpur Guava	Agriculture Dept. Punjab
4	Halman Apricot	Agriculture Dept. Punjab
5	Shogori Pear	-do-

3. **Work in Progress on GI Products**

The GI Cell has initiated the BOS for **Twelve (12)** Agriculture and Arts & Crafts notified GI products from across Pakistan. The initial drafts of the BOS have been prepared, in coordination with the relevant registrants and stakeholders. Details of these products are as follows:

SN	Name of GI Products	Registrants
1	Shirani Chilghoza	Forest Dept. Balochistan
2	South Waziristan Chilghoza	Forest Dept. KP
3	Chitral Chilghoza	-do-
4	Diamer Chilghoza	Forest Dept. GB
5	Qasuri Methi	Agriculture Dept. Punjab
6	Habi Apricot	Agriculture Dept. GB
7	Marghulam Apricot	-do-
8	Alisha Kakaz	-do-
9	Blood Red Orange	Agriculture Dept. KP
10	Hala Jandi (wooden lacquer work)	Culture Dept. Sindh
11	Kashmir Pashmina Shawl	Industries Dept. AJK
12	Kashmiri Paper Mache	-do-

4. Approval of 194 Newly Identified GI products

After extensive consultations and obtaining concurrence of all four provinces, as well as the Government of Gilgit Baltistan and the Government of Azad Jammu Kashmir, a total of **194 products** have been approved by the Federal Cabinet under the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act 2020. The approved products and their respective registrants are summarized below:

SN	Provinces	Agriculture/Forest & Herbal Products	Handicrafts & Traditional Products	Mineral/Gem Stone Products	Total
1	Punjab	10	45	-	55
2	Sindh	6	18	-	24
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	16	8	5	29
4	Balochistan	10	12		22
5	Gilgit Baltistan	18	14	10	42
6	AJK	8	11	3	22
	Total	68	108	18	194

5. National Conference on GI

A two-day workshop on the Geographical Indication (GI) for the Chilghoza Pine Nuts and awareness on GI was conducted by the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 9th and 10th May 2024 at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. The registrants of agriculture and arts & crafts related GI products from across Pakistan participated in the National Conference. The session was interactive where the entire team of GI Cell participated. The Deputy Director Services Ms. Humaira Shakir presented the importance of GI registration and protection for the countries in their exports with reference to economic perspectives. Mr. Ikram Ullah (Research Analyst) from the GI Cell has presented the current status of GI registration and protection in Pakistan. Key points of the Conference are as follows:

Key Points:

- As the Book of Specifications are technical, legal and practical document, where the session helped the GI Cell to understand about the GI specifications, its legalities and technicalities.
- The workshop has provided advance understanding about the GI mechanism and its implementation worldwide.
- During the workshop the BoSs of mentioned Chilghoza Pine Nuts was discussed in detail, where draft Book of Specifications were thoroughly reviewed, as a result the current drafts BoS have been improved in as per coordination with stakeholders.
- The GI Cell has also interacted with various registrants and stakeholders of arts and crafts which is helpful to expedite the BoSs and registration of products related to arts and crafts as GI of Pakistan.

6. Legal cases

The GI Cell is dealing with the ongoing legal cases in relation to registration of Basmati Rice and also seeking protection of Basmati rice as a GI/trademark of Pakistan in different potential foreign jurisdictions. Moreover, GI Cell Legal Team is actively involved in hiring the services of various law firms for registration of “Khewra Pink Rock Salt” in different potential jurisdiction abroad.

Insurance Section (Services Wing)

1. The draft Insurance Reform Bill 2024 was prepared after extensive discussions with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and other stakeholders in the Insurance Sector. The aim of this bill is to boost insurance penetration by fostering market development, improving market conduct, and enhancing financial resilience and supervision.
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2. Services Wing held detailed discussions with the Privatization Commission to obtain their approval for the acquisition of a Core Insurance Software Solution for SLIC costing approx. US\$ 5.8 million. SLIC's initiative was focused on upgrading SLIC's IT infrastructure to meet with international best practices and for compliance with the requirements set by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). The goal was to enhance SLIC's operational efficiency and align their systems with global standards and regulatory expectations.
 3. In accordance with the directives issued by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Services Wing prepared and submitted detailed investment proposals in consultation with SLIC and NICL. These proposals were developed as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Finance of Pakistan and the Ministry of Investment of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). These proposals were aligned with the strategic goals outlined in the MOU and to facilitate investment opportunities between the two countries.
 4. In compliance with the directives issued by the Cabinet Committee on Privatization, Services Wing remained engaged in ongoing coordination with the Privatization Commission regarding the privatization process of Pakistan Re-Insurance Company Limited (PRCL). This involved regular communication and coordination to address various aspects of the privatization strategy, facilitation of necessary approvals to ensure that all procedural and regulatory requirements were complied with. The aim was to support a smooth and efficient transition in line with the Committee's guidelines and objectives.
 5. In line with the directives provided by the Cabinet Committee on Privatization, the Services Wing is currently working on amending the Life Insurance Nationalization Order of 1972. This amendment is being undertaken to ensure that the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) is aligned with the provisions of the State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) Act of 2023. The primary objective of these amendments is to modernize the regulatory framework governing SLIC, thereby facilitating its divestment process. This involves review of legal and operational aspects to meet with current standards and to enable a more effective transition in accordance with the new SOE Act.
 6. Worked with the Auditor General of Pakistan to select and appoint auditors for conducting audits of Insurance Corporations and Companies comes under administrative control of Ministry of Commerce.
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7. Tax issues concerning SLIC have been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The Corporation and Ministry of Commerce endorse that given the specific provisions of Section 99 and the Fourth Schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, general tax laws should not apply to the insurance sector. Consequently, Ministry of Commerce has requested that the FBR and Ministry of Finance address this matter by including it on the agenda of tax-related issues affecting SLIC specifically, as well as the insurance industry as a whole.
8. Services Wing successfully obtained approval from the Federal Cabinet to increase the paid-up capital of the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC). This process involved preparing and presenting a detailed case to the Cabinet, highlighting the necessity and benefits of raising the corporation's capital. The approval aimed to strengthen SLIC's financial position, enhance its ability to meet regulatory requirements, and support its operational and strategic goals. The increased capital is expected to improve the corporation's stability and capacity to engage in more robust financial and insurance activities.
9. In compliance with the directives issued by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Services Wing has submitted a comprehensive policy paper focused on policyholder protection. The policy paper was designed to address existing issues, propose solutions, and align with best practices in the industry.

Services Wing has been collaborating with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Insurance Transformation Program. Meetings were held in April 2023 and as a follow-up in May 2024 wherein MOC emphasized the need for critical reforms in Pakistan's insurance sector. Moreover, ADB was advised to include capacity building for policy level leaders and to ensure strong ownership and coordination among various government stakeholders. Additionally, the program's priorities were advised for a review keeping in view the human resources perspective.

Activities by e-Commerce Cell in FY 2023-2024

1. First Ever National e-Commerce Policy was approved by the Federal Government in October 2019.
 2. To oversee the effective implementation of eCommerce policy action matrix, National e-Commerce Council (NeCC) headed by Minister for Commerce is notified. To support NeCC, e-Commerce Cell was established with experts from the market. The cell was established in August 2021.
 3. During fiscal year 2023-24 following major activities were performed by e-Commerce Cell.
 - a. Coordinated and facilitated Alibaba Global Digital Program with Three Pakistani Universities; International Islamic University, Women University Multan, and University of Chakwal were provided free of cost trainings on digital economy.
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- b. Drafted and finalized the text on e-Commerce chapter for Pak-GCC FTA in consultation with stakeholders.
 - c. Provided comprehensive input on Moratorium on e-Commerce in WTO. The inputs were thoroughly analyzed keeping in view the impact of abolishing moratorium on e-Commerce for Pakistan e-Commerce ecosystem.
 - d. Held 9th NeCC headed by Minister for Commerce on 28th May 2024. During which the Minister has directed to work on e-Commerce Policy version 2.0. In light of 9th NeCC meeting two working groups comprising representatives from public and privates sectors have been formed the working groups would analyze the impact of current e-Commerce policy and will present recommendations/suggestions for current policy review in last quarter of calendar year 2024
 - e. Actively engaged to facilitate Pak-Saudi investment forum held on 6th May 2024 in Islamabad, where more than 60 b2b meetings were held among Pakistani IT companies and Saudi counterparts. The outcome of these meetings were quite positive and certain agreements between Pakistani and Saudi Companies are under negotiation.
 - f. Facilitated meeting of Alibaba Group with Minister for Commerce in May 2024. Alibaba Group intends to sign an MoU with Ministry of Commerce to strengthen and boost digital trade ecosystem in Pakistan through trainings for SMEs, Commerce Ministry Officers and through development of Artificial Intelligence Tools for Pakistan Trade Portal developed by TDAP. The text of agreement is under discussion and will be finalized in near future.
4. As per State Bank of Pakistan the growth in e-Commerce sector is reflected in table given below:

	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24
Number of Registered e-Commerce Merchants	7,310	7,630	7,936
e-Commerce Transactions Value in billion PKR	39.6	50.5	52.1
e-Commerce Transactions Volume in billion PKR	9.6	10.9	9.5

Source: SBP

5. The growth in e-Commerce sector is evident from table above, although the number of transactions have dropped in second quarter of FY24, however the total value or spending per transaction has, however, increased indicating consumers' trust and trend towards online purchasing.

Services Wing

The Services sector of Pakistan registered an increase of 2.8% in FY 2024 recording the exports amounting to US \$ 7,806 Million in FY 2024 as compared to exports of US \$ 7,569 Million during the FY 2023. The major increases in exports were recorded in the Telecommunications, Computer, and Information Services registering an increase of 24% (Source: SBP).

The Services Wing performed the following activities during the FY 2024:-

1. On request of the Warehousing and logistics Association for granting status of Industry to warehousing and logistics sector, the matter was taken up with M/o Industries and Production. MoIP is in the process to take up the matter with the Cabinet through a summary for the ECC.
2. Around 100 B2B meetings of Pakistani companies were conducted with the Saudi counterpart companies during Pak-Saudi Investment forum on 6th May, 2014 in various Services Sectors i.e Aviation, Maritime, Human Resource, Information Technology, Construction, Real Estate and Logistics. The meetings resulted in signing of MoUs and future collaborations between the companies of both sides.
3. MoC commissioned study on the logistics sector to ReMIT; a project of International trade Centre (ICT). Based on the recommendations of the strategy developed by ReMIT for logistics, stakeholders' consultations were held on 29.05.2024 and 10.06.2024. Meeting of the stakeholders to discuss the tariff proposals/ recommendations of ReMIT was held and the outcome was conveyed to the Tariff Wing, MOC.
4. Pakistani companies from the logistics sector were recommended to BoI for B2B meetings during P.M's visit to Shenzhen, China on 5th June 2024. More than 40 B2B meetings of Pakistani logistics sector companies were conducted with their Chinese counterparts. 02 MoUs were signed by the logistic companies.
5. Mapping of the Services trade of Indonesia and Malaysia with their FTA partner countries has been carried out for making informed decisions for seeking market access from these countries and review of Pak-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
7. Deliberations on the prevailing challenges and opportunities in the Services sector of Pakistan have been initiated with the stakeholders through an inter-ministerial meeting to ascertain major issues and seek proposals to enhance the respective services sectors' exports.

World Trade Organization Wing



16. WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION WING

Pakistan is one of the founding members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor organization i.e., World Trade Organization (WTO). Pakistan has been actively participating in multilateral trade negotiations under the WTO framework since its inception in 1995, and is a staunch supporter of multilateralism. Pakistan's role in protecting the interests of developing and least developed economies and support to the finalization of the Doha Development Agenda has often been appreciated and recognized by the member countries.

Following major activities/ initiatives have been taken out by the WTO Wing during 2023-24:

1. Rejuvenation of National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee (NTTFC):

Rejuvenation of the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee is under process to ensure compliance of the country with the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the WTO, and to help facilitate growth of trade of and transit through Pakistan. MOC has also created and notified an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Transshipment Policy of Pakistan to formulate first ever Transshipment Policy to facilitate and enhance regional connectivity to position Pakistan as regional transit hub for sustainable economic growth and development.

Moreover, in pursuance of Article 23 of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), Pakistan has declared NTTFC as the National Committee to facilitate implementation of TFA. Necessary Human Resource has been hired to work as secretariat of the NTTFC.

2. Updating Pakistan's Intellectual Property Laws and Rules to Adapt to International Standards

During the FY 2023-24, WTO Wing of Ministry of Commerce has been actively engaged with the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan and other relevant organizations in order to update Pakistan's intellectual property laws and rules.

Pakistan has acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty for Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs). The treaty enables the production and international transfer of specially-adapted books for people with blindness or visual impairments easier. It does this by establishing a set of limitations and exceptions to traditional copyright law. The president of Pakistan signed the instrument of accession of the treaty on 12th December, 2023 and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has notified Pakistan as party to the treaty on 12th June, 2024.

In order to fulfill our international commitments under various agreements, protocols etc. Initiatives including the Trade Marks (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 and Registered Design Rules, 2023 have been carried out.

3. 13th Ministerial Conference of the WTO:

The 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) took place in Abu Dhabi from February 26 to March 1, 2024, Pakistan actively participated, maintaining its national stance and contributing decisions on Dispute Settlement Reform, E-Commerce Moratorium, and Crisis Response Mechanism. However, no consensus was reached on Phase II of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS) or Agricultural reforms. The conference also discussed trade and environmental sustainability, and trade and industrial policy without any outcomes.

4. Trade in Services:

WTO related matter of General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) is looked after in the WTO Wing of MoC. WTO Wing in collaboration with WTO Secretariat Geneva has organized a Workshop on Trade in Services from 23rd to 26th April, 2024. Relevant stakeholders from Federal and Provincial governments/ entities attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to make the stakeholders aware of their responsibilities, obligation and possible intervention with respect to GATS.

Development Wing



17. **DEVELOPMENT WING**

➤ **Functions**

A. Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) Section:

- i. Implementation of the Project Management Policy and ECNEC Guidelines of Project Management notified by Planning Commission.
- ii. Coordination with Planning and Finance Division, Executing Agencies and other stakeholders for preparation and implementation of PSDP funded projects of M/o Commerce.
- iii. Technical input / preliminary appraisal in process of PC-Is preparation before submitting to relevant competent fora for consideration/approval.
- iv. Monitoring of PSDP projects both under implementation and completed through PC-III & PC-IV, and PC-V respectively.
- v. Preparation of Briefs and replies for APCC, DDWP, CDWP, ECNEC, National Assembly and Senate Questions on PSDP of M/O Commerce.
- vi. Assist the Project Directors/PMU in preparation and submission of PC-I, PC-II, PC-IV, PC-V, New item Statements (NIS) / Budget Orders (BO), release of funds and other administrative and financial matters pertaining to preparation and implementation of PSDP projects.

B. Statistics Section:

- i. Focal Section of M/o Commerce for compilation / provision of international trade data compilation/maintaining Pakistan's Country-Wise, commodity-wise/ group-wise trade statistics of international data on monthly basis.
 - ii. Provision of trade (exports & Imports) data by commodity-wise, country-wise as per requirements of all concerned Wings of M/o commerce.
 - iii. Preparation of monthly summary of trade and group-wise circulation within the Ministry.
 - iv. Providing necessary trade data within the Ministry for preparation of reply to the questions of the National Assembly, Senate and Standing Committees.
 - v. Providing external trade Statistics to the Secretary Commerce for discussion / participating in Economic Coordination Committee (ECC)
 - vi. Providing external trade data to the Minister's Office on requirements.
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C. **Overview:**

An overview on the achievements/progress of the Development Wing, Ministry of Commerce during the FY 2023-24 on the major working areas is as follow:

- I. Expo Centre Peshawar Project
- II. Expo Centre Quetta Project
- III. Secretariat for the Committee to Propose Plan for Generating Employment Opportunities for the Residents of Border Districts of Balochistan
- IV. Miscellaneous Achievements / Progress
- V. Statistical Section's Progress

I. **Expo Centre Peshawar Project**

The project was approved by CDWP on 29th October, 2015 at a total cost of Rs. 2,500.00 million. The project aims to provide international standard infrastructure for the promotion of economic activities through trade exhibitions, consumer fairs and conferences in the KP province. The scope of the project consists of establishment of (i) two exhibition halls of 4500 sq. ft. each, (ii) a parking site with capacity of 1000 vehicles, (iii) Admin Block, (iv) warehouse and (v) external development work. The project encountered delays due to issues such as land acquisition and transfer by the KP Government, fragmented allocation by the Planning Commission, the opening of an assignment account, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in both time and cost overruns.

