

Federal Board of Revenue

F B R N E W S L E T T E R

What's Inside

Refunds made easy

Drive against non-filers

Japanese delegation visits DOT

FTO stands behind tax officials

RTO-II Lahore, RTO-II Karachi get operational

New Member (Admin) takes charge

New revenue measures planned

Exporters briefed on tax refunds

Hamid Raza Wattoo / Editor

ADVISORY BOARD

Riffat Shaheen Qazi / Member (FATE)

Nadeem Dar / Chief (FATE)

Hamid Raza Wattoo / Secretary (PR)

Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Talpur / SS

Design & Layout

Azhar Awan

Editorial Assistant

Abdul Ghaffar Awan

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.fbr.gov.pk

CONTACT US

Ph:051-9208407 - Fax:051-9207172

secretary.pr.fbr@gmail.com

The latest edition of 'REVENews' comes at a time when the country faces serious economic constraints coupled with a slowdown in the economy already hampered by floods and a rising fiscal deficit. This resource constraint has hobbled the pace of socio-economic development. In the light of such challenges staring the country on the economic front, it is upon us in FBR to strive harder to meet revenue collection target which is likely to stay around Rs. 1630 billion following fresh revenue measures being mulled by the FBR. While these revenue measures are being considered, it is time to reinforce our efforts to expand the tax net and broaden tax base. It is a tall order but the FBR team is committed to striving for excellence.

Riffat Shaheen Qazi
Member (FATE)

OUR VISION

To be a modern, progressive, effective, autonomous and credible organization for optimizing revenue by providing quality service and promoting compliance with related tax laws.

OUR MISSION

Enhance the capability of the tax system to collect due taxes through application of modern techniques, providing taxpayer assistance and by creating a motivated, satisfied, dedicated and professional workforce

Chairman urges optimal revenue collection

It gives me immense pleasure to share my views with fellow colleagues and staff in Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) through the pages of 'REVENews'. I have always been associated with FBR and do not feel that I have joined a new organization.

There is no denying the fact that we are living in challenging times. There is a lot going on in the region which has directly affected economic activity in the country. The ripples caused by global recession had



also created a slow-down in Pakistan but we had started showing signs of recovery with a 4.1 per cent growth last year. However in 2010, the devastating floods affected over 2 million rural homes and wrecked large swathes of infrastructure. As the efforts for rehabilitation of the flood-affecteds continues, the challenges for FBR to generate revenue also needs to be re-assessed.

The need for creating targeted fiscal policies as well as finding venues to generate funds for sustaining the socio-economic development is of primary importance. FBR believes that times ahead are certainly challenging, and the FBR team is committed to face the challenges in close liaison with the Taxpayers, Trade Bodies and Chambers of Commerce. FBR is committed to establishing a progressive, credible and trustworthy image and is dedicated to optimising revenue through providing quality facilitation services and expecting a tax-compliant culture.

We, at FBR, need to improve on our skills in all fields of knowledge and services, i.e., taxation and facilitation to meet the assigned revenue targets. It is an uphill task, but with our dedicated team we are committed to accomplishing it.

New Assignments



K.K. Butt
Member (IRS)



Mumtaz Haider Rizvi
Member (Customs)



Riffat Shaheen Qazi
Official Spokesperson (FBR)



Tahir Raza Naqvi
Member (Admin)

Deliberations on RGST over zero-rated textile sectors

The Sub-Committee of National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue met on two consecutive days in the second week of December 2010 at FBR House to deliberate issues relating to five zero-rated sectors (textile, leather, carpets, surgical goods and sports) and on RGST.

The meeting chaired by Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, MNA and Special Advisor to Prime Minister and attended among others by MNA Ms. Kashmala Tariq, MNA Mr. Rashid Godil, Mr. Gohar Ejaz, Chairman APTMA, Mr. Zubair Motiwala, Chairman CAPTA, and by representatives of several textile-sector associations, Chairman FBR and FBR officers.

The associations argued that zero-rating be continued under the existing sales tax regime as removing zero-rating would raise liquidity constraints for these sectors. They requested that the intermediary stages be not taxed and some other mechanism be devised to collect taxes on domestic sales of these sectors, preferably at the retail stage.

