



PBA monthly update

Shared eKYC project

The e-KYC Working Group is in the process of evaluating the technical and financial proposals from the two shortlisted vendors. Virtual meeting with each vendor was held in May and a breakout Group of IT experts from the Working Group has also held a meeting with a vendor for technical evaluation.

In addition to the Working Group, a Steering Committee (as an oversight body) has also been formed with

senior representation from PBA EC, PBA management and also from SBP.

The e-KYC WG will send its recommendations on the final selection of the vendor to the PBA EC for its approval based on the IT experts' technical evaluation and overall financial proposal's assessment. ■

Synchronized Withholding Administration and Payment Software (SWAPS): digitalization of corporate payments

PBA has been collaborating with FBR and SBP on Digitalization of Corporate payments and to eliminate the practice of floating checks and banks' readiness to

Setting disbursement targets under Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar (MPMG) scheme

The Steering Committee (SC) on Housing and Construction Finance has formulated a Sub Committee on principles of setting disbursement targets under Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar (MPMG) scheme for FY2022-23. NAPHDA, Habib Bank, Meezan Bank, Bank Alfalah, Askari Bank and Standard Chartered Bank are

members of the Sub Committee non-SC member banks, if any, who will join the Sub Committee as members.

Since the launch of SBP's Markup Subsidy scheme in October 2020, PBA has been collaborating with SBP in several ways, including raising awareness through advertising campaigns; via the PBA Technology Working Group (WG) which oversees the design, development and deployment of an automated income estimation & credit assessment methodology; and through a PBA Joint Call Centre (JCC), a helpline, which handles incoming calls pertaining to Low Cost Housing (LCH). ■

Sectoral Matters/
Project update/
Meetings

start corporate payments as per section 21 of Income Tax Ordinance 2001.

To address the matter of Future Value Transaction (FVT) as well as digitalization of corporate payments, PBA's Working Group on Digital Banking, SBP and FBR are jointly looking at innovative solutions to change the custom of post-dated cheques and to explore the existing digital solutions available in the market for corporate payments, Direct Debit Facility etc.

FBR had arranged another meeting at SBP on May 9, 2022 in which an update on Corporate Payments was provided by SBP and the banks' representatives from PBA, while FBR made a presentation on Synchronized Withholding Administration and Payment Software (SWAPS) – a