Till 30th June, 2023, the project has utilized Rs. 2,407.44 million of funds, registering 60% physical and 97% financial progress. An amount of Rs. 92.552 million was earmarked in the PSDP of 2023-24. Due to cost escalation, a revised PC-I was submitted to CDWP for consideration. After due deliberation, the CDWP decided to close the project after completing the critical infrastructure while remaining within the original scope & cost. The CDWP further directed that the remaining essential work i.e. finishing of halls/minimum critical balance work may be completed with the funds from Export Development Fund (EDF). A proposal for seeking EDF funding has been submitted by the Executing Agency for consideration of the EDF Board in its forthcoming meeting.

II. Expo Centre Quetta Project

The project was approved by CDWP on 26th September, 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,500.00 million. The objective of the project is to provide international standard infrastructure for the promotion of economic activities through trade exhibitions, consumer fairs and conferences in the province of Balochistan. A piece of land consisting 42 acres was provided by the Government of Balochistan for the construction of the Expo Centre at Quetta Industrial Estate, Eastern Bypass. An amount of Rs. 1,044.071 million has been spent on the project till 30th June, 2023. The physical progress of the project with respect to original PC-I is 23 percent and financial progress is 41.7 percent. Due to price escalation, a revised PC-I of the project, with an estimated cost of Rs. 4,829.76 million, was presented to the CDWP on its meeting held on 7th September 2023. During the discussion, certain concerns regarding the project site were raised. Consequently, the CDWP deferred the project and directed for the constitution of a committee, under the Chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary comprising of the Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan, representative from Ministry of Industries and Production, President of relevant Chamber of Commerce and Industries and other stakeholders the chair may like to add. The Committee's mandate was to evaluate various location options proposed by the Consultant and recommend the most suitable site for the project to the CDWP. Additionally, it would assess the quality of work performed by the Consultant and suggest any necessary corrective measures. Several meetings of the Committee were held wherein discussions were made on the most appropriate option for the site/land for the establishment of the project. In its final meeting, the Committee on the recommendation of the Government of Balochistan decided to establish the Expo Centre Quetta project at the existing site and submit the report in this regard to the M/o Planning, Development and Special Initiatives PD&SI / Planning Commission for further consideration of the CDWP in its forthcoming meeting. The report has been submitted.

III Secretariat for the Committee to Propose Plan for Generating Employment Opportunities for the Residents of Border Districts of Balochistan

The Honorable Prime Minister has constituted the subject Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Commerce and comprising the Minister for Petroleum, Federal Secretaries of Finance, Industries and Production, Planning, Development and

Special Initiatives, Petroleum, Chief Secretary Balochistan, a representative from GHQ and other member (s) co-opted by the Committee. The ToRs of the Committee consist of mapping the scale of border population dependent on illicit trade including the livelihood issues which are an impediment to complete closure of illicit trade across the western border; and proposing a comprehensive time based plan for gainful employment of residents of border districts through focused interventions, which shall include a transition plan and identification of specific resources required, for complete closure of illicit border trade.

In the first meeting, the committee reviewed the existing socio-economic situation of the bordering districts and directed to constitute a Working Group to assist the Committee. In compliance, a working Group under the convener-ship of the Chief Development, M/o Commerce was created. The Working Group (WG) held meetings with relevant Federal Ministries and organization along with departments of the Government of Balochistan. In light of the deliberations of the WG and endorsement of the Committee, a final plan / report for generating employment opportunities for residents of border districts of Balochistan was drafted & submitted / uploaded on the PM-Task Management System (TMS).

IV. Miscellaneous Progress / Achievements

i. Submission of PC-IV

The Joint Border Markets (JBM) Mand, Chedgi and Gabd in Balochistan were completed and the Project Completion reports PC-IVs of the projects were pending for the onward submission to M/o PD&SI. The Wing held various meetings with the concerned departments of Government of Balochistan and Project Director of the JBMs. After various follow-up the PC-IV of the Border market Mand has been submitted to the M/o PD&SI and substantial progress were made on the preparation of PC-IV for the remaining border markets.

ii. Restructuring of Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (R-PITAD)

A tender committee was constituted by Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development on 12th December, 2023 and the Wing actively participated in the tendering process of the remaining work of R-PITAD.

V. An Overview of Statistics Section

The Statistics Section of the Development Wing has prepared the following trade summaries/briefs for the consumption of various Wings of the M/o Commerce:

- i. Prepared monthly summary containing data on Export / Import for the FY 2023-24 and provided to all the Wings of Ministry of Commerce.
- ii. Prepared presentations containing monthly trade data for the briefing of the Secretary to the ECC.
- iii. Prepared group-wise / commodity-wise and country-wise monthly trade data.
- iv. Prepared group-wise and country-wise details of trade services.
- v. Examine China's imports and compared with Pakistan's export to determine Pakistan's export potential in the Chinese markets.
- vi. Analyse trade statistics for the last five years and identify top 10 export destinations and commodities.
- vii. Provide five-years detailed trade statistics to the Tariff Wing for assessing the effect of tariff policies

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PART-II

**ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS / SUB-
ORDINATE OFFICES / COMPANIES /
CORPORATIONS UNDER THE
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**

1. TRADING CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN (PVT) LTD
(ACTIVITIES OF THE CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR 2023-24)

1. SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS (Un-Audited):

During the Financial Year 2023-24, details of the profit earned by TCP are given hereunder:

Profit before Taxation	Rs.4,112.509 million
Tax amount	Rs.1,192.628 million
Net Profit	Rs.2,919.881 million

2. DIVIDEND:

Dividend for F.Y. 2023-24 will be decided by Annual General Meeting (AGM) after finalization of audit for F.Y. 2023-24 in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2017 and the Public Finance Management Act, 2019.

3. IMPORTS:

UREA:

Pursuant to the directives of the ECC / Federal Cabinet, TCP imported a total quantity of **219,789 MT of Urea** from Azerbaijan on G2G basis.

Delivery Position: The aforementioned quantity of Urea was delivered to M/s. NFML.

4. PORT OPERATIONS:

During the period 2023-24, 05 bulk vessels carrying 0.2 MMT of urea were efficiently handled to avoid delays and port demurrages rather early dispatch of US\$ 0.4 million was earned on account of efficient and timely completion of vessels. Out of these 04 vessels called at KPT, 01 vessel called at FAP (Port Qasim).

5. SALE PROCEEDS/DELIVERIES/INSURANCE:

During the year 2023-24, TCP issued five (5) Delivery Orders amounting to Rs.26,554.271 million on account of supply of 219,789.009 MT import of urea.

During the year 2023-24, TCP issued two (02) Delivery Orders amounting to Rs.19.299 million in favor of various parties for sale of sweeping urea.

During the year 2023-24, TCP has paid an amount of Rs. 67.143 million to M/s. NICL on account of marine insurance premium for obtaining insurance coverage of commodities imported during period.

6. **EFFORTS FOR RECOVERIES:**

TCP has recovered an amount of Rs.1,788.000 million from Sindh Food Department against sale of wheat during the year 2004-05 & 2008-09.

During the period, TCP billed an amount of Rs. 27,347.661 million on account of supply of 219,789.009 MT urea to M/s. NFML and the same was fully recovered (including mark-up).

An amount of Rs. 144.574 million received from NFML on 20.10.2023 on account of supply of import of urea during the year 2022-23.

An amount of Rs.18,000.00 million and Rs.4,789.361 million received from PASSCO on 26.10.2023 and 21.11.2023 respectively on account of supply of import of wheat during the year 2022-23.

TCP received an amount of Rs. 6,000.00 million from Ministry of Commerce on 27.05.2024 on account of Federal Government share on import of Urea during the year 2022-23.

An amount of Rs. 4,031.250 million received from USC on account of supply of import of sugar during the year 2021-22.

7. **PRIME MINISTER'S PERFORMANCE DELIVERY UNIT (PMDU) COMPLAINTS:**

In order to improve public service delivery and to make grievances redressal mechanism more efficient and responsive in all Ministries/Divisions and their attached department, the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU) has designed and introduced information & Communication Technology (ICT) based system i.e., Pakistan Citizen Portal. During the year 2023-24, four (4) complaints were received on the dashboard of TCP from Pakistan Citizen Portal, out of which three (3) complaints pertained to TCP, which were resolved in the light of relevant Rules/Regulations and decided on merit for possible provision of relief to the citizens. The remaining one (1) complaint pertained to other Department/Authority which was forwarded to them accordingly.

8. **RENTAL INCOME:**

During the **financial year 2023-24**, Rental Income of **Rs. 422,886,608/-** was earned from TCP's Godowns located at Pipri, Landhi and Korangi, Residential Colonies located at Pipri & Landhi, TCP House, TCP 8 Floor and Multan (PCSI).

The year wise rental income given as under:

Financial Year	Amount (Rs.)
2021-22	397,554,214
2022-23	462,815,325
2023-24	422,886,608

9. **REAL ESTATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:**

TCP has re-submitted proposal to EDF for construction of Silos with storage capacity of 50,000 MT at PIPRI Godown for facilitation of export of corn crop, furthermore it is also envisioned that this facility can be used for storage of other grains in off season.

New office premises are constructed at 8th floor by TCP to enhance the corporate outlook of the organization.

Keeping in view the security and safety features of TCPs Godowns, a study has been conducted by the TCP pre-qualified consultants for installation of CCTV Cameras at Godowns, furthermore firefighting equipment were supplied to TCP Godowns and purchase of fire fighting vehicle is also envisioned by TCP in 2024-25.

For better outlook of TCP office at Godowns, a study was conducted by TCP through pre-qualified consultants for which civil work will be initiated in 2024-25, furthermore a study was also conducted for upkeeping of TCP Godown Multan it is envisioned that civil work will begin in first quarter of 2024-25.

Initial business plan for utilization of TCP property 26-30 at Multan was also conducted where prefabricated Godowns and plug and play facility is envisioned by the TCP.

Solarization of TCP House was carried out to promote the green energy vision of the Government, furthermore TCP has envisioned for installation of solar power project on roof tops of the Godowns for which viability reports were conducted and initial feasibility studies were carried out by TCP pre-qualified consultants.

10. **INSPECTION FEES:**

During the financial year 2023-24, TCP issued **1,243** (Twelve Hundred Forty Three) Authenticity Certificates for export of **347,860.560 MT** Brown/ Parboiled Rice exported to European Union Member Countries and White/Long Grain Basmati Rice exported to Sri Lanka under Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement earned an amount of **Rs.56,300,000/-** in terms of inspection fee. Year wise Rice Inspection Fees received as under:

Financial Year	Amount (Rs.)
2021-22	64,725,122
2022-23	43,388,000
2023-24	56,300,000

11. **LEGAL CASES:**

During the above-mentioned period, 17 cases were got disposed of by different Law Courts in favor of TCP.

The detail of cases of each category is as under:

1. No. of Civil matters = 06
2. No. of Service matters = 11

The official assignee released an amount of Rs.29,402,087/- against earnest money of M/s. Sapna Traders & Builders in Admiralty Appeal No. 01/2015 in favor of TCP in compliance of Court Order 05-10-2022.

12. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

In the year 2022, TCP started carrying out the process of the implementation of the digital transformation. The officials in the TCP have now access to a newly developed/custom made specialized software portal for document digitalization "DMS". TCP has successfully transformed more than 4.5 million pages into digital content during the period specified. TCP has successfully transformed more than 6.8 million pages into digital content since the start, till 30th June 2024.

13. **RECRUITMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDINGS:**

During 2023-24, following recruitment/appointments were made for efficient smooth working of different Divisions of TCP:

1. Appointment/Recruitment of four (04) General Managers (i.e. I.T., Internal Control and Compliance, Finance & Accounts and Real Estate Business Development) on permanent basis.
2. Appointment/Recruitment of three (03) Deputy Managers (i.e. Finance, Audit and Operations) on permanent basis.
3. Appointment/Recruitment of Company Secretary on contractual basis.
4. Appointment/Recruitment of Chief Financial Officer on contractual basis.
5. Regularised the services of a sweeper working on daily wage basis by Board of Directors of TCP on the recommendations / directions of the National Assembly Special Committee on Affected Employees.
6. Departmental promotions of the officers to the posts General Manager, Deputy General Manager, Manager and Deputy Manager were made during the month October, 2023 and November, 2023.
7. TCP also held capacity building training for its employees at various levels in the areas of E-Procurement, PPRA Rules, Cyber Security and Leadership. Details are given as under:-

Sr. No.	Particular	Remarks
1.	Seminar on International Management Capability of Enterprises for Developing Countries held from 12-Oct-23 to 1-Nov-23 - Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad's –2023 Multilateral Training Program under China Aid	Attended by an Officer (GM)
2.	Project on Result Based Management held from 6 – 8 November, 2023 Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad's – Training Course for 2 nd Quarter (October – December) 2023-24	Attended by an Officer (GM)

3.	Project Tender & Procurement Management held from 6 – 8 December, 2023	Attended by an Officer (GM)
4.	Seminar on Economics and Trade Cooperation for Developing Countries – schedule in China 14 th November – 4 th December, 2023 (21 Days)	Attended by an Officer (DGM)
5.	Seminar on E-Commerce and Internet Innovation Online 2 nd November – 15 th November, 2023	Attended by an officer (Manager)
6.	In-House Training of Ms Office (Word, Excel, Power Point) for the Staff of TCP held on 29 th & 30 th April and 2 nd May, 2024.	Attended by 18 Staff employees along with two officers being mater trainer
7.	Conducting “Director's Training Program for State-Owned Enterprises” organized by M/s. Pakistan Institute Of Corporate Governance, Karachi held from 22 nd April to 26 th April, 2024 at TCP Principal Office, Karachi.	Attended by fifteen (15) participants (Independent Director, Non-Executive Directors, Executive Directors and General Managers).
8.	Training Course on Building Reliable Supply Chains by Srilanka and APO Secretariat Japan International Program Face to Face Multi-country Training 24 to 28 June at Colombo, Srilanka	Attended by an officer (GM)
9.	Exclusive Director Training Program (SOE) for Trading Corporation of Pakistan held from 22 nd to 26 th April, 2024.	Attended by 16 Officers/officials of TCP.
10.	DTP for SOE Program Offered by PICG in Karachi and Islamabad	Attended by 15 Officers/officials of TCP.

14. **DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANOGRAM / POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL:**

During the 2023-24, the TCP hired a consultant firm for revision and development of TCP’s existing Organogram and HR Policies & Procedures Manual, covering chapters on the Code of Conduct, Recruitment & Selection, Promotion, Deputation & Transfer, Training & Development, Performance Management, Compensation & Benefits, Leaves, Grievances and Employee Separation developed by M/s. A.F. Ferguson, approved by BoD in its 389th meeting dated 22-11-2023.

2. STATE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN (SLIC)

FIRST YEAR PREMIUM – TOTAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE BUSINESS:

First year gross premium income under Individual Life policies during the year **2023** was Rs. **26,950** million as compared to Rs. **20,170** million in the year **2022**, showing an increase of **33.62%**. Furthermore, individual life first year premium amounts to Rs. **3,247** million during first quarter of **2024**. This figure previously stands at Rs. **2,935** million, showing an increase of **10.62%**.

RENEWAL YEAR PREMIUM – TOTAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE BUSINESS:

Gross renewal premium was Rs. **118,219** million in **2023** whereas it was Rs. **111,794** million in **2022**, resulting an increase of **5.75%**. Furthermore, individual life renewal premium amounts to Rs. **27,586** million during the first quarter of **2024**. This figure previously stands at Rs. **24,616** million, resulting an increase of **12.07%**.

GROUP LIFE BUSINESS:

Premium under Group Life policies during the year **2023** was Rs. **11,291** million excluding experience refund/ERF as compared to Rs. **10,762** million in the corresponding year, showing an increase of **4.92%**. Furthermore, group life premium excluding experience refund/ERF amounts to Rs. **2,748** million during the first quarter of **2024**. This figure previously stands at Rs. **2,421** million, showing an increase of **13.52%**.