There was final consensus that exports of these five sectors remain zero-rated but their domestic sales need to be taxed. The Sub-committee appreciated the concerns of the Textile associations and admitted the need to facilitate the sector as it represented a major share of Pakistan's exports.



The second round of discussions on day-2 was attended by MNA Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbassi, as well as by chairmen of APTMA, APTPMA, PRGMBA, Surgical Association, PAKSEA and by other representatives of leather, carpets, textile, surgical, and sports goods associations. The then Chairman FBR Mr. Sohail Ahmad and other FBR officials were also present.

The associations underlined the need to continue zero-rating under the sales tax regime, and pointed out that FBR's refund system/mechanism was not efficient enough and continues to block their capital for months. If zero-rating is removed, it will lead to economic inefficiencies in these sectors. They also requested that the intermediary stages not be taxed and tax on intermediaries from domestic sales be collected at the retail stage.

The Sub-committee decided to consult retailers and wholesalers and other zero rated sectors before forming its recommendation for the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue.

Seminar on Protection of Women against Harassment at Workplace Act 2010

Under the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan all the ministries and allied departments have been directed to comply with the provisions of the Protection of Women against Harassment at Workplace Act 2010. The FBR has already started taking practical measures towards implementation of "Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010" and a three member inquiry committee headed by the DG (HRM) as required by the said law has been formed at FBR Head quarters to address the issues pertaining to women harassment. Similar committees have been formed in the field formations which are in liaison with HQ.

The new legislation envisages organizing seminars/workshops on protection of women against harassment at workplace act 2010. Following the directives HRM Wing FBR organized a seminar on the subject on 07.10.2010. The venue was National Library of Pakistan; Chairman FBR presided over the function. The key note speaker was Ms Maleeha Hussain, Programme Director Ahsah an NPO working for promoting awareness on women rights.



The heads of the committees on harassment from all field formations attended the seminar. The occasion received wide coverage from national print and electronic media.

Japanese businessmen, Customs field formations exchange professional input

The foundation of business lies in human interaction. The veracity of this dictum can be gauged from the recent interactive session organized by Directorate General of Training & Research (Customs), Karachi between the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and Customs field formations of Karachi on 02 Nov 2010. JETRO is the Japanese counterpart of Pakistan's EPB, promoting Japan's external trade. The Japanese businessmen delegation was headed by JETRO's Country Director, Mr. Kaoru Shiraishi. The event was planned into three sessions; morning, afternoon and the evening session. The event was attended by 20 Japanese businessmen and a number of Pakistan Customs Officials.

The venue for the morning session was Old Custom House building of DGTR (Customs), Karachi. The Director General of DGTR, Mrs. Rubina Wasti welcomed the participants and the house was declared open by Consul General of Japan, Karachi, Mr. Akinori Wada. This was followed by presentations on four topics, namely, Import System used by MCC Appraisal by Mr. Ali Waheed Khan, Assistant Collector MCC (Appraisal), Karachi, Customs Valuation Gateway by Mr. Jawwad Uwais Agha, Additional Director (Valuation), Karachi, PaCCS System by Mr. Abdul Hameed Memon, Additional Collector MCC (PaCCS), Karachi and Working of MCC (Preventive) by Engr. Habib Ahmed, Deputy Collector (Preventive), Karachi. The afternoon session was arranged at Custom House, Karachi and Karachi Port. The delegation was led to visit MCC PaCCS to observe the physical operations, followed by a meeting with the Director General of Customs Valuation.



Refunds made easy for taxpayers

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) distributed 168 cheques worth Rs 420.8 million in Sales Tax Refunds among 41 claimants at a simple but impressive ceremony held in the Federal Capital in the third week of September 2010.

Addressing the ceremony, Federal Minister for Finance Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh appreciated the efforts of FBR made in active interaction with the business and trade community to ensure speedy payment of refunds and in clearing backlog. He hoped the introduction of technology and automation of systems by the FBR will bring in more transparency, minimise manual interaction with tax officials and expedite the refund process. The minister appreciated FBR's efforts towards a centralised cheque issuance system. This system would minimise involvement of the number of persons within the process of sales tax refund verification process, and speed up the system, ensuring early refunds.



In his speech, FBR Chairman Mr. Sohail Ahmad said FBR had constituted Task Forces to expedite clearance of the sales tax and federal excise refunds stuck up in the field formations. Task Force have been set up in Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad to clear pending refunds on top priority basis. He directed that tax officials should not act like policemen, rather they should work as facilitators to taxpayers. The taxpayers must timely get refund, without going through agony. Following a board-in-council decision, FBR has changed the refund rules, and manufacturers-cum-exporters should non-file claims through the ERS, to facilitate transparency.

Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Khan, GM PRAL said the facility of Expeditious Refund System (ERS) would be extended to commercial exporters and accountholders of commercial banks, and refund amount would be directly transferred to the bank account the taxpayers under the plan to expedite refunds under the 'reformed general sales tax' (R-GST).

He said the FBR would launch a pilot project from March 2011 to directly deposit the refund into the bank account of the taxpayer. In this regard, the FBR had started consultations HBL, ABL, UBL and MCB.

Death and taxes and childbirth! There's never any convenient time for any of them. Margaret Mitchell



Seminar on Improvised Explosive Devices

The Dte. Training and Research (Customs), Karachi arranged a two-day seminar on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), as part of the Global Shield Project in collaboration with US Embassy and UNODC on 2-3 Dec 2010. The venue was the Old Custom House building of DGTR (Customs). The participants included representatives of different agencies and Customs officials.

The first day of the seminar was graced by Chief Collector (South), Mr. Amir Khan Marwat as Chief Guest. The Dir. Gen. Training Mrs. Rubina Wasti welcomed the participants. Mr. Asad Raza Rizvi of UNODC presented an overview of the global UNODC-WCO Container Control Program (CCP) and briefly introduced the Global Shield Project. This was followed by a presentation by Col. Fahim of UNODC on chemical precursors, their use in manufacturing IEDs and substances of dual-use. After lunch, Col. Fahim continued with his presentation on precautions, secure handling and storage implications of the IEDs along with information on IEDs used by terrorists and criminal groups. The day ended with Engr. Habib Ahmed, DC Customs (Preventive)'s speech on the use of precursors in IEDs from Pakistan's perspective.

The Member (Customs), Mr. Munir Qureshi was the Chief Guest on the second day of the seminar. Addressing the proceedings, Mr. Asad Raza Rizvi of UNODC spoke on the Pakistani segment of UNODC-WCO CCP. A talk on communication



systems used for Global Shield Project, Container-Comm and analysis tools of C-hawk by Mr. Shamim Akhtar of MCC (Preventive) followed. Next was a question-answer session. The Chief Guest, in his closing remarks, shared his experiences about the subject. The seminar ended with tea, and a photo session. Participants were later on taken to sPort Control Unit (PCU) of UNODC's CCP at Karachi Port for a practical demonstration.

Riffat Shaheen Qazi designated FBR Spokesperson

Ms. Riffat Shaheen Qazi, a BS-21 officer and currently posted as Member Facilitation and Taxpayer Education (FATE) in the FBR Headquarters, has been designated as Official Spokesperson FBR.

Ms. Qazi, a senior officer of the 7th Common, has been serving as Member FATE since January 22, 2010. Before being appointed as Member FBR, she was heading the Regional Tax Office Rawalpindi where she led a series of tax recovery drives as the Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Service.

Ms. Qazi brings with her a rich professional and academic experience. She holds a Master's degree and an MPhil in Economics from the University of Peshawar. Later she completed Masters in Business Administration from John F. Kennedy University USA. Her last academic pursuit was at the prestigious Harvard University, where she attended an extensive Senior Executive Management training course.

FBR outlines plan to force big non-filers, short-filers to file returns

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to enforce by April 15 the return filing of top 1000 corporate non-filers and top 1000 corporate short-filers of sales tax for the period between July 2010 to December 2010.

This was decided at a meeting of FBR's Board-in-Council convened in the 3rd week of February 2011 under the directive of Finance Minister Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh. The meeting chaired by FBR Chairman Salman Siddique and attended by all Members deliberated various proposals and options to invigorate revenue generation and meet the collection target for the ongoing year.