HEALTH INSURANCE BUSINESS:

Premium under Health Insurance policies during the year **2023** was Rs. **112,418** million excluding experience refund/ERF as compared to Rs. **101,425** million in **2022**, showing an increase of **10.84%**, mainly due to health insurance policies undertaken for the Prime Minister's National Health Insurance Program. Furthermore, health insurance business during the first quarter of **2024** amounts to Rs. **21,213** million. This figure previously stands at Rs. **32,777** million, showing a decrease of **35.28%**.

The details of the health insurance schemes are as follows:

1. Sehat Sahulat Program - Federal

The Federal Sehat Sahulat Program, previously named as the Prime Minister National Health Programme, is being executed in over 57 districts throughout Pakistan. It offers cashless services for catastrophic health expenditures and is considered as one of the most remarkable initiatives of the Government of Pakistan. By enabling access to quality healthcare, the Sehat Sahulat Program has provided millions of individuals with health protection.

Starting from January 2022, the program was launched for the entire population residing permanently in Islamabad, GB, AJK, FATA, Tharparkar, and Punjab.

Under the Federal schemes, State Life is providing cover to 31,645,502 families i.e., 118,670,633 individuals across Pakistan and a total of 8,227,330 patients have been provided the health care services up to Rs. 60,000/- for secondary procedures and Rs. 400,000/- for tertiary procedures per family per annum from a network of more than 1,000 empaneled hospitals across Pakistan.

State life has incurred more than 187 billion of claims in lieu of provided services under the federal schemes. As per recent 3rd party satisfactory survey more than 97 percent of families

have shown satisfaction upon the services provided under the program.

2. Sehat Sahulat Program – KP

The Social Health Protection Initiative (SHPI) was initially launched in four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but it has now been extended to cover all districts of the province. The original target beneficiary population of 2.1 million families was expanded in 2020, and as of 2022, the initiative extended its coverage to the entire population of KP, which was estimated to be around 9.82 million families. Impressively, the implementation of the program throughout the province was completed in just seven months, setting a record for its speedy execution.

KP scheme provides the secondary coverage of Rs. 40,000/- per member per annum and Rs. 400,000/- per family per annum. Under the KP schemes, around 38.76 million individuals are covered and a total of 3,447,928 patients have been provided the health care services up to Rs. 86 billion from a network of more than 1,000 empaneled hospitals across Pakistan.

3. Balochistan Health Card Program - BHCP

State Life entered into an agreement with Government of Balochistan to provide the Health Care services to entire population of Balochistan. Under BHCP, Cashless services are provided to covered beneficiaries through a vast network of more than 1000 panel hospitals across Pakistan.

BHCP services were started from November 2023 and provides coverage of Rs. 60,000/- per member for Secondary and Rs. 400,000/- per family for Tertiary coverage to entire population of Balochistan. It covers 2.36 million families i.e., 8.85 million individuals and has provided services to 77,655 patients. State Life has incurred 2.65 billion claims under this scheme.

LIFE FUND:

State Life's huge Life fund clearly reflects the confidence and trust of policyholders in its business. The total life fund in the year **2022** was Rs. **1,435.58** billion which has increased by **15.66%** to Rs. **1,660.43** billion by **2023**. Furthermore, the life fund during the first quarter of **2024** amounts to Rs. **1,725.20** billion. This figure previously stands at Rs. **1,481.58** billion, showing an increase of **16.44%**.

ANNUAL PROFITS:

The profit after tax attributable to Shareholders for the financial year **2023** is Rs. **14.72** billion, as compared to Rs. **13.73** billion earned in year **2022**, showing an increase of **7.22%**.

BONUS ALLOCATED TO POLICYHOLDERS:

State Life has been successfully meeting the expectations of policyholders who generally demand a good return (Bonuses) on their policies. It is worth mentioning here that SLIC is the only life insurance company that is distributing 97.5% of its Actuarial Surplus to policyholders as compared to only 90% distributed by the private life insurance companies of Pakistan. The total amount of bonus distributed to policyholders in **2023** was Rs. **119.723** billion as compared to Rs. **97.491** billion in **2022**, showing an increase of **22.8%**.

FINANCIAL RATING

PACRA has assigned Insurer Financial Strength rating of 'AAA' to State Life. This is the highest possible rating an insurer can achieve. It reflects the Corporation's exceptionally strong capacity to meet policyholder and contractual obligations. State Life has successfully maintained the rating to date.



3. TRADE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF PAKISTAN (TDAP)

TDAP's Vision & Mission

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is mandated to develop and promote export holistically, through focus, synergy, and with collective wisdom and counsel of its stakeholders. In addition to aggressive, innovative, and proactive marketing and promotional efforts. It achieves the objective of rapid export growth through interaction and coordination with respective public and private sector stakeholders and enhancing value of products and services by broadening the export base of our products; enhancing capability and capacity of the supply base of goods and services; by fostering supportive export culture and facilitation; and by encouraging export oriented foreign investment and joint ventures. TDAP also help improve market access through advising the Government on matters of trade diplomacy and promoting the “business” image of Pakistan in the key export markets for Pakistani products and services, the world over.

Initiatives/projects undertaken by TDAP for the realization of the vision.

TDAP set targets in terms of activities like arranging exporters' participation in international trade fairs, organization of foreign trade delegations, holding of single country exhibitions abroad to showcase Pakistan and its products, holding of mega domestic expositions, etc. We participate in over 100 international trade fairs annually. Similarly, we send and receive around trade delegations annually to/ from all countries of the world based on our strategic plans. TDAP organizes single country exhibitions and road shows in priority countries particularly in Africa, Middle East, and the Central Asia. TDAP works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and trade bodies, including FPCCI, Regional Chambers, Trade Associations, as well as individual exporters. The objective of this collaborative effort is to produce optimum impact with the available resources through development of synergies and avoidance of unnecessary duplication of effort.

TDAP's functions:

Market Development & Diversification

- Exhibitions, delegations, Single country exhibitions, Flagship events
- Look Africa Policy, CARs, others

Product Development & Diversification

- Mango, Citrus/Kinnow, Salt, Dates, Cherries, Meat, Sesame seed
-

Coordination and advisory function

- Coordination with Federal and Provincial government and related organizations for sectoral development and supply chain initiatives

Trade Facilitation

- To provide advisory support to stakeholders
- To set up sectoral councils

Awareness & Capacity Building

- Training of new exporters (NETP)
- E-Commerce (Amazon trainings)

Women Entrepreneurship Development framework

- Training, seminars and workshops

Stakeholder consultation

- Seminars and webinars

Research & Development

- Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Trade Reports
- Product Reports, Research Reports & Policy briefs

Trade Promotional activities 2023-24**International Exhibitions 2023-24**

Sectors	2023-24
Textile & Leather	22
Agro – Food	17
Engineering & Manufacturing	20
Services	22
Others	12
Total	93

Trade Delegation 2023-24

Sector	Outgoing	Incoming
Agro and Food Division	2	6
Textile and Leather Division	3	2

Engineering and Mineral Division	3	2
International Marketing Development Division	3	1
Total	11	11

Market Diversification

4th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference (PATDC) & Single Country Exhibition (SCE)

The Fourth Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference (PATDC) and Single Country Exhibition (SCE) was inaugurated in Cairo on 9th January 2024. For the first time Pakistan has brought 102 companies to Egypt with the aim of enhancing trade and economic cooperation and opening new horizons between Egypt and Pakistan. More than 80 leading businessmen and chamber representatives from the countries of Middle East & North African (MENA) region are attending the conference to strengthen commercial ties with businessmen from Pakistan. Under this look Africa Policy,

Pakistan Uzbekistan Business Forum on 14 November 2023 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum Made in Pakistan, Tashkent 28-30 June 2024

- 93 Companies
- 2000 B2B meetings
- MOU worth USD 40 million

Flagship events

3rd edition of Engineering & Healthcare show 18-20 Jan 2024

- 650 foreign delegates
 - 186 exhibitors
 - 2212 sectors specific B2B meetings
 - 10 MOU's were signed
 - USD 245 Million business deals
 - 21 product sectors and its sub-sectors including Agricultural Machinery, Handicrafts, Safety Equipment, Surgical instruments, Sports Goods, Musical instruments, Auto-parts, Gems & Jewelry, Furniture, Mattresses, Rubber & its other products, Packaging, Plastic and its implements, Stationery, Paperboard, Electrical Machinery, Cookware, Marble, Minerals, Steel & Iron, Construction material, Cutlery, Mobile devices, Pharmaceutical & Chemicals.
-

- **Sideline activities:**
 - **Mineral Investment Lounge** was introduced for the first time in EHCS 2024. Six stalls were allocated to different regions which included stalls for: I. Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), II. Pakistan Minerals Development Corporation (PMDC), III. KPK Board of Investment, IV. Baluchistan Board of Investment, V. Sindh Board of Investment and VI. Punjab Board of Investment. Delegates showed great interest in minerals especially Pink salt and its products displayed by PMDC; and marble, quarts, granite exhibited by KPK Board of investment. All the members of Boards of Investments and PMDC shared the information with visiting delegates about their products.

Food & Agriculture Expo 2023

- FoodAg: First ever global Food event
- 230 exhibitors representing sub-sectors of Agro Food
- 40 SME (Baluchistan and Sindh) under the banner of GRASP
- 60 countries - Largest participation was from China (155 buyers)
- Visited by 600 Foreign companies
- 15 Regulatory Authorities
- 5000 B2B meetings,
- 10 MoUs
- In terms of feedback forms, export business of USD 410 million expected to be realized in FY 2023-24
- **Sideline activities:**
 - Global Food Cuisine Show

TEXPO 2023

- Inaugurated by PM of Pakistan
 - 260 Exhibitors representing sub-sectors of Textile and Leather
 - 56 countries - Largest participation was from China (74 delegates)
 - Visited by 550+ Foreign companies including leading brands eg Target (USA), IKEA, AHLENS (Sweden), KIK, C&A, Metro (Germany), LPP (Poland), Carbotex (Russia) etc
 - In terms of feedback forms, export business of USD 500 million expected to be realized in FY 2023-24
 - **Sideline activities:**
 - Texpo Talks on “Sustainable Development for the Textile and Leather Sector of Pakistan”
 - Fashion Show – 22 Top Pakistani designers Showcased
 - Cultural Dinner at Governor House
-

LOCAL SHOWS / EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Her Hunar 4-5 March, 2023

To encourage women entrepreneurs - Chitral, Swat, Hazara, DI Khan, GB and AJK; Seminars / training on product development, IPR, financial inclusion; Cultural performances

WEXNET (30th September, 2023 to 2nd October, 2023)

- ❖ 11th WEXNET 2023 with over 300 women entrepreneurs
- ❖ sideline activities culinary show and cooking competitions, capacity building sessions, Culture performances

39th International Handmade Carpet Exhibition, 4-6 Oct 2023 Lahore

Mega Leather Show, 27-29 January 2024

- ❖ 300 hundreds stands at Hall no.2 and 3 .Including 40 Exhibitors participated from China
- ❖ 25 companies participated in this Show as per PTA

Trade Exhibition Sukkur 17-18, Feb 2024

- ❖ A two-day exhibition showcased Dates, handicrafts, electronics, fruits and vegetables, rice and spices
- ❖ Provided opportunity to SMEs of internal Sindh for business networking.

2nd Edition of Handicrafts and Bangles Show Hyderabad (June 2024)

- ❖ artisan entrepreneurs from Tharparker, Nasarpur, Hala, Bhit Shah, Tando Mohammad Khan, Hyderabad, and Upper Sindh

Turbat Handicraft Show and Seminar (27th June 2024)

Seminars and webinars

Webinar/seminar	
Agro and Food Division	17+27
Textile and Leather Division	5+24
Engineering and Mineral Division	6
Services, Halal and New opportunity Development Division	21
International Marketing Development Division	10
Total	103

Capacity Building of Exporters

- National Exporters Training Program(NETP) -25 sessions and 2900 participants

National Exporters Training Program of TDAP

- Trade Development Authority of Pakistan prepared a plan to organize National Exporters Training Program (NETP) for Pakistani exporters to increase exports from Pakistan. The NETP target both existing and potential exporters. It aims at strengthening and developing individual entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized companies by providing them a broad yet comprehensive knowledge and skills base necessary to export and work in a variety of industry sectors and functional areas of international trade.

Total 25 training sessions were organized by TDAP in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Gwadar, Quetta, Hyderabad. Gilgit, Swat, Mirpur, Skardu, Khirmang, Hunza, Multan, Layyah, Vehari, DG Khan, Bahawalpur, Rhimyar Khan, Confectionery sector, PAAPAM, Sukkur from 2019-2024. More than 2900 exporters were trained during the sessions. Following programme is proposed for 2024-25:

S.No	Dates	city	Venue	Trainers
1.	18 July 2024	Hyderabad	Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP, SBP
2.	18 September 2024	Gilgit	Gilgit Women Chamber of Commerce	TDAP, KADO
3.	18 September 2024	Hunza	KADO office	TDAP. KADO
4.	19 September 2024	Skardu	Skardu Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP, KADO
5.	20 September 2024	Khirmang	Skardu Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP, KADO
6.	21 September 2024	Swat	Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP, SBP
7.	23 September, 2024	Mirpur	Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP, SBP
8.	19 December 2024	Layyah	Layyah Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon
9.	20 December 2024	Multan	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon
10.	21 December 2024	DG Khan	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon
11.	22 December 2024	Vehari	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon

12.	26 December 2024	Bahawalpur	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon
13.	27 December 2024	Rahim yar Khan	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon
14.	6 January 2024	Pie in the Sky	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon
15.	17 February 2024	Sukkur	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TDAP/SBP/Amazon
16.	24 February, 2024	PAPAAM	PAPAAM	TDAP

E-Commerce initiatives

- User friendly trade portal www.tdap.gov.pk
- Pakistan Trade Portal (Companies 3902, product 7427, Visitors 256271)
- Pakistan Digital Export Gallery Virtual Display Centre(39,719 hits, products 52)
- Amazon Training (35 sessions and 3400 exporters participated)

E-Commerce Trainings by TDAP 2023-24

No	Host/Location/Collaborator
1	Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association, Karachi
2	Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Karachi
3	UK Business Council at FPCCI Karachi
4	Towels Manufacturers Association, Karachi
5	Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Karachi
6	Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Malir
7	Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Karachi South
8	National incubation Centre, UoB Quetta
9	SBK University, Quetta
10	Chitral Chamber of Commerce and Industry
11	Swat Chamber of Commerce & Industry
12	Mardan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
13	Swabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry

14	Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry + WCCI
14	Gems & Jewelry Center of Excellence, UET Peshawar
15	Gilgit Chamber of Commerce & Industry
16	Gilgit Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
17	Nagar Chamber of Commerce & Industry
18	Hunza Chamber of Commerce & Industry + KADO
19	Layyah Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
20	Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
21	Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry
22	Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
23	DG Khan Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
24	Vehari Chamber of Commerce & Industry
25	Sukkur Chamber of Commerce & Industry
26	Lasbela Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Women Entrepreneurship (WE) - 27 sessions, 2065 participants

S. No	Activities	Dates
1.	Successful conclusion of 11th Wexnet 2023 at Expo Centre Lahore	30th September – 2nd October 2023
2.	Webinar on Promotion of Pakistani Women Entrepreneurs in the US Market	10th October 2023
3.	Stakeholder consultation on Women Entrepreneurs Policy organized by SMEDA	20th October 2023
4.	Organization of Exporter Facilitation awareness seminar in collaboration with State Bank of Pakistan	28th November 2023
5.	Workshop on Digital Marketing & E-Commerce in collaboration with Textile Institute of Pakistan (TIP) at TDAP Karachi	7th December 2023
6.	Coordination with National commission on status of women and UN Women for the organization of National Trade Fair for women entrepreneurs	11th December 2023