The Board also decided to enforce compliance in corporate income tax returns where out of 44,794 registered corporate taxpayers, only 18,098 have filed their returns so far for the fiscal year 2010. A similar compliance would be also be ensured in the case of Association of Persons (AoPs) where out of registered 135,292 AoPs, only 34,155 have filed their returns. The enforcement drive would be completed by May 30, 2011.

The meeting also decided to start desk audit of corporate returns to be completed by February 28, 2011 as well as risk-based audit of the corporate sector to be completed by April 30, 2011. The demand raised as a result of these audits will be collected by June 30, 2011.

This Board-in-Council also decided to start monitoring of withholding agents with airline ticketing agents and banks being the first sectors to come under monitoring radar. The monitoring exercise would continue up to April 15, 2011.

The meeting also decided to utilize and cross-match data available with FBR in order to broaden the tax base. The decision was taken in the light of recommendations given by DG Broadening of Tax and DG Strategic Planning & Research in separate presentations to the Board-in-Council.

The meeting also decided to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanism to plug leakages in the system and realize greater revenue. A meeting of the LTU and RTO commissioners has also been convened in March to deliberate ways for expanding the tax net and broadening the tax base.

The meeting also decided to streamline and rationalize tariff on major items of the Afghan transit trade in view of an increased incidence of transit trade items like tea and tyres finding their way back in the Pakistani market and causing a huge loss in revenue. The meeting was told that this illicit trade has risen significantly during the last three years. In this connection, various studies by economic researchers are already under way in FBR to suggest ways for streamlining and rationalizing the tariff and erase the profitability of smuggling under the Afghan transit trade.

Another key decision taken by the Board-in-Council was to set up six electronic way-bridges and instal scanners on the Afghan transit trade route. The meeting was informed that one such way-bridge had already been set up at Chamman while another being set up at Torkham would be completed within the next two days. One way-bridge would be set up at Ammangarh while the remaining three would be completed at Quaid-e-Azam International Container Terminal, Pakistan International Container Terminal and Karachi International Container Terminal in port city of Karachi. All the six way-bridges would be operated through a centralised recording system while FBR House would eventually house the mechanism for the direct monitoring.

Seminar on Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement

The Directorate General of Training and Research (Customs), Karachi arranged an interactive and informative seminar on Afghan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, 2010 on 28 December, 2010 at the old Custom House building. Chief Collector of Customs (South) Mr. Amir M. Khan Marwat was the Chief Guest.

The seminar formally commenced with a welcome address by Director General, Ms. Rubina Wasti. Additional Collector MCC (Exports) Syed Ahmed Tanveer presented salient features of APTTA 2010. He informed that the Agreement consists of 13 sections, 38 articles and 4 protocols. He talked on the inbuilt security mechanisms, goods examination procedures and the requisite transit documents under the new Agreement. He also highlighted differences between the old Afghan Transit Trade



agreement 1965 (ATTA) and the new Agreement. This was followed by the speech by Chief Guest, who emphasized the importance of APTTA 2010 on the premise that our future lies in development of land routes and Afghanistan is a land bridge between South Asia and Central Asian Republics. Having served in Afghanistan in UN's Customs Modernization project, he deliberated upon Afghanistan's transit model and infrastructure. He then talked at length about the treaty, concentrating on provisions related to anti-smuggling.

He also emphasized on Pakistan's better geographical placement for Afghanistan as a transit route as compared to Iran due to shorter distance to sea, which can save transportation costs for Afghan transit goods. He concluded with the optimism that Pakistan Customs will be able to implement APTTA in true letter and spirit.

An interactive question answer session kept the audience engrossed for quite a while. The stakeholders, while appreciating the bold initiative of FBR and Ministry of Commerce to bring the Agreement under signature, raised interesting queries on issues such as financial securities/guarantees, dispute resolution mechanism, national treatment to transport of other countries, impact of Agreement on smuggling, transport/goods tracking system etc.

In the next session Collector MCC, Lahore, Mr. Najeeb-ur-Rehman Abbasi presented the general Agreement and its articles. He focused on how Customs procedures have been revamped and incorporated into the new paradigm of APTTA 2010.

This was followed by another presentation by Additional Director Syed Tanveer Ahmed, on Protocols III and IV, on procedures. The vital part of his presentation centered on issues related to security seals of the trucks. This presentation was dovetailed by a talk of Executive Secretary of NTTFC, Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Javaid Mansoor on Protocols I and II of the Agreement.