7.	Stakeholder consultation & round table dialogues on Promotion of women economic empowerment among Pak-Afghan women organized by Paiman trust and London School of Economics	20th December 2023
8.	Consultative sessions with ITC hired consultant for development of W.E. Division official website	September – December 2023
9.	Registrations of different startup businesses by women entrepreneurs at the TDAP Web portal	September – December 2023
10.	Meetings with various stakeholders for on-hand consultancy to improve their product overall presentation & packaging in line of the latest fashion forecasts and market trends	September – December 2023
11.	Training Session on “Business Documentation, Taxation & Accounting”, in collaboration with REMIT, in Karachi	23rd & 24th January 2024
12.	Seminar on “Export Readiness and Access to US Markets”, in collaboration with USAID, in Lahore	30th January 2024
13.	Seminar on “Export Readiness and Access to US Markets”, in collaboration with USAID, in Karachi	1st February 2024
14.	Seminar on “Export Readiness and Access to US Markets”, in collaboration with USAID in Islamabad	13th February 2024
15.	Training Session on “Business Documentation, Taxation & Accounting”, in collaboration with REMIT in Islamabad	14th – 15th February 2024
16.	Training Session on “Business Documentation, Taxation & Accounting”, in collaboration with ReMIT, in Lahore	21st – 22nd February 2024
17.	Launch event of UK-Pakistan Inward Trade Mission, in collaboration with ITC SheTrades team in Karachi	27th February 2024
18.	Launch event of UK-Pakistan Inward Trade Mission, in collaboration with ITC SheTrades team in Lahore	29th February 2024
19.	SheTrades Outlook Validation Workshop in Pakistan in Islamabad	8th March 2024
20.	Seminar on Trade Fair participation and E-commerce in Islamabad	17th April 2024
	Seminar on Trade Fair participation and E-commerce in Haripur	18th April 2024
21.	Seminar on Trade Fair participation and E-commerce in Abbottabad	19th April 2024
22.	Seminar on Trade Fair participation and E-commerce in Mansehra	20th April 2024

23.	Seminar on Trade Fair participation and E-commerce in Swat	22nd April 2024
24.	Seminar on Trade Fair participation and E-commerce in Attock	24th April 2024
25.	Seminar on Trade Fair participation and E-commerce in Rawalpindi	26th April 2024
26.	Training Session on “Business Documentation, Taxation & Accounting”, in collaboration with REMIT, in Multan	29th-30th May 2024
27.	Training Session on “Business Documentation, Taxation & Accounting”, in collaboration with REMIT, in Hyderabad	4th -5th June, 2024

Supply side interventions

Product	TDAP Initiatives
Meat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New markets :Jordan, Egypt, Uzbekistan, China Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)-free compartments under the bilateral agreement with China was organized by TDAP & Punjab Livestock department
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China (resolution of GACC issue), Removal of USA TED Ban, opening of Russian mkt Amendments in Fish Inspection & Quality Control Act 1977
Rice	
sesame	
Dairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Market Access for Dairy Exports: Dairy and Dairy products export protocol was signed in October, 2023 Capacity building of Animal Quarantine Dept and registration of companies with GACC
Pink Salt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of exporters on utilizing e-commerce platforms Registering companies with PMDC and IPO for export
Cherries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocol signed with China in 2022 100 growers and 3 orchards are registered with GACC 1ST Commercial export to China will start from this season
Mangoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Export to Central Asian markets increased due to aggressive marketing efforts Efforts being taken for exports to USA
Citrus and Potatoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to Red Sea issue marketing strategy is focused on CARs, and South East Asian Market

Research Publication

- ❖ Monthly Trade Report (July 2023- June 2024)
 - ❖ Quarterly Trade Analysis (Pakistan Trade Perspective Q1, Q2, Q3)
 - ❖ Annual trade Statistics FY2024
 - ❖ **Engineering Sector**
 - ❖ Pakistan's potential exports of Motorcycle Industry
 - ❖ Furniture Industry of Pakistan: Trade, Obstacles and Opportunities
 - ❖ Toy Industry – A case Study of Pakistan
 - ❖ Petroleum Sector of Pakistan and Its Dynamics
 - ❖ Import Substitution for Raw Materials used in Textile Industry: Case for Towels
 - ❖ Medical Device Regulation in the European Union - Costs and Procedures: How the Government can Support Exporters
 - ❖ Export Potential for OTC Drugs in Central Asian Countries
 - ❖ Concession of Tariff Given to Raw Material Used in Pharmaceutical
 - ❖ **Mineral Sector**
 - ❖ Business Opportunities in Mineral Sector of Pakistan - A Case Study of Fluorite
 - ❖ Utilization of Soap Stone Reserves in Pakistan: Benefits and Challenges
 - ❖ Trade Analysis of Pakistan’s Chemical Sector A Case of Exploring Opportunities in Polyester Staple Fiber Industry
 - ❖ Pre-feasibility Study of Ferrochrome Plant
 - ❖ Export Potential of Magnesium Oxide A Case of Exploiting Opportunities in Mineral Industry
 - ❖ Current Situation and Future Prospects of Raw Copper in Pakistan
 - ❖ Analysis of Chromite Potential and its Value-added Products in Pakistan
 - ❖ Analysis of Minerals and Metals of Pakistan : The case of Gypsum
 - ❖ Talcum Powder A Value Added Product Of Talc
 - ❖ Pre-Feasibility Study of Kaolin Beneficiation Plant
 - ❖ **Agro Food Sector**
 - ❖ Exploring Potential of Rice Exports from Pakistan
 - ❖ Potential of Potato Exports from Pakistan
 - ❖ Fisheries: Potential of Pakistan
 - ❖ Palm Oil for Pakistan – A burden or Breather : In-depth Analysis of Pakistan’s Edible Oil Industry
 - ❖ **Textile sector**
 - ❖ Comparative Analysis of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) of Pakistan (Textile & Leather Sector)
 - ❖ Export Trade Potential: Handbags
 - ❖ Import Substitution for Raw Materials used in Textile Industry: Case for Towels
 - ❖ **Market Access**
 - ❖ Analysis of existing utility rate of tariff lines negotiated in FTA with Malaysia
 - ❖ Analyses of Tariff Rationalization of 1623 Tariff lines
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- ❖ Trade Potential of Latin American countries: Chile, Argentina & Brazil
- ❖ Prospects of Potential PTA with Uzbekistan & Tajikistan with Targeted Lines for Concession
- ❖ Trade Opportunities for Pakistan in Russia
- ❖ Potential of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Afghanistan
- ❖ Exploring Pakistan's Trade Potential in the African Region
- ❖ Impact of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement Imports Analysis 2022
- ❖ Performance of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement Phase-II Export Analysis
- ❖ Pakistan's Exports Potential to USA an analysis from duty-free tariff lines under MFN
- ❖ **Policy Briefs**
 - ❖ Policy Paper on US GSP Program Prospects for Pakistan amid Turkey, India and Thailand's termination/ suspension of Trade Benefits
 - ❖ Analysis of US GSP & its Sectorial Utilization by Pakistan
 - ❖ Policy brief on the impacts of EU-Vietnam free trade agreement on Pakistan
 - ❖ Possible impact of UK's Post-Brexit scenario on Pakistan-UK trade

Annexures

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS:

Agro Food Division

Sr. No	Exhibition Name	Dates	Country	City
1	Fine Food, Australia	11-14 September 2023	Australia	Sydney
2	Seafood and Fisheries Expo, China	25-27 , September, 2023	China	Hongdao
3	Sial Interfood, Indonesia	8-11 November, 2023	Indonesia.	Jakarta
4	Foodex, Japan	5-8 March, 2024	Japan	Tokyo
5	Uz foods	26-28 March, 2023	Uzbekistan	Tashkent
6	9th Sichwan Agriculture Expo	27-30 October, 2023	China	Sichwan
7	World Food, Moscow	21-24 September, 2023	Russia	Moscow
8	Annuga Food Fair	7-11 October, 2023	Germany	Cologne

9	Sial Food Fair	28-30 May, 2024	China	Shanghai
10	Africa Big7	11-13 June, 2024	South Africa	Johannesburg
11	Food Africa Egypt	12-14 December, 2023	Egypt	Cairo
12	Sial Food Fair	15-17 May, 2024	Canada	Toronto
13	Saudi Food Show	21-23 May, 2024	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh
14	Food & Hospitality Expo	20-23 September, 2023	Oman	Muscat
15	ISM Middle East	7-9 November, 2023	UAE	Dubai,
16	World Tobacco	27-28 November, 2022	UAE	Dubai
17	Gulf Food	19-23 Feb 2023	UAE	Dubai

ENGINEERING & MINERAL Division

Sr#	International Exhibitions	Sector / sub-sector
1	Imam Abu Hanifa Expo and Trade Fair. Kabul, Afghanistan. 16th - 18th July 2023	Agri Machinery
2	Sahara Expo, 2023. Cairo, Egypt. 10th - 12th September, 2023.	Agriculture Machinery
3	Medic East Africa, Kenya September 23th-25, 2023	Healthcare
4	Beauty Istanbul, Turkey September 27th-29th, 2023	Cosmetics
5	Africa Health, Johannesburg, South Africa, October 17th-19th, 2023	Healthcare
6	Global health, Riyadh, KSA, 29 - 31 Oct, 2023	Healthcare
7	Beauty World, Dubai, UAE 30th October - 1st November	Cosmetics

8	Medica Dusseldorf 2023, Germany 13-16th November 2023	Surgical Instruments
9	Saudi Build, 2023. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. 6th - 9th Nov, 2023	Construction Materials
10	Beauty West Africa Lagos , Nigeria Nov 28-30, 2023	Cosmetics
11	ISPO Fair 2023 Munich Germany 28-30 November, 2023	Sports
12	Big 5 Global, 2023. Dubai, UAE. 4th - 7th Dec, 2023	Construction Materials
13	COP28, 2023. Dubai, UAE.	Auto
14	Arab Health, Dubai Jan 29th-Feb 1st, 2024	Healthcare
15	Xiamen Stone Fair, 2024. Xiamen, China. 16th - 19th March, 2024.	Marble
16	Hannover Messe, Germany, April 22-26, 2024	Electrical Machinery
17	Motobike Istanbul 20-23 March 2024	Motorcycle and Bikes
18	ExpoMed, Istanbul, Turkey, April 25-27, 2024	Healthcare
19	Project Qatar, 2024. 27 th - 30 th May, 2024	Construction Materials
20	Automechanika Istanbul, Turkiye May 23- 26, 2024	Auto

Services Exhibitions

Sr#	International Exhibitions	Sector / sub-sector
1	Tech Crunch Disrupt USA	19-21 Sept 2023
2	AI and Big Data Expo 2023 , Netherlands	26-27 Sept 2023
3	Gitex Dubai	16-20 Oct 2023
4	Digital Tech Summit, Denmark 2023	8 – 9 Nov 2023
5	China High Tech Fair Shenzhen	15-19 Nov 2023
6	Black Hat, Riyadh, KSA	14-16 Nov 2023
07	Fintech & Insurtech, London	8-9 Nov 2023

08	Web Summit, Lisbon Portugal	13-16 Nov 2023
09	Open Silicon Valley, USA (Exhibition cum delegation)	4th Nov, 2023
10	Web Summit Qatar	26-29 Feb 2024
11	GDC ,USA 2024	19-24 March, 2024
12	LEAP, Riyadh KSA	4-7 March, 2023
13	Japan IT Week	23-25 April, 2024
14	Dublin Tech Summit 2024, Ireland	29 – 30 May, 2024
15	Gitex , Africa Morocco	31 May-02 June 2024
16	London Tech Week 2024	10-14 June, 2023
17	Asia Tech, Singapore	7-9 June, 2024
18	Collision Canada	17 th -20 th June, 2024
19	China Outbound Tourism and Travel Market	15 th -17 th November, 2023
20	Travel & Adventure Show, New York	27 th -28 th January, 2024
21	ITB Berlin, Germany	05 th -07 th March, 2024
22	Malaysia International Halal Showcase	12 th -15 th September, 2023

IMDD (International Market Development Division)

Sr#	International Exhibitions	Sector / sub-sector
1	Tech Crunch Disrupt USA	19-21 Sept 2023
2	AI and Big Data Expo 2023 , Netherlands	26-27 Sept 2023
3	Gitex Dubai	16-20 Oct 2023
4	Digital Tech Summit, Denmark 2023	8 – 9 Nov 2023
5	China High Tech Fair Shenzhen	15-19 Nov 2023
6	Black Hat, Riyadh, KSA	14-16 Nov 2023
07	Fintech & Insurtech, London	8-9 Nov 2023
08	Web Summit, Lisbon Portugal	13-16 Nov 2023

09	Open Silicon Valley, USA (Exhibition cum delegation)	4th Nov, 2023
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15	Gitex , Africa Morocco	31 May-02 June 2024
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18	Collision Canada	17 th -20 th June, 2024
19	China Outbound Tourism and Travel Market	15 th -17 th November, 2023
20	Travel & Adventure Show, New York	27 th -28 th January, 2024
21	ITB Berlin, Germany	05 th -07 th March, 2024
22	Malaysia International Halal Showcase	12 th -15 th September, 2023

Sr#	International Exhibitions	Sector / sub-sector
1	Ambiente, Frankfurt 2024	26 th to 30 th January, 2024
2	International Universal Exhibition, Tajikistan	26-28 Oct, 2023
3	26 th Rwanda International Trade Fair (RITF)	26 th July to 15 th August, 2023
4	31 st Dakar International Trade Fair (FIDAK), Senegal	07 th to 31 st December, 2023
5	4 th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition (PATDC & SCE), Egypt.	09 th -11 th Jan, 2024
6	135th Canton Fair China 2024	April 23-27, 2024 (Phase 2) May 1-5, 2024 (Phase 3)

7	55 th Algiers International Trade Fair, Algeria (FIA)	24 th June to 29 th June, 2024
8	48 th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), Tanzania	28 th June to 13 th July, 2024
9	27 th Rwanda International Trade Fair (RITF), Rwanda	25 th July, 2024 to 15 th August, 2024
10	7 th China-South Asia, Exposition and the 27 th China Kunming Import and Export Fair, China	August 16-20, 2023
11	20 th China-ASEAN Expo, Nanning, China	September 16-19, 2023
12	6 th China International Import Expo	November 5-10, 2023

List of webinar FY 2023-24

Sr. #	Title	Country/Date	Purpose	Remarks
1	B2B/webinar on exports of sesame seeds to china	November 10 th , 2023	To promote exports of sesame seed in China	Around 43 exporters from Pakistan and 15 importers from China attended the seminar
2	B2b webinar on exports of Pakistani sesame seed in China with importers based in Shanghai	November 29 th , 2023	To promote exports of sesame seed in China	Around 50 exporters from Pakistan and 20 importers from China attended the seminar
3	Virtual awareness Webinar on potential of exports of maize in Vietnam, Malaysia and Sri Lankan market.	December 13 th , 2024	To educate exporters of maize about the requirement of Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Malaysian market	Around 75 exporters of maize attended the webinar
4	B2B on export of confectionary in Nigeria	November, 2023	To promote confectionary exports	Concluded
5	B2B-confectionary exports from Pakistan to Jordan & Palestine	December, 2023	To promote confectionary exports	Concluded
6	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Malaysia	05 Oct, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded

7	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Malaysia – 2nd Phase	12 Oct, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded
8	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Indonesia	16 Oct, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded
9	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Kazakhstan	25 Oct, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded
10	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Philippines	30 Oct, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded
11	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Tajikistan	01 Nov, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded
12	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Afghanistan	03 Nov, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded
13	Virtual B2B Interactive Session with Importers of Russia	08 Nov, 2023	To promote F&V exports	Concluded
14	Webinar on Dairy Products Exports Market Access to Pakistan for China	30 th November, 2023	Dairy Products Exports Market Access to Pakistan for China	Concluded
15	B2B Meeting	21.08. 2023	B2B meeting in collaboration with Trade Mission Dhaka, between M/s. Marcolux International Trading and M/s. Tarar Enterprises, Sargodha and M/s. Chohan Traders, Faisalabad regarding a Garlic trade query.	Concluded

16	B2B Meeting of Pakistani Onion Trader with Bangladeshi Importer(s)	21.09.2023	Organized a B2B meeting collaboration with TIA, Dhaka, Bangladesh on Onions between M/s. Al-Kabir Enterprises and Bangladeshi Importer.	Concluded
17	B2B virtual match-making meeting between Malaysian Importers and Pakistani Exporters of Citrus, Onions and Potatoes.	12.10.2023	organized and moderated B2B virtual match-making meeting between Malaysian Importers and Pakistani Exporters of Citrus, Onions and Potatoes	Concluded
18	Interactive session on Indonesian citrus quota system in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia	16.10.2023	organized and moderated an online interactive session on Indonesian Citrus quota system in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia	Concluded
19	Interactive session on "Enhancing Citrus Export to CARs" in collaboration Pakistan Embassy, Kazakhstan	23.10.2023	organized and moderated an online interactive session on "Enhancing Citrus Export to CARs" in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy, Almaty, Kazakhstan.	Concluded
20	Interactive session on "Enhancing Citrus Exports to Philippines and Citrus Quota of Filipino Government"	30.10.2023	organized an online interactive session "Enhancing Citrus Exports to Philippines & Citrus Quota of Filipino Government" in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy Manila, Philippines.	Concluded
21	B2B session on Citrus	13.12.2023	organized a B2B interactive session between Pakistan Onion Exporters and Malaysian Counter Parts.	Concluded

22	B2B session	27.12.2023	organized a B2B interactive session between Pakistan Potato Exporters and Sri Lankan's Counter Parts.	Concluded
24	Webinar on "How to become registered user of Khewra Pink Rock Salt in Pakistan"	Jan 31, 2024	SMAP, TDAP, Salt Exporters	Concluded
25	Webinar on E-Commerce Platforms for Khewra Pink Rock Salt.	Feb 12, 2024	SMAP, TDAP, Salt Exporters	Concluded
26	Webinar on "New Aquaculture Regulations and Export Opportunities"	Feb01, 2024	Fisheries Association	Concluded
27	B2B meeting of leading maize importing company of	12 th June 2024	Leading exporters of Maize	Concluded

LIST OF SEMINARS 2023-24

- ❖ Workshop to Address Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) of Pesticides in Pakistani Citrus for Global Markets on 29 Aug, 2023
 - ❖ Seminars conducted on Use of TED Device on 13th Oct 2023 and 29th December, 2023
 - ❖ Seminars on Issue of M.R.L. in Pakistani Citrus at SCCI, on 29 August, 2023 wherein more than 70 stakeholders participated.
 - ❖ Seminar on Marketing and Export Enhancement Plan for Pink Rock Salt /Khewra Pink Rock Salt consultative session with SMAP on January 12, 2024.
 - ❖ Seminar on "Opportunities of selling Khewra Pink Rock Salt via Alibaba.com E-commerce Platform" on February 27, 2024.
 - ❖ Agro and Food Division, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized a one-day workshop focused on facilitating Pakistani Dairy and Meat exports to China held at Nishat Hotel, Lahore (8th January, 2024).
 - ❖ A two-day training workshop on the establishment of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)-free compartments under the bilateral agreement with China was held in Lahore (4th March to 5th March, 2024, at the prestigious Nishat Hotel in Lahore).
 - ❖ To inaugurate this strategic initiative, TDAP organized the inaugural seminar on January 4, 2024, in Lasbela, Baluchistan, in collaboration with Lasbela University of Agriculture Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal. The event drew the participation of approximately
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- ❖ 175 growers, farmers, agriculture extension officers from Baluchistan, and other stakeholders.
 - ❖ Sindh is the second largest sesame seed producing province and Tharparker main sesame seed producing area in Sindh. To educate the farmers about international market dynamics, effective value addition strategies, and pre-and post-harvest procedures to optimize sesame seed yields. TDAP organized seminars in Chahchro on 14 th January 2024 and in Mitthi on 15 th January 2024. These events drew the participation of approximately 175 growers, farmers, agriculture extension officers from Tharparkar region.
 - ❖ Punjab, accounting for 92% of sesame seed production in Pakistan, serves as a focal point for creating awareness about the potential of sesame seed cultivation. In line with this objective, TDAP has decided to organize four awareness seminars on Sesame seed production in the sesame seed producing areas of Punjab. The first awareness seminar was organized in Layyah District, one of Punjab's largest sesame seed-producing areas, in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Department on 26th Feb 2024. The seminar witnessed the active participation of approximately 175 growers, farmers, and agriculture extension officers from Layyah and neighboring districts.
 - ❖ Continuing its efforts to bolster Pakistan's sesame seed industry, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organized the second seminar in its awareness series on sesame seed production. Held in Bukkhar on February 27, 2024, in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Department, the seminar aimed to explore the untapped potential of sesame seed cultivation in the region.
 - ❖ The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Department, organized the third seminar in its awareness series on sesame seed production in Sahiwal on February 28, 2024. Sahiwal, recognized as one of the leading sesame seed-producing areas in Punjab, was chosen as the venue for the seminar due to its conducive land availability for sesame seed cultivation.
 - ❖ Khanewal is the second largest sesame seed producing area in Punjab. The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Department, organized the fourth seminar in its awareness series on sesame seed production in Khanewal on February 29, 2024. The seminar garnered active participation from approximately 190 growers, farmers, and agriculture extension officers from Khanewal and adjacent districts
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- ❖ Pakistan's maize exports have witnessed an exceptional surge, in response to this remarkable momentum, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with the Agriculture Department of Punjab, has embarked on a proactive initiative to organize awareness seminars on Maize Production and export opportunities in key maize-growing regions of Pakistan. 1st seminar was held in Okara on 22nd April 2024. The first seminar of the series was held today at Okara. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from approximately 160 growers, farmers, and agriculture extension officers from Okara and neighboring districts. Punjab, which accounts for 90.5% of maize production in Pakistan, stands as a pivotal region for disseminating awareness about the potential of maize cultivation.
- ❖ The second seminar was held in Sahiwal on 23rd April 2024 where around 180 growers, farmers, and agriculture extension officers from Sahiwal and neighboring districts.
- ❖ The third seminar was held in Pak Pattan on 24th April 2024 in which around 150 growers attended the seminar.
- ❖ The Fourth seminar was held in Vehari where around 140 growers attended the seminar.

4. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION OF PAKISTAN (IPO-P)

INTRODUCTION

Intellectual Property Rights including copyrights, trademarks, patents, designs, lay-out designs of integrated circuits, trade secrets and other intellectual property laws are powerful tools for economic growth. The protection of intellectual property rights is essential to foster creative thinking, stimulate creativity, provide incentives for technological innovations, and attract investment. The Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan Ordinance, 2005 (Now IPO Act 2012) provides for the establishment the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan to provide for the institutional arrangement in the state setup for taking up exclusively and comprehensively all subjects and matters relating to intellectual property rights in an integrated manner and for matters connected therewith.

2. IPO-Pakistan was established as an autonomous body under the IPO Ordinance 2005 on 8th April 2005 under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division for integrated and efficient management of intellectual property in the country. The Trade Marks Registry, Copyright Office, and Patent & Design Office, which were functioning under different administrative setup, became part of the new Organization under a unified and integrated management system. The administrative control of IPO-Pakistan was later on transferred from the Cabinet Division to Commerce Division.

3. The Organization envisions Pakistan on the intellectual property map of the world as a compliant and responsible country and strives to integrate and upgrade IP infrastructure for improved service delivery, increased public awareness, enhanced enforcement coordination, etc., to ensure the protection and strengthening of Intellectual Property (IP) in the country.

PERFORMANCE OF IPO-PAKISTAN IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

4. During the Financial Year 2023-24, IPO-Pakistan continued its efforts to achieve the targets set for the year under consideration and undertook a number of initiatives like automation of IPR registration system and procedures to enhance service delivery, Advocacy for mass awareness across the country, upgradation of the IP legal regime to keep pace with the changing scenarios and adoption of best international practices, etc. IPO-Pakistan performed the following activities in the Financial Year 2023-24:

4.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLICY MATTERS

Meetings of the IPO Policy Board: During the FY 2023-24 period, two meetings of the IPO Policy Board were held in which important policy decisions related to administration, advocacy, and national and international collaboration:

- i. The 18th Policy Board Meeting, dated 16th August, 2023
- ii. The 19th Policy Board Meeting, dated 5th January, 2024.

4.2 HIRING OF HUMAN RESOURCES

To address the shortages of Human Resources, IPO-Pakistan initiated the process of recruitment for the positions lying vacant in the Organization. In this regard, an advertisement was published in the combined editions of Daily “*Dawn*” and Daily “*Jang*”, dated 8th May 2024, inviting applications for the vacant positions of various nomenclature in IPS-IV, meetings of the IPO-Pakistan Departmental Selection Committee (DSC) were held on 10-11 June 2024 at IP House, Karachi; 13-14 June & 21-22 June 2024 at IPO-HQs, Islamabad; and 27 June 2024 in IPO Regional Office, Lahore, to interview the shortlisted candidates/applicants for initial appointment in IPO HQs, Trademarks Registry, Patents Office and Copyright Office.

4.3 UPGRADATION OF IPO REGIONAL OFFICES

As per the IPO Act, 2012, and keeping in view the demand of the business community from Balochistan, a regional office was established in April 2024 in Quetta to provide necessary services to the people of the province. Moreover, efforts are underway to upgrade the already established regional offices of Lahore and Peshawar to facilitate the growing number of applicants.

4.4 ADVOCACY

As per IPO-Act, 2012, the Organization is required to promote intellectual property through advocacy which includes creating awareness and imparting training about IPRs, reviewing policy frameworks for IPRs, holding open hearings on any matter affecting the state of IPRs in Pakistan, posting on the website educational material, and coordinating with trade associations for awareness and implementation of the IPR laws. The following measures have been taken in this regard

- i. **Training & Awareness:** 48 Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) have been established all over Pakistan for the promotion of research and development at universities, R&D centers, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and SME organizations, and to facilitate the inventors and creators for registration of their IP rights. A 6-day national workshop for the focal persons of TISCs all across Pakistan on technology search and development was held from 26-31 October 2023 at Karachi, Islamabad, and Lahore in collaboration with HEC and WIPO. More than 150 IPR awareness activities were held from July 2023 till June 2024. The targeted audience included students, PhD Scholars, researchers, young inventors, entrepreneurs, start-ups, and lawyers.
- ii. **Participation in International Conferences:** IPO-Pakistan in close coordination with Pakistan's Mission in Geneva participated in the following sessions of WIPO Assemblies and Meetings in the FY 2023-24 that were held to discuss the improvement in international legal framework and strengthening of cooperation in the area of IPR:
 - Standing Committee on the Law of Patents: Thirty-Fifth Session- 16 – 20 October 2023.
 - Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights: Forty-Fourth Session—6 – 8 November, 2023.
 - Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS): Eleventh Session— 4 – 8 December, 2023.
 - Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications: Forty-Seventh Session— 18 – 20 March 2024.

5. UPGRADATION OF IPR REGIME

International legal regimes are constantly evolving in the face of emerging new challenges, opportunities, and the need to best serve the people in pursuit of seeking protection for their creation of the mind. To keep pace with the demands of the modern-day world bringing in new Law Amendments refers to the process of *making changes or modifications to existing laws* to address new challenges and opportunities in the field of IPR. Amendments allow laws and policies to be refined over time rather than replaced outright. Local, state, and federal laws can be changed through ratification.

5.1 Amendment in Trademark Ordinance, 2001 and its notification in 2023: After final approval from the National Assembly on 3rd March 2023, the Senate on 4th August 2023, and the assent of the President of Pakistan on 16th August 2023, the Trademark (Amendment) Act, 2023 was published in the Gazette of Pakistan as Act No. LVIII of 2023;

5.2 Proposed Amendment of the Copyright Ordinance, 1962 (as amended in 2000): After detailed consultations with stakeholders, the draft Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2023 was submitted to the Federal Government through the Ministry of Commerce on 24th January 2024.

5.3 Proposed Amendments of the Patent Ordinance, 2000 under process: The IPO Policy Board approved the final draft amendments to the Patents Ordinance 2000, and its subsequent submission to the Federal Government for enactment during the 19th Policy Board meeting held on 5th January 2024. The stakeholder consultations on the amendments were conducted, and the final draft of the bill was forwarded to the Ministry of Commerce for further process on 2nd February 2024.

5.4 Proposed Amendments in Trademarks Rules, 2004 in alignment with the TM Act, 2023: After the notification of the Trademark (Amendment) Act, 2023, amendments in its subsequent Rules have also been initiated. The draft Amendments are at the internal consultative stage.

5.5 Formulation of IP Enforcement Rules: To ensure effective enforcement of IPRs in the country, IPO-Pakistan has initiated work on the formulation of IPR Enforcement Rules. A draft has been developed on which further consultation with the stakeholders will be completed by December 2024.

6. ACCESSION TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

International treaties provides sound foundation for international cooperation, which helps in the promotion of peace, security, stability and prosperity. In the realm of IPR, Pakistan endeavors to accede to international treaties with an aim to adopt international best practices, global cooperation in the field of IP and automation of the process in addition to improving image of the country as an IP compliant country, which is so needed for attracting foreign investment. IPO-Pakistan achieved the following in the FY 2023-24:

6.1 Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled: IPO-Pakistan acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty for Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) in December 2023. This accession will help increase access to books, magazines, and other printed materials by the visually impaired population of Pakistan.

6.2 Proposed Accession to Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, 2015 under Process: The draft instrument of accession has been submitted to the Ministry of Commerce. Being a signatory to the Geneva Act of Lisbon Agreement, 2015 on Geographical Indications will help Pakistan to apply its Geographical Indication internationally in more than 70 countries simultaneously with one set of fees and a single registration procedure.

6.3 Proposed Accession to Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT): The International Patent System under Process: The final draft has been forwarded to the Ministry of Commerce on 2nd February 2024. Accession to the PCT will be beneficial for Pakistan since it provides a platform for the applicants to simultaneously seek protection for an invention in a large number of countries through a single application.

7. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & COORDINATION

The IPO-Act, 2012 calls for coordination with international agencies or organizations for training or cooperation project related to intellectual property. The following activities were organized in FY 2023-24 in collaboration with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):

- 7.1 CDIP WIPO Project on IP and Women:** Project aimed to support women entrepreneurs in embroidery and related crafts businesses through IP, branding, and commercialization strategies. Second phase of the project, consisting of mentoring, was held in September – October, 2023 and the Project officially concluded in December, 2023 along with exhibition of the selected women entrepreneurs.
 - 7.2 PCT and Youth Project:** The pilot project aimed at creating a level-playing field in terms of awareness on the international patent system for the young innovators in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The project consisted of online webinars and concluded in September, 2023.
 - 7.3 CDIP GI Project on “Sindhri Mango”:** IPO-Pakistan in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has initiated a project for branding and commercialization of “Sindhri Mango” as registered Geographical Indication (GI) of Pakistan. The first phase of the project, including need assessment report and information events, concluded in October, 2023.
 - 7.4 Support to the CMOs through capacity building by WIPO and JPO:** WIPO – CISAC Mentorship program for the managers of Collective Management Organizations was held on 26-27 June, 2024. An action plan was drafted to strengthen the current CMO in Pakistan. Its follow-up meetings will be held in 3rd quarter of 2024.
 - 7.5 Translation of key WIPO documents, resources and materials including WIPO Academy DL101 Course:** WIPO's key document resources and materials including DL101 (Distance Learning Basic) course will be translated in Urdu language for better access. The first translated draft of the DL 101 Course has been shared with IPO-Pakistan for vetting in July, 2024.
 - 7.6 National IP Strategy Project:** The project aims to expand the framework for the protection and promotion of IPRs through NIPS. The Project was formally initiated in January, 2024, and the need assessment/ diagnostic report is being prepared.
 - 7.7 Intellectual Property Training Institute (IPTI) project:** IPO-Pakistan secured the IPTI project under the CDIP WIPO, and initiated it in December, 2022. 2nd and 3rd training sessions of the Master Trainers held in November, 2023 and February, 2024. The fourth training session of the Master Trainers is under process.
 - 7.8 WIPO Academy University Partnership Program for LLM in IP:** A joint LLM program under WIPO Academy in collaboration with local University/ Universities in Pakistan on the same footings as is being done by Turkiye, and Australia, etc. The aim of the University Partnerships Program is to support access to intellectual property (IP) education at the post-graduate level.
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8. DIGITIZATION AND IT AUTOMATION FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

The IPO-Pakistan is committed to providing meaningful facilitation to the business community and other stakeholders and for this purpose harnessing the support of IT by extending online services for speedy and smooth registration of IP rights. The steps taken in this regard are enumerated below:

8.1 Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB)- IPO Pakistan’s MOU for automation and digitalization of IPO fee collection: The Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), on 26th December 2023, signed an agreement for the digitalization and automation of IPO- Pakistan. This Memorandum of Understanding for automation and digitalization of IPO fee collection will facilitate the common masses and businesses in the country.