He predicted that provisions of the Protocols will be advantage out to Pakistan in terms of diversion of transit trade of Afghanistan from Iran to Pakistan.

FTO pledges support to tax officials in addressing taxpayers' concerns

Dr. Shoaib Suddle, Federal Tax Ombudsman visited the Regional Tax Office, Lahore in the third week of January 2011 to meet up with officers of Inland Revenue Service. The Ombudsman was accompanied by Advisors to the Federal Tax Ombudsman. Addressing the officers of the Large Taxpayers Unit, Regional Tax Offices and Customs Collectorate, the Ombudsman said that although the FTO Office has to look into the issues of mal-administration, it is primarily the responsibility of the officers of the department to deal with the incidence of maladministration. The FTO's role is to provide support and complement this job. He emphasized that the role of tax collection is a very fundamental function of the state, therefore, the officers of the department should work hard to collect due taxes as the country is facing critical times. He pointed out that the office of the FTO is there not to harass the Tax Department but to provide support to them in redressing genuine grievances of the taxpayers.



The Federal Tax Ombudsman said that mal-administration is a colonial tradition adopted by the foreign rulers to subjugate the natives. He stated that through a good and fair tax administration the revenue collection can be increased significantly by gaining the confidence of the taxpayers. He also highlighted his achievements after his appointment as Federal Tax Ombudsman on 3rd June, 2009. He informed that all the pending claims pertaining to year 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 were speedily liquidated with a result that stuck up refunds amounting to Rs. 6 billion have been issued to the taxpayers. Currently there is no case which is pending for more than three months. He said that the FTO office is being automated and a full functional web portal has already been launched. Soon the taxpayers will be able to file their complaints online. In the end Mr. Ansar Javed, Chief Commissioner, Regional Tax Office, Lahore thanked the Ombudsman for gracing the occasion.

RTO Rawalpindi officers share views on softwares

An interactive meeting between Mr. Shafiq Mohammad, Chief (Domestic Operations South), FBR, and officers of the Inland Revenue, RTO, Rawalpindi took place in the third week of September 2010 to exchange input and views on the use and effectiveness of various softwares prepared by PRAL for the FBR's Headquarters and field formation. The visiting chief who was received by Mr. Shahid Anwar Khan, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, RTO, also distributed an input form among the RTO officers who attended the meeting. During the vigorous interactive discussions, the participants shared their experiences regarding the use and the concordant problems related to softwares.



Dr. Manzoor shares experiences with Customs probationers

Knowledge knows no bounds just as much as it entails empowerment. In pursuit of knowledge and exchange of ideas, the Directorate General of Training (Customs, Karachi) invited Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, an eminent professional of Customs and international trade, to visit the DGTR to share his professional and personal experiences in an informal environment with the Customs probationers.

Dr. Ahmed, originally an officer of Customs, is currently working as an independent consultant at Geneva. He has previously remained engaged in many high profile engagements including Director FAO, Geneva, Ambassador, Pakistan Mission to the WTO, Geneva, Member (Customs), FBR, Collector of Customs at Karachi, to name a few.

After the Director General Ms. Rubina Wasti gave her note of thanks, Dr. Ahmed was invited to the stage for the talk. The guest first deliberated upon diverse issues related to Customs. He commented that Pakistan's trade policy, formulated by Ministry of Commerce, needs complete overhauling in line with the objective of facilitating genuine trade. He opined that any trade policy should be dynamic in essence and should be elastic enough to stand by the thick and thin of the today's ever changing world. He suggested three prerequisites to achieve a satisfactory level of trade across the borders namely, more openness to encourage value addition, efforts to get market access and focus on encouragement of exports within our close geographical region e.g. India.



The talk was followed by an interactive question-answer session. The important issues discussed were price Vs quality debate for competition, import substitution, impact of war on terror on international trade, FDI, importance of regional trade agreements to cut cost-of-doing-business, subsidies on agriculture and the role of technology in industrial production to boost value-addition. On the issue of RGST, Dr. Ahmed was of the view that in order to bring increment in our current GDP-to-Tax ratio of 9%, we need to work more on making Income Tax collection more efficient rather than reforming GST regime which works on the principle of value-addition. The program ended with a thanks note and a photo session, followed by tea and light refreshments.

Regional Tax Office-II, Lahore, gets operational

Regional Tax Office-II, Lahore has started functioning from 2nd August, 2010, with Mr. Mustafa Ashraf as its first chief commissioner. Regional Tax Office was jointly inaugurated by Mr. Ansar Javed, Chief Commissioner RTO-I, Lahore, and Mr. Mustafa Ashraf, Chief Commissioner RTO-II, Lahore.

Lahore has always been an immensely significant region for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), owing to its potential and substantial share in the federal revenues. Till very recently, Lahore and its allied areas were being managed through Regional Tax Office, Lahore. However, the responsibilities amplified manifold after creation of Inland Revenue Service and amalgamation of Income Tax, Sales Tax and Federal Excise.

Therefore, in order to further facilitate the taxpayers and smooth functioning of the system, FBR decided to split the RTO Lahore in terms of areas/alphabets/sectors, previously being managed through a single RTO, in to two parts.



Regional Tax Office II, Lahore, which has become fully operational, has been further divided into 7 divisions. It includes three divisions for Enforcement, two divisions of Audit, one division of Legal and Information Processing and one division of HRM/TPF. The jurisdiction entrusted to Enforcement-I comprises corporate and non-corporate cases of 20 sectors. Enforcement-II deals with corporate cases of Alphabets 'M' to 'Z' and salary cases of civil districts of Lahore, Okara, Kasur, Sheikhpura and Nankana Sahib. The territorial jurisdiction of Enforcement III comprises four towns of Lahore i.e. Gulberg Town, Samanabad Town, Nishter Town, Iqbal Town, and the civil districts of Okara and Kasur. Correspondingly, the Audit-I deals with the jurisdiction of sectoral and corporate cases, whereas Audit-II has been entrusted with jurisdiction over non-corporate and salaries cases.

Initially, the officers and officials of the new RTO have started functioning in the Tax House, Kasuri Towers and Bilour Palace. However, as soon as the building adjacent to Tax House (Old Zone-B), which is under renovation, is completed, the new RTO offices would shift there.

The team of newly established RTO-II Lahore has successfully overcome the initial phase of transition and is highly motivated to make a significant contribution to national revenues by tapping the revenue potential in its jurisdiction. InshaAllah, RTO-II, Lahore will stand by its all commitments and shall make an all out effort to achieve the assigned targets.

37th STP for Customs Probationers launched

The Directorate General of Training and Research (Customs), Karachi hosted a multi-purpose function on 15 October 2010 for the inauguration of the 37th Specialized Training Program (STP) of Customs Probationers and distribution of meritorious awards to the position holders of the 35th and 36th STPs. The event coincided with the inauguration of the newly renovated Old Custom House building of the DGTR (Customs), Karachi. The function also marked the retirement of ex-Director General of DGTR (Customs), Karachi, Mr. Muhammad Nasir Azhar, which was followed by a farewell dinner in his honour.

The function, which was held at Jehangir Hall of the Directorate General, was graced by Mr. Amir M. Khan Marwat, Chief Collector (South) / DG (Valuation), Karachi as the Chief Guest. FBR was represented by Ch. Muhammad Azam, Member (Admn), Ms. Raana Seerat, DG (HRM) and Mr. M. Iqbal, Secretary (Projects). Collectors and Additional Collectors of Customs posted at Karachi and other major Customs field formations were also invited to attend the function.

The Director General, Ms. Rubina Wasti first presented a quick overview of the academic activities of the Directorate General and its regional Directorates at Lahore and Islamabad during 2009-10. Then she presented a comparative pictorial run of the emergence of newly renovated blocks of the building from the ashes of the old ones. This was followed by distribution of award of certificates to Customs officers of 35th and 36th STPs. Later on, rich tributes were paid by the Director General, Ms. Rubina Wasti and the Chief Guest, Mr. Amir M. Khan Marwat, to the Ex-Director General DGTR, Mr. Muhammad Nasir Azhar on the eve of his retirement, for his outstanding services to the Customs & Excise group. At this stage, Member (Admn) and DG

(HRM), FBR also addressed the audience. Ex-Director General DGTR, Mr. Muhammad Nasir Azhar, on being requested, also gave out his thoughts on his farewell and shared his life-time personal and professional experiences. This was followed by awarding of shields to all concerned on their meritorious contribution to the renovation of Old Custom House, including officers of the PWD and a thanksgiving note by the Director General.