8.2 Online Filing System: On June 1, 2023, IPO-Pakistan made twelve (12) more trademark forms available online in addition to already available five (5) forms. Now, seventeen (17) trademark forms are available to the public through the Online Filing System with e-payment, which covers almost all the stages of the trademark application lifecycle. Along the same lines, the provision of an online filing system for patents, copyrights, and design is underway.

8.3 Patent and Design (Business Process Software system development): The following improvements have been made in IPAS for the improvement of Patent services in 2023-2024:

- Development of Mechanism of Cancellation of Industrial design procedure with their respective actions, office documents and timelines in IPAS.
- Customization of Workflow of Industrial design Procedure in IPAS with respect to New Design Rules.
- Development of actions for Migrated files of Industrial design in IPAS.
- Development of WIPO Statistical Reports for the Year 2023 (Patents and Design)
- Development of mechanism of migration of old Applications of industrial design into their terminal statuses to improve the functionality of Business Design Business Process.
- Development of mechanism of “Integrated circuit” path, workflow, and actions with relevant office documents in Industrial Design.

8.5 Trade Marks (Business Process Software system development): The following improvements have been made in IPAS for the improvement of Trade Marks services in 2023-2024:

- Development of Actions, timelines, and Customization “Withdrawal of Rectification Application” in IPAS for Trade Marks Registry.
 - Status Correction of old files of Trademarks in IPAS for synchronization of Records.
 - Development of Action, timelines, and Customization “Removal of Rectification Application” and “Opposition Disallowed” in IPAS for Trade Marks, Registry.
 - Trade Marks Journal Closing and bifurcation of Opposition files in IPAS
 - Availability of Geographical Indication Journal on IPO-Portal.
-

- Development of mechanism “Disallowed/Disposed Rectification” for files in IPAS for Trade Marks, Registry.
- Development of WIPO Statistical Reports for the Year of 2023 (Trade Marks Registry)
- Site-to-site VPN tunnel between PITB Data Centre and IPO Data Centre.
- Reduce backlog with the help of automation.

8.6 Copyright-(Business Process Software system development): The following improvements have been made in the Copyright Administration System (CAS) for the improvement of copyright services in 2023-2024:

- Development of mechanism for generation of reports copyright old files for re-examination.
- Development of customized Statistical reports for Copyrights.
- Customized Business Process Software System Development in Copyright Administration System (CAS) for improvement of Opposition and Rectification Process.
- Improvements in Hearing System in Copyright Administration System (CAS) with respect of Actions, Timelines and Customization.

IPR ENFORCEMENT

Effective enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the country by providing an enabling environment for attracting FDI in diverse sectors of the economy. Keeping in view the inherent significance of IPR enforcement, IPO-Pakistan effectively coordinated with designated enforcement agencies for the protection of intellectual property rights in Pakistan. The following measures have been taken so far in this regard:

- i. Meetings of IPR Enforcement Coordination Committee were held at Sukkur, Peshawar, Gilgit-Baltistan, Lahore, Sialkot, and Islamabad. The purpose of these meetings is to establish liaison with the LEAs to strengthen the IPR regime and find out the hardships faced by the agencies while dealing with the forwarded complaints.
 - ii. The enforcement section received 232 complaints during the FY 2023-24, which after preliminary inquiries were forwarded to the concerned Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) with advice for further necessary action as per Law.
-

10. PERFORMANCE OF IP REGISTRIES DURING 2023-24**FILING AND GRANT OF PATENT APPLICATIONS DURING 2023-24**

S. No.	Registry	Applications Filing	Examination	Acceptance	Registration
1.	Trade Mark Registry	54504	45211	30310	24583
2.	Copyright Office	5042	5981	-	2613
3.	Patent Office	1002	1195	208	158
4.	GI Registry (Authorized Users)	80	41	41	-
5.	GI (Registrants)	06	06	06	06

05. PAKISTAN EXPO CENTRES PRIVATE LIMITED

Pakistan Expo Centres Private Limited is a corporate entity with the shareholding of Federal Government of Pakistan and Provincial Governments. The mandate of the Company is to develop and manage Expo Centres in major cities of Pakistan with the objective to promote various sectors of economy through trade exhibitions, consumer fairs and conferences. Expo Centre Lahore was the first project of the Company, which is successfully doing its operations since 2010 and now the Company is engaged in the development of Expo Centres at Peshawar and at Quetta. Regarding Expo Center at Sialkot, the process of identification of suitable land was started, however, it is currently on hold in wait for further instructions from the Government. The details of operational and development works of the Company are as under:

A. Operational Activities:

Regarding operations of the Company, please note that in the last 12 years; 671 Events have been successfully held at Expo Centre Lahore till June, 2024 which includes 426 Exhibitions and 245 Corporate Events.

Pakistan Expo Centres Private Limited raised its invoices to the event vendors as per the existing approved tariff of the facility for the usage of Expo facilities. The tariff is inclusive of the cost of utilities, HR support for the functioning of facility, maintenance cost of plant & machinery, and general maintenance cost and other overheads except the damages to the facility.

Expo Centre Lahore is in operation since May 2010 on self-sustaining basis and is meeting all its operational expenditures from its operational revenues. The Centre is not getting a single penny from any Government for its operational expenditures. The Company never defaulted in its history on account of payment to creditors, contractors, utility companies, employees and loan repayments. Likewise there were no bad debts in the history of the company. This financial discipline has been possible primarily as all the stakeholders followed the terms and conditions defined by the Company regarding usage of Expo Centre Lahore facility and made all the payments to the Company in accordance with its approved tariff. Expo Centre Lahore is the successful business model wherein the Government, without any financial burden, has been promoting trade activities for economic growth of the country.

B. Development Works:

About the development projects of the Company, the revised **PC-1** of Expo Centre Peshawar and Expo Center Quetta project are in process for approval.

Regarding Expo Centre Peshawar, major development activities that have been completed on the project are as under:

- NESPAK as Consultant has been engaged and completed major designing of the project.
- Geotechnical Surveys are completed.
- Boundary wall of the Expo facility is completed.
- Work on Gatehouses and Security towers is also completed.
- Foundations of both the Exhibition Halls are completed.
- Fabrication and erection of steel structure of both exhibition halls are completed.
- Works related to infrastructure like Road Works, Drain under Roads, Drain under Walkway, Sewerage Collection System, Water Supply Distribution System are completed.

Against the approved Cost of Rs. 2,500 Million for Expo Centre Peshawar; the Company has received and incurred Rs. 2,407 Million up to June 30, 2023. During FY2022-23, the allocation from PSDP was Rs. 81.88 Million for Expo Centre Peshawar which were fully utilized by the Company. Low allocations and delays in the release of funds are affecting the physical progress of the project due to which cost escalation is expected. The revised PC-1 of Rs 6,720 was submitted for approval, however, the CDWP decided to close the project after completing critical infrastructure while remaining within the original scope and cost. However, remaining essential work i.e., finishing of halls/minimum critical balance work, may be completed with funds from Export Development Funds (EDF). Accordingly, the proposal of Rs 4,855 Million has been submitted to the EDF for the approval. A minimum period of 18 months would be required to complete the project after funds are made available.

Against the approved Cost of Rs. 2,500 Million for Expo Centre Quetta, the Company has received and incurred Rs. 1,045 Million up to June 30, 2023. Low allocations and delays in the release of funds are affecting the physical progress of the project due to which cost escalation is expected. The revised PC-1 of Rs 4,830 Million was submitted which is in process for approval. A minimum period of 24 months would be required to complete the project after funds are made available

The major development activities on the project are as under:

- NESPAK as Consultant has been engaged and completed major designing of the project.
- Shifting of Land for Expo Centre Quetta is also completed.
- Geotechnical Surveys are completed.
- Boundary wall of the Expo facility work was started.
- Steel Building structure of exhibition hall LC is in process.

Regarding Expo Centre Sialkot, on June 30, 2023, the Planning Commission approved an amount of 200 Million. The process of identification for suitable land was started, however, it is currently on hold in wait for further instructions from the Government.



06. DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (DGTO)

Directorate General of Trade Organizations, an attached department of Ministry of Commerce was established through an Ordinance promulgated in 30th July, 2007 and entrusted with the task of regulating trade organizations in the country. The Ordinance was subsequently enacted into Trade Organizations Act, 2013 on 22nd February, 2013 following which Trade Organizations Rules, 2013 were notified by the Ministry of Commerce vide SRO. No. 267(1)/2013 dated 26th March, 2013.

2. The Trade Organizations law aims to ensure appropriate representation of all genders and business sectors at all level in trade organizations and that they play significant role in developing policy framework for improving business environment and economic growth. In order to materialize the objectives, the law defines the purposed, role, responsibilities and operational framework including code of corporate government for trade organizations. Licenses to trade organizations are granted for a period of five years, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the law for registration as a limited company with the Security & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). In pursuance of new Law, following licenses were granted during the period from 01-06-2023 to 30-06-2024.

A. LICENCES RENEWED DURING 2023-24.

Status of renewal of licenses of Trade Organizations during 01-06-2023 to 30-06-2024.

Sr.No	Type of Trade Organization	Application Received	Renewed	Rejected	Under Process
1	Chamber of Commerce & Industry	20	11	-	09
2	Women Chambers of Commerce & Industry	03	-	-	03
3	Chambers of Small Traders and Small Industry	-	-	-	-
4	Associations	45	28	02	15
5	Associations of Small Traders	02	-	-	02
6	Town Associations	-	-	-	-
Total Trade Organizations		70	39	02	29

B. **NEW LICENCES GRANTED DURING 2023-24.**

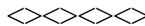
Status of licenses granted to new Trade Organizations during 01-06-2023 to 30-06-2024.

Sr.No	Type of Trade Organization	Application Received	Grant	Rejected	Under Process
1	Chamber of Commerce & Industry	20	02	-	18
2	Women Chambers of Commerce & Industry	08	01	-	07
3	Chambers of Small Traders and Small Industry	03	-	-	03
4	Associations	20	-	-	20
5	Associations of Small Traders	01	-	01	-
6	Town Associations	-	-	-	-
Total Trade Organizations		52	03	01	48

C. **DISPOSED OFF LITIGATIONS DURING 2023-2024**

Status of disposal of complaints/appeals and writ petitions during 01-07.2023 to 30-06.2024.

Sr.No	Litigations	Filed	pending	Disposal off
1	Complaints	137	09	128
2	Appeals	22	13	09
3	Writ Petitions	47	30	17
		206	52	154



07. TRADE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ORGANIZATION (TDRO)

The Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (TDRO) was established as an attached department of the Ministry of Commerce through an executive order on 20 June, 2013. Purpose of the TDRO was to provide a comprehensive mechanism for swift resolution of trade disputes arising out of export and import of goods and services including e-commerce.

The platform provides for alternate dispute resolution mechanism through negotiations, mediation, arbitration, determination and referral to commercial benches. The Trade Dispute Resolution Act, 2022 was promulgated on 11 August, 2023 and establishment of the TDR Commission was notified on 20 August, 2024 and the process for recruitment of five members of the Commission is underway. TDRO will provide secretariat support to the TDR Commission.

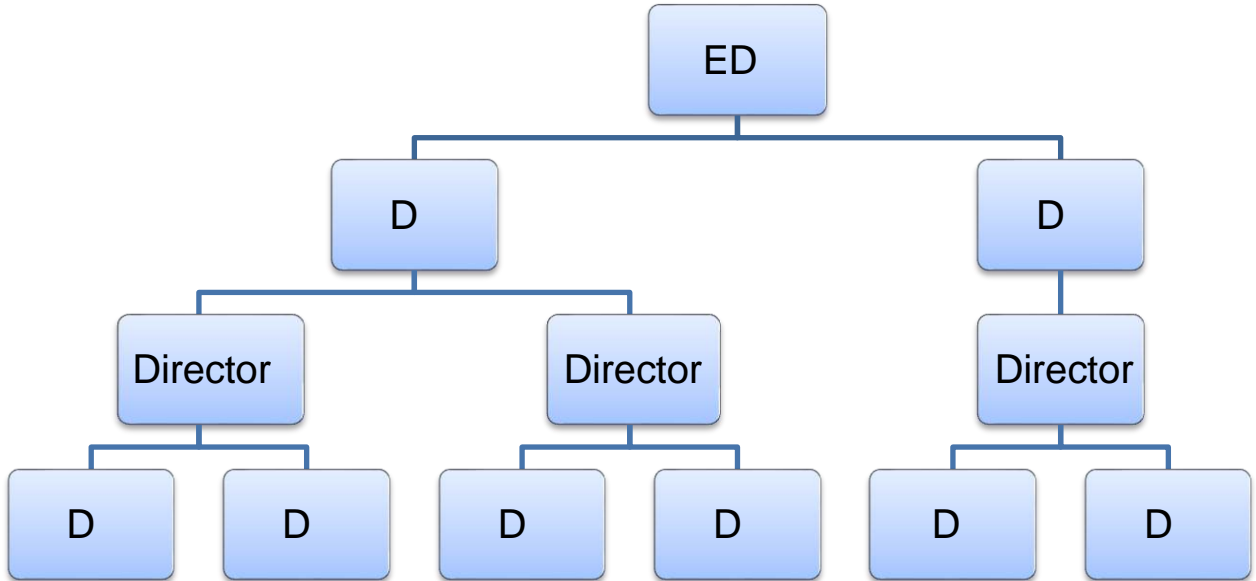
Detail of trade disputes cases received in Trade Dispute Resolution Organization is as under:

Period	Trade Disputes Received	Resolved	Facilitated	Under Process
2023-24	126	03	14	109

TDR Commission will comprise of four members and a Chairman. Sanctioned strength of the TDRO is as follow:

Sr. No	BPS	Sanctioned Post
Executive Director General	21	01
Director General	20	02
Director	19	03
Assistant Director/ Deputy Director	18	06
Total		12

Organogram of the TDRO:





8. NATIONAL TARIFF COMMISSION (NTC)

National Tariff Commission (the Commission) is an autonomous “Investigation authority” and “Quasi-Judicial Body” established under the National Tariff Commission Act, 1990 now replaced by the National Tariff Commission Act, 2015. Functions of the Commission are to provide assistance to domestic industry with the primary objective of improving domestic industrial growth and competitiveness. The Commission also advises the Government on issues related to Pakistan's industry competitiveness, promotion of exports and customs tariff rationalization. It provides remedy to domestic industry from unfair trade practices of selling a product to Pakistan at dumped or subsidized prices that cause material injury to the domestic industry. All such proceedings are carried out in conformity with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

2 Further, the Commission advises exporters facing trade remedy actions by other WTO members. The following Laws have been enacted by the Federal Government that are administrated by the National Tariff Commission: -

- a) National Tariff Commission Act, 2015,
- b) Antidumping Duties Act, 2015,
- c) Countervailing Duties Act, 2015, and
- d) Safeguard Measures Ordinance, 2002

3 Functions of the National Tariff Commission (“Commission”) under section 8 of the National Tariff Commission Act, 2015 are to advise the Federal Government on

- a) Tariff and other trade measures to: -
 - i) Provide assistance to the domestic industry; and
 - ii) Improve the competitiveness of the domestic industry
- b) Trade remedy actions being faced by domestic producers and exporters;
- c) Rationalization of tariff and proposals for tariff reform;
- d) Removal of tariff anomalies; and
- e) Any other matter relating to tariff or trade measures that the Government may refer to the Commission.

(3) In addition to the functions specified in sub-section (1), the Commission shall also perform such functions with respect to international trade and other matters that may be assigned to it by the trade remedies laws or any other law for the time being in force.

(4) Where the Federal Government has adopted the recommendations of the Commission in whole or part, the Commission shall periodically review the effect of such recommendations and in consequence of the review may give further recommendations to the Federal Government.

(5) The Commission shall advise, where possible, the domestic exporters and producers facing trade remedy investigations abroad.

(6) The Commission shall assist the Federal Government at the World Trade Organization dispute settlement body in respect of matters pertaining to the Trade Remedy Laws, WTO Covered Agreements and disputes under other trade agreements. The Federal Government may hire the services of a qualified and experienced international trade lawyer or international trade consultant for this purpose on a case-to base.

(7) The Commission may undertake research to facilitate effective implementation of Trade Remedy Laws and tariff rationalization, in a manner to be prescribed.

(8) As a regular feature of activities, NTC has undertaken an extensive exercise to examine and review of Tariff Policy proposal for budget FY 2025.

About 381 Proposals received from industry trade and other stake holders covering about 2,600 tariff lines were received to NTC which after review and economic analysis by Technical wing of Tariff Policy Center of Ministry of Commerce located in NTC were put forth to Ministry of Commerce for consideration of Tariff Policy Board (TPB). The process also included extensive consultations with stockholders. The proposals reviewed by TPB were sent to the cabinet for approval and placement in five six budget 2025.

Furthermore, NTC has assisted Ministry of Commerce for drafting National Tariff policy (2025-2030) in term of provision of inputs on various aspects of the new policy and economic analyses of the previous policy (2019-2024) highlighting its implication of various segment like, inputs, cascading effects, export etc. and overall the national economy.

9. Following is the list of activities undertaken by National Tariff Commission, Islamabad during 2023-24:

A. Anti-dumping Investigations/Trade Remedy Investigations:

Sr. No	Investigations	No. of Countries
1	Sunset Review & Changed Circumstances Review of Anti-Dumping Duties Imposed on Dumped Imports of Color Coated Steel Coils/ Sheets into Pakistan Originating in and/or Exported from the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.	2
2	Newcomer Review to Determine Individual Dumping Margin and Rate of Anti-Dumping Duty for M/s Huzhou Zhonglei Chemical Fiber Co., Ltd., an Exporter of Polyester Staple Fiber from the People's Republic of China.	1
3	Anti-Dumping Investigation on Alleged Dumping of Biaxially Oriented Polypropylene (BOPP) Self Adhesive Tapes – Jumbo Rolls Originating in and Exported from China.	1
4	Against Alleged Circumvention of Anti- Dumping Duties Levied on Dumped Imports of Galvanized Coils/Sheets into	1

	Pakistan Originating in and/or Exported from People's Republic of China.	
5.	Anti-Dumping Investigation on Alleged Dumped Imports of Polyester Filament Yarn into Pakistan Originating in and/or Exported from the People's Republic of China	1
6.	Sunset Review of Anti-Dumping Duty Imposed on Dumped Imports of Cold Rolled Coils/Sheets into Pakistan Originating in and/ or Exported from Canada and the Russian Federation	2
7.	Anti-dumping Investigation on Alleged Dumped Imports of Paint Brush filaments into Pakistan Originating in and/or Exported from the People's Republic of China	1
8.	Anti-Dumping Investigation Against Alleged Dumped Imports of Chlorinated Paraffin Wax From China, Qatar And Iran	
9.	Circumvention of Anti-Dumping Duties levied on Dumped Imports of Coated Bleached Board into Pakistan from the People's Republic of China	3
10.	Safeguard Measures on Imports of Coated Bleached Board	1
11.	Sunset Review Application under Section 58 of the Anti-Dumping Duties Act, 2015 for continuation of the anti-dumping duties levied on dumped imports of Certain Uncoated Writing/ Printing Paper into Pakistan Originating in and/or Exported from Brazil, China, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand	5
12.	Sunset Review of Anti-Dumping Duties Imposed on Dumped Imports of Offset Printing Ink Originating in and/or Exported from the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea	1
13.	Anti-dumping Investigation on Alleged Dumped Imports of Paint Brush filaments into Pakistan Originating in and/or Exported from the People's Republic of China	1
Total		20

B. **Assistant to Exporter**

Sr. No	Assistant to Exporter
1	Anti-Dumping Investigation by the Government of Ukraine on Imports of Matches Originating from India and Pakistan
Total	1

9. NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED (NICL)

1. National Insurance Company Limited the Company was incorporated in Pakistan on 31 March 2000 as an unquoted public limited company under the Companies Ordinance, 1984. The Company's registered office is situated in NICL Building, Abbasi Shaheed Road, Karachi, Sindh, having three zones and five branches across the country. The company is principally engaged in the non-life insurance business of public property, comprising of Fire, Marine Cargo, Aviation, Marine Hull, Motor, Miscellaneous and Engineering. The Company is catering to all general insurance needs of Government Institutions including PIA, OGDCL, PARCO, WAPDA, PSO, TCP, SSGC, SNGPL, PAPCO, Karachi Yard, Port Qasim, PNSC.
2. With effect from January 01, 2001, the company took over all the assets and liabilities of the former National Insurance Corporation (NIC) at book values vide SRO dated December 30, 2000, (of the Federal Government) issued in terms of National Insurance Corporation (Re-organization) Ordinance, 2000. Accordingly, with effect from January 01, 2001, NIC was dissolved and ceased to exist and the operations and undertakings of NIC are being carried out by the company (NICL) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce.
3. The Company is run by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) under the supervision and control of Board of Directors headed by the Chairman. Besides the Board of Directors, the company has a senior management team who assist the CEO to perform day-to-day business matters.

The following is highlights of the financial which is performance of the Company subject to finalization, audit, and approval by the BoD.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS				
S #	BALANCE SHEET	2023	2022	%
		(Unapproved /Unaudited)	(Unapproved /Unaudited)	(Increase /Decrease)
		Rs. In Million	Rs. In Million	
1	Cash and Bank Deposits	6,803	5,861	16.07%
2	Investments (PIBs, T-Bills, Shares etc.)	57,491	51,842	10.90%
3	Investment Properties	4,212	4,212	0.00%

4	Assets	68,506	61,915	10.65%
INCOME STATEMENT				
5	Gross Written Premium	30,707	25,650	19.72%
6	Net Premium	11,322	10,247	10.48%
7	Net Claims	(6,299)	(6,225)	1.18%
8	Underwriting Profit	3,126	2,199	42.16%
9	Commission Income	845	334	153.22%
10	Net Investment Income	8,674	5,508	57.47%
11	Rental Income	292	409	-28.54%
12	Authorized Capital	6,000	6,000	0.00%
13	Paid-up Capital	2,000	2,000	0.00%
EXPENSES				
14	Management Expenses	(2,742)	(2,157)	27.12%
15	Admin & Other Expenses	(1,469)	(1,156)	27.13%
PROFITS				
16	Profits Before Tax	10,622	6,960	52.62%
17	Profits After Tax	6,263	5,919	5.81%

10. PAKISTAN REINSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED (PRCL)

OVERVIEW

Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited is a public sector listed company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce. The company is led by Chief Executive Officer, along with a Board of Directors consisting of seven members. Out of these members, four are nominated by the Federal Government, one is nominated by the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan, and the remaining two are elected by minority shareholders. In addition to the above, the Company is supported by a capable Management team that oversees all aspects of the business, including day-to-day operations and overall business affairs.

PERFORMANCE

- The Performance parameter of all classes of business for the year 2022 to 2023 is at Annexure ' A'.

Mile stones Achieved in the year 2022-2023

- In the Financial year 2023 PRCL wrote gross premium/ business of PKR 33,969 Million against PKR 24,271 Million wrote in 2022 showing 40% growth in gross premium/ business over last year.
- PRCL Window Re-takaful Operation (PRCL-WRTO) was launched in January 2019 and in the 2023 PRCL-WRTO wrote a profit of PKR 95.5 million; against PKR 30.3 million written in 2022 showing 215% growth in profit over the last year.
- Developed Re-takaful Management system in-house covering the Facultative, Treaty, Retrocession and Accounting side of the business.

PRCL Business

- PRCL operates in the following departments to conduct its business:
 - Fire
 - Marine
 - Engineering
 - Accident
 - Aviation
 - Treaty & Business Development department.
 - WRTO
-

Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited

The Silent features of the business operations during the years 2022- 2023 are as under:-

	Dec, 31 2022	DEC, 31 2023
(Rupees in Million)		
Gross Premium	24,271	33,969
Net Insurance Premium	7,929	9,323
Net Insurance claims	(4,312)	(4,707)
Premium Deficiency reserve	46	12
Net commissions	(1,026)	(949)
Management Expense	(1,528)	(1,569)
Reversal/(Provision)for doubtful debts	542	(216)
Underwriting results	1,652	1,892
Investment Income - Net	1,339	2,390
Rental Income - Net	127	148
Finance Cost	(3)	(7)
Fair Value Gain on Investment	-	87
Other Income	419	1197
Other Expenses	(7)	(614)
Profit from WRTO	30	95
Profit before Tax	3,557	5,189
Income Tax Expense	(932)	(2,124)
Profit after tax	2,625	3,065

Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited**SIX-YEAR PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE**

Particulars	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Premium (Gross)	10,734	17,655	16,896	20,994	24,271	33,969
Underwriting profit	583	506	766	1,683	1,652	1,892
Profit Before Taxation	1,730	2,189	1,972	3,615	3,557	5,189
Investment Securities	8,634	10,942	12,034	12,563	12,662	18,319
Investment Income	691	868	1,043	982	1,339	2,390

Yield % on Investment	8.00%	7.93%	8.67%	7.80%	10.60%	13.05%
Break value Per share	31.36	32.76	31.14	43.57	15.91	20.16
Earnings per share	4.09	4.95	4.64	2.88	2.92	3.41
Return on Equity	13.05%	15.10%	13.58%	19.81%	18.33%	16.90%

11. PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (PITAD), ISLAMABAD

BRIEF

The international trade is complex and highly competitive and so is its organization & promotion. It requires highly skilled people who not only possess specialized knowledge but are also able to assimilate specialized techniques and practices involved in it. This can obviously be achieved through training and retraining of the personnel involved in trade on an institutional basis. Keeping this in view, the Government of Pakistan set up the Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (PITAD) to train manpower both in public and private sector trade related organizations for handling Foreign Trade of Pakistan efficiently. It is established as fully functional training center on commerce related issues and international trade to provide training to the newly inducted officers as well as for the capacity building of the senior officers of the Commerce and Trade Group.

Core activities of PITAD are broadly categorized as under:

- 09 months long Specialized Training Program (STP) for the newly inducted officers of Commerce and Trade (C&T) Group.
 - To Conduct Domain Specific Training Component of Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) for the CTG and Ex-Cadre Officers of Ministry of Commerce.
 - To Conduct Training and Capacity Building of the Officers as well as officials of Ministry of Commerce in the areas of Trade, Economy and Investment.
 - To organize awareness sessions on FATF guidance on countering proliferation financing and associated UNSC sanctions regime for the officers of Ministry of Commerce and its attached organizations.
 - To organize Pre-departure Training for the Trade and Investment Officers to be posted abroad.
 - To conduct public policy Lectures, Seminars / Symposia and conferences on specific trade issues.
-

- To hold short term capacity building / training courses for provincial government offices and stakeholders from public and private sector on trade related matters.
- To arrange post-induction training for the Assistant Managers of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)
- To organize trade related trainings for commerce officers of our trade partners.
- To organize trainings and workshops for the stakeholders in private sector.

1	Specialized Training program (29 th STP)/50 th Common Training Programme (CTP) of 03 officers	17 th April 2023 to January, 2024
2	Conducted Domain Specific Training Component of 37 th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) for 05 (CTG) officers of Ministry of Commerce	7 th August to 1 st November., 2023
3	Training on Trade Facilitation Scheme and Trade Financing Scheme for 20 officers of Ministry of commerce.	21 & 22 November, 2023
4	Conducted Domain Specific Training Component of 38 th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) for 3 officers of Ministry of Commerce	27 th November – 22 nd December, 2023
5	Arranged Briefing on Security and Intelligence Issues for Foreign Missions for TIOs officers (briefed by senior officer of IB)	8 th December, 2023
6	Meeting with WIPO delegation to discuss and draft guidelines for a potential collaboration led by DG PITAD and DDG WIPO	5 th December, 2023
7	Arranged Workshop on Trade Facilitation Agreement for the MCMC and PITAD officers Dr. Jawad Uwais Agha National Project Coordinator & Advisor Trade Facilitation REMIT(ITC) and his team	13 th December, 2023
8	Conducted Pre-departure training for 40 newly selected Trade and Investment Officers to be posted in Pakistan's Trade Missions Abroad	8 th – 24 th January, 24
9	Arranged Country Study Tour/Field visits of Karachi for Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs)	15 th -17 th January, 24
10	Arranged Country Study Tour/Field visits of Lahore, Faisalabad & Sialkot for Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs)	17 th -24 th January, 24
11	Arranged presentation/briefing for the probationary officers of 51 st Common Training Programme (CTP) undertraining at CSA Lahore	30 th January, 2024
12	Conducted Domain Specific Training Component of 39 th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) for 4 officers of Ministry of Commerce.	18 th March – 12 th April, 2024

13	Specialized Training program (30 th STP)/51 st Common Training Programme (CTP) of 8 newly inducted officers	15 th April 2024 to January, 2025
14	Organized training for 45 officers of Ministry Commerce and its attached departments on GATs with collaboration of WTO, Ministry of Commerce and USAid.	23 rd to 26 th April, 2024
15	Arranged written test for 87 Commercial Assistants of Ministry of Commerce for posting abroad	27 April, 2024
16	Arranged attachment of probationary offices of 30 th STP with Ministry of Commerce for Pak – Saudia Business Forum	6 th May, 2024
17	Arranged Country Study Tour/Field visits of KPK for 30 th STP officers of Commerce & Trade Group	19 th -25 th May, 2024
18	Arranged Country Study Tour/Field visits of Punjab (Lahore & Faisalabad) for 30 th STP officers of Commerce & Trade Group	30 th June -6 th July, 2024
19	Arranged ITC-UN attachment of probationary officers of 30 th STP	8 th – 12 th July, 2024

12. TEXTILE COMMISSIONER'S ORGANIZATION (TCO), KARACHI

Textile Commissioner's Organization existed since pre-partition with the HQ at Bombay and Upgraded to Textile Advisor level in 1961, and then Merged with IP & S under Ministry of Industries then revived as TCO in 1973 as Attached Department of M/O Industries. After creation of M/O Textile Industry functioned as its Attached Department from 2004-2019. Currently, working as an Executive Department of M/O Commerce since 2020 to date.

Organization Structure

Textile Commissioner's organization has been entrusted with multifarious functions in the textile field dealing with the biggest and the most important and sensitive industry of Pakistan. It provides database and technical information and serves as technical Advisory Body to Government for development of Textile Industry. It is responsible for assisting the Ministry of Commerce in the formulation of Textile policies. It also renders advice to the Government financing institutions, and remains in continuous liaison with various textile trade associations etc. It is also entrusted to review the production & Export performance of Textile Industry & suggest measures to improve competitiveness of Textile Industry. It also periodically evaluates the Technological Status of Textile Industry & to make recommendations for its up-gradation.

The performance of the Textile Commissioner's Organization for the Period 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 is given as under:-

Statistics & Database Centre

The Textile Commissioner's Organization (TCO), Karachi is responsible for collection of Statistics relating to Textile Industry of Pakistan under General Statistics Act & SRO 11(KE)/79. Therefore, in order to cater the needs of the time state of the art database center has been established in TCO to accomplish the tasks assigned to TCO from time to time. The performance of the above section during 2023-24 is given as under;

- I. Preparation of website development and hosting Agreement.
 - II. Carried out changes in the Website and TCO-1 Proforma for the convenience of the end users.
 - III. Publication of Monthly Statistics Report and forwarded to MoC for onward Submission to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics for Publication of Quantum Index of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (QIM) report.
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- IV. Publication of Monthly Statistics Report and forwarded to MoC for onward Submission to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics for Publication of Production of Manufacturing Items (PMI) report.
- V. Publication of Annual Statistical Report is in progress.
- VI. Provision of data to Pakistan Central Cotton Committee for publication of their Annual Bulletin.
- VII. Provision of data to Karachi Cotton Association for publication of Cotton Statistics.
- VIII. Provision of Material for Publication of Economic Survey 2023-24.
- IX. Issuance of TCO-1 form to all registered Textile Units.
- X. Correspondence with Textile Units for timely submission of the Textile Statistics.