Before the close of the ceremony, the participants were given a guided walking tour of the refurbished building. The participants praised the innovative and artistic efforts put in the renovation of the building, specially the Kamil Museum of Customs, the Kunj-e- Khusboo (Parveen Shakir's Corner) and the Café Douane. The event came to a formal close with a sumptuous farewell dinner served at the rooftop of the newly refurbished building of the Directorate General.

New Member (Admin) takes charge

Mr. Tahir Raza Naqvi, a BS-21 officer of District Management Group (DMG), has assumed the charge of Member (Administration), FBR.

Mr. Naqvi whose last assignment was Secretary Social Welfare in the Government of Punjab, brings with him a rich experience of administration and management spread over an illustrious career spanning over 28 years.

The new Member holds a master's degree in International Relations from the Quaid-e-Azam University. He joined the Civil Service in 1983 and started his career as Assistant Commissioner Chistian tehsil of district Bahawalnagar in 1983. Since then, he has held numerous key posts,

including Deputy Commissioner / District Coordination Officer of Mandi Bahauddin, Kasur, Sialkot and a diverse range of secretariat positions in the Ministry of Education, Health, Finance, PMD, Home Department, Agriculture, Commerce & Industry, Population and Food in the Government of Punjab.

Mr. Naqvi who belongs to 11th CTP plans to use his administrative skills and professional acumen to consolidate the tax reforms and structural adjustments in FBR by ensuring "the right man for the right job". "We would bring in a culture of fairness and transparency in matters of transfers and postings and remove a general feeling of disconnect by creating horizontal/vertical linkages between the support and functional wings of FBR," he says in an interview with the 'REVENews'. Tahir Raza Naqvi considers "welfare of FBR employees" as his top priority and has several substantive plans and proposals in his mind to ensure the general welfare of nearly 24,000 employees of FBR. "We will rationalize job descriptions and address issues related to training and capacity building of the staff to ensure that we have in ready form a solid work force to fit in any situation and role to boost institutional efforts for revenue generation," he adds.



New revenue measures being mulled

Member Inland Revenue (FBR) Mr. Khawar Khurshid Butt and Member Facilitation and Taxpayer Education (FATE) Ms. Riffat Shaheen Qazi addressed a press briefing following a visit to ICAP and LTU Islamabad.

Addressing the briefing, Member (IRS) who had earlier visited Lahore to speak to officers of RTO Lahore on new revenue measures being mulled by FBR told the journalists FBR the Ministry of Finance and FBR were seriously examining the new revised target of Rs 1630 billion, including new taxation measures. He said: "There is a situation like financial emergency in the country where floods have adversely affected the revenue collection efforts. The situation of the economy is very bleak. The foreign inflows are less and talks are going with the IMF for the release of next tranche. The tax collectors have to make all-out efforts to increase revenue collection just like Pakistan army that fought against terrorism."



He added that through better monitoring of withholding taxes and quarterly statements and other returns, there would be improvement in the overall revenue collection. Bringing changes in the tax culture with increase revenue collection through improved automation, reshuffling in field formations and discovering new taxpayers with the help of data warehouse would be the priorities of the FBR in future.

Faisalabad exporters briefed on new system for tax refunds

The Regional Tax Office Faisalabad organized an interactive presentation for the traders and manufacturers-cum-exporters of the region to brief and educate them on the newly-introduced programme (one star) for an expeditious disposal of sales tax



refunds application through e-filing. The presentation was given by Mr. Hassan Pervaiz Syed, Chief Automation, FBR Islamabad while it was attended representatives of manufacturers-cum-exporters who greatly appreciated the presentation and asked various questions about the use and procedures of the system.

Jean-Baptiste Colbert

The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least amount of hissing.

Thomas Jefferson

The same prudence which in private life would forbid our paying our own money for unexplained projects, forbids it in the dispensation of the public monies.