Textile CESS Collection

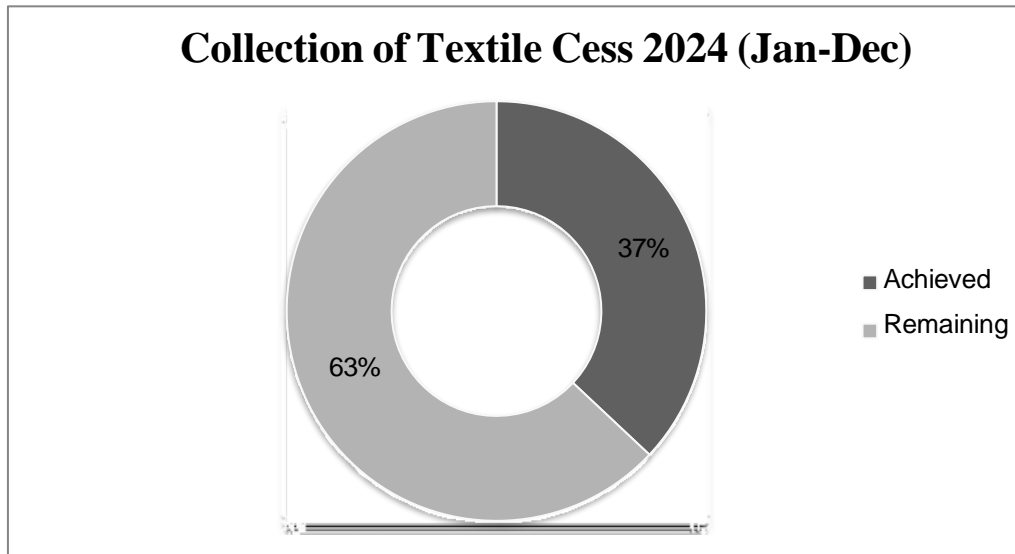
This Organization is also responsible for CESS Collection from the Textile Mills for the National Textile University, Faisalabad under President Order.11/KE of 1983. The CESS rate levied on Spinning & weaving Mills are as under;

- 1 Rupee per Spindle
- 4 Rupees per Rotor
- 20 Rupees per Power Loom

The Textile CESS is collected on calendar year basis. The detail of Collection of calendar Year 2023, Collected in 2024 (Jan-Dec) is given as under:

Collection of Textile CESS

	2023(Jan- Dec) PKR	2024(Jan-Dec) PKR
Target	11.25 Mln	11.25 Mln
Collection	11.258Mln	4.206 Mln (As on 26 th July, 2024)



- i. Attended meeting of the Board Governors of National Textile University, Faisalabad
- ii. Reconciled the Data with the Statistics Section to trace under declaration.
- iii. Correspondence with Textile Units for timely submission of the Textile Cess.

Stitching Machine Operators' Training Program

The Stitching Machine Operators Training (SMOT) Program was launched in June 2006 by the erstwhile Ministry of Textile Industry under Textile Skill Development Board (TSDB) and the Textile Commissioner's Organization as its Secretariat. The concept was to attract Textile Industry to organize in-house training programs in garment units, support them on cost sharing basis and motivate them to keep on running training scheme for availability of skilled workforce, However, the program was put on hold owing to starting of the Prime Ministers Skill Development Program by the M/o Textile Industry.

The Phase-III of the Stitching Machine Operators Training (SMOT) to train 1800 unskilled Workers within one year was approved during the 12th & 13th meetings of the Textile Skill Development Board convened in 2019 under the Chairmanship of the then Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce & Textile. The current progress of Program is given as under:

- 2940 trainees have been trained against the target of 1800 Under the Phase-III of the Stitching Machine Operators Training (SMOT) program
- 144 trainees have been trained under SMOT-III Program during 2023-24.

Benefits of the Stitching Machine Operators Training (SMOT) Program:

- Promotion of women employment & empowerment.
 - Poverty alleviation.
-

- Creation of skill consciousness in the industry.
- Creation of “skilled labor pool” for Garment sector.
- Improvement of efficiency, quality & productivity level.
- Reduction in wastage & cost of production.
- Employment of 2796 skilled worker would benefit 2796 families.
- Help existing textile institutes-suffering from financial & intake problems.
- Help to enhance foreign exchange earnings.

OTHERS

- Provided Material for Economic Survey for F.Y 2023-24 to Finance Division (Economic Adviser’s Wing)
- Attended meetings of the management committee of EDF Institutes
- Conducted physical surveys for performance evaluation of the EDF institutes.
- Took active part in the affairs of the EDF institutes and extended full cooperation for their smooth running.
- Conducted physical surveys of various textile units for the (enhancement/enrolment of spinning & weaving sectors) Cess Collection
- Conducted Seminar on Sustainability in Textile Industry on 19-11-2023 at National Textile University
- Conducted Seminar on Sustainability concepts on 30-11-2023 at National Textile University
- Provided International/Domestic training for the capacity building of officers
- Conducted the DPC/TSC for the promotion of Superintendent (BS-16) to (BS-17) and Computer Analyst (BS-16) to (BS-17)
- Disbursement of dues & benefits under the PM Assistance Package to the family of deceased employees

13. LAHORE GARMENT CITY COMPANY (LGCC)

Under Trade Policy 2003-04, LGCC was established on 16th September 2004 with Registrar Joint Stock Companies, City District Government, Lahore. The total area of LGCC is 19.34 acres. The underlying objective was to reduce capital outlay of value-added textile manufacturers and provide them with a built -up space, fully compliant and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities where they can establish their units by avoiding the expensive and lengthy process of buying land and constructing factories thereon.

Revenue Generation, FY 2023-24:

Revenue (Rs. Million)	Rent of Buildings	90.5342
	Profit on deposit	128.3641
	Sub-Total	218.8984
Expenses (Rs. Million)	Administration Expenses	43.1758
	Depreciation	17.0000
	Sub-Total	60.1758
Profits (Rs. Million)	Net Savings	158.7226

i. Achievements/Progress of the Project:

- a. The constructed buildings (Category A, B, C and Admin/Auditorium) were leased out at monthly rental of Rs. 21.45 per square feet on 10% annual escalation.
- b. LGCC generated the direct employment to around 6,000+ persons.
- c. Annual exports of US\$ 185 million in 2023-24.
- d. Free pick and drop facility to the workers, especially females and remote areas.
- e. On-site medical dispensary with stand by Ambulance for workers and their families.
- f. Child Day Care Center for female workers/staff and officers.
- g. Provided marriage grants and strictly implemented Women Harassment Laws.

14. FAISALABD GARMENT CITY COMPANY (LGCC)

FGCC was registered with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on 8th May 2006, having status of Company Limited by Guarantee under Section 42 of Companies Ordinance, 1984. The total area of FGCC is 38.9 acres. The underlying objective was to reduce capital outlay of value-added textile manufacturers and provide them with a built-up space, fully compliant and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities where they can establish their units by avoiding the lengthy process of buying land and constructing factories thereon.

i. Financial Position:

Financial Year	Rental Revenue+ Bank Profit + TDR (Rs.)	Expenditure	Profit / Loss (Rs.)
2006-07	1,065,739	5,833,196	4,767,457
2007-08	626,471	8,496,287	7,869,816
2008-09	529,209	8,664,194	8,134,985
2009-10	6,870,131	10,163,168	3,293,037
2010-11	14,723,584	9,246,018	5,477,566
2011-12	15,181,521	8,376,171	6,805,350
2012-13	23,765,567	14,320,408	9,445,159
2013-14	38,966,891	14,251,213	24,715,678
2014-15	43,126,267	14,543,765	28,582,502
2015-16	46,813,838	54,327,012	7,513,174
2016-17	51,723,948	29,996,629	21,727,319
2017-18	49,289,697	36,424,289	12,865,408
2018-19	60,783,099	34,425,774	26,357,325
2019-20	75,435,340	35,071,939	40,363,401
2020-21	73,636,395	46,132,341	27,504,054
2021-22	82,251,998	63,125,814	19,126,184
2022-23	105,398,410	77,639,201	27,759,209
2023-24	48,354,955	65,583,970	17,229,015

ii. Future Projects (Construction of three buildings):

FGCC with the approval of its Board of Directors and Ministry of Commerce decided to get its buildings constructed through Public Private Partnership. The case has already been moved to Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A). Advisory Services Agreement has also been signed between FGCC and P3A on 4th September 2023. Transaction Advisor Agreement has been signed between FGCC and IQ Capital Plus on 4th April 2024. Transaction Advisor team is working on the draft of Commercial Feasibility Study (CFS).

iii. Female Exclusive Training Institute (FETI):

- a. FETI provided garments related training to female students. Details are as follows:

Batch	Start Date	End Date	Enrolled	Pass outs	Duration
20	23-Aug	23-Sep	41	41	2 Months
21	23-Oct	23-Dec	27	24	
22	23-Dec	24-Feb	30	30	
23	24-Jan	24-Mar	19	19	
24	24-Mar	24-May	30	30	
25	24-Mar	24-May	22	22	
26	24-May	24-Jul	25	25	3 Months
27	24-May	24-Jul	25	25	

- b. FGCC signed contract with Punjab Skills Development Funds (PSDF) on 26th April 2024, for two training courses (Quality Control & Machine Operator).

iv. Other Achievements/Progress of the Project:

- a. Annual exports of US\$ 50 million in 2023-24.
- b. The constructed buildings were leased out at monthly rental of Rs. 15.3 per square feet on 10% annual escalation.
- c. FGCC generated the direct employment to 3,000 persons.

15. KARACHI GARMENT CITY COMPANY (KGCC)

KGCC, a project of Ministry of Commerce, is spread over an area of 300 acres of prime industrial land, situated about 55 Kms from the city center and located next to Arabian Sea Country Golf Club, in the vicinity of Port Qasim, Karachi. KGCC is registered with SECP as a Company under Section 43 of Companies Ordinance, 1984.

Financial Statement (as of 30th June 2024):

Details	Amount (Rs.)
TDRs	35,000,000
Cash & Bank Balances	127,125,950
Total	162,125,950

i.Registration / lease of Project Land:

- Board of Revenue, Karachi dated 17th January 2024 intimated that Rs. 167,270,400 on account of 1% Stamp Duty, while Rs. 167,270,400 and Rs. 528,121,440 on account of Town Tax (1%) and Advance Tax estimated @ 3% u/s 236-K respectively are payable for the registration of land. KGCC had received Rs. 114,781,385 earlier for lease of land (against required amount of Rs. 862,662,240) and additional funds of 747,880,855 are short and required from EDF to register/lease of land.
- For construction of boundary wall, EDF issued Rs. 21,780,000 to KGCC. However, NESPAK has now estimated Rs. 193,686,049 for boundary wall including time office.
- KGCC dated 30th January 2024 formally requested EDF for additional funds for lease of land and construction of boundary wall.

ii.No Profit Organization (NPO) Status:

KGCC was granted NPO status by FBR on 28.03.2019 under section 2(36) of Income Tax Ordinance 2001 for six months, which was extended from time to time until 30.06.2020. Commissioner, IR, Legal RTO, Karachi passed order on 18.03.2021 not to grant further renewal, as the criteria has changed under Finance Act 2020 wherein entities set-up for any development purposes would not to be recognized anymore as NPO. KGCC has applied for review of Order and matter is pending.

16. EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF)

1. Introduction

The Export Development Fund (EDF) was established through a “Resolution” bearing SRO No. 843(I)/92 dated 01-09-1992 consisting of whole receipts of Export Development Surcharge. The Fund was later strengthened through promulgation of ‘Export Development Fund Act in 1999 which it non-lapsable.

Due to procedural issues, EDF was not receiving its full revenue receipts. The issue was resolved through amendment in the EDF Act through Finance Bill 2022 which led to direct collection of EDS receipts in the Public Account of the Fund.

EDF is governed by its Board, which possesses full financial and administrative authority. Since its inception, the EDF Board has sanctioned funding for around 350 projects and activities, totaling approximately PKR 25 billion for various export promotion activities as per vision & objectives of the EDF.

1.1 Vision of Export Development Fund

To develop and strengthen export infrastructure, and provide support for related activities.

1.2 Key Objectives of Export Development Fund

In accordance with the Act, the Fund is utilizing for the following purposes:

- Establishing training institutions for export-oriented industries
 - Subsidizing international delegations and sales missions
 - Setting up overseas offices for the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Exporters Association
 - Subsidizing participation in international exhibitions, including single-country fairs
 - Publicity and marketing initiatives
 - Research and Development activities for Exporters Association, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries
 - Market and product development for trade associations, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and individual exporters
 - Engaging consultants for export-related services
 - Strengthening Pakistan Trade Offices abroad
 - Establishing and maintaining display centers domestically and internationally
 - Supporting export services
 - Any other activity approved by the Board that promotes exports
-

3 Project Funding and Execution

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Export Development Fund (EDF) approved funding for 31 proposals/projects/activities worth approximately PKR 4.4 billion while around Rs. 2.8 billion were released to ongoing/newly approved projects.

3.1 Funding for major Projects/Initiatives approved by the Board and relevant Committees during 2023-24 are as under: -

3.1.1 Marketing Initiatives:

1. Participation of local exporters/SMEs in international exhibitions
2. 3. Engineering & Healthcare Show (2024)
4. Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference/Exhibition (4th)

3.1.2 Training Interventions:

1. Consultancy & Training for SME's on Export Management at Gujrat
2. Up-gradation Plan of existing IKTK Institute at Karachi
3. Gems & Gemological Institute, Peshawar

3.1.3 Common Facility Centers:

1. Establishment of National Compliance Centre (NCC)
2. Strengthening of PCSIR-Karachi Accredited Labs for Fruits & Vegetables Testing to Enhance Export
3. Upgradation of Sports Industries Development Centre (SIDC) - Sialkot
4. State of the Art Fruits & Vegetables Dehydrating Facility at Multan - University of Agriculture
5. Setup of Mango Drying Unit at Sindh Agriculture University
6. Upgradation and Replacement of Physical Testing Equipment at PTTF Lab, Faisalabad
Establishment of Research and Technology Centre (RTDC) at the University of Swabi
7. Establishment of Combined Effluent Treatment Plant in Sialkot Tannery Zone

National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee rejuvenation

3.1.4 Research and Development:

1. Policy-oriented Research studies for Promotion of Exports and Enhancing Industrial Competitiveness
 2. Research Study on Pakistan - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by FPCCI
-

3.1.5 International Technical Consultancies:

1. Hiring of Foreign Law Firm to File Opposition on Indian Claim on Basmati Rice in EU and various countries
2. Hiring of Foreign Law Firm for presenting Pakistan's stance in United States International Trade Commission (USTR) investigation on Export Competitiveness of Apparel from Various Countries
3. Diplomacy and Engagement Support for continuation of GSP+ Status in EU

3.1.6 Other Initiatives:

1. Digitization of process for issuance of Certificate of Origin (COO) by Association/Chambers



17. LIAISON OFFICE, AFGHAN TRANSIT TRADE, CHAMAN

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of Kingdom Afghanistan desirous of strengthening the economic ties between their two countries on mutually advantageous basis and removing the difficulties in tie movement of goods through the two counties, each contracting party appointed Liaison Office to arrange Liaison Office, Afghan Transit, Trade, Chaman has been working under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad. However, it has been managed and run by officers of TDAP Quetta, as additional charge meetings between the both the Liaison officer for expeditious solution.

Functions

To strengthen the economic ties between two countries on mutually advantageous basis and removing the difficulties in movement of goods through the countries. Each contracting party appointed Liaison Officer to arrange meetings between the both the liaison officer for the expeditious solution. Both officers maintain mutually beneficial relationship; facilitate communications and coordinates activities among traders from each side of the borders.

Meetings

Meeting held with Chaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry regarding promotion of Pak-Afghan trade and economic relations for bringing economic prosperity and development in the whole region. It was agreed that the serious steps may be taken to resolve issues of traders' communities on both sides of the border.

Monthly meeting with counterparts. To provide freedom on transit to and from Pakistan to eliminate trade hurdles and ensure that the agreement is implemented in true letter and spirit.

Meeting held with customs office at Chaman regarding issues related to transit trade like lack of infrastructure, unnecessary checking at check posts, the arrogance of port and shipping lines, extensive demurrages and most importantly border closures. Traders have great concerns due to uncertainty pertaining to Pak/Afghan border closure, it is the most important factor which hits the business community of both the countries and creates a lack of trust between each other.

Arranged meetings with Agencies like Customs, FC, Wakaltul Tijari, Afghanistan, FIA, Transporters, Clearing and Forwarding Agents, regarding trade activities with Afghanistan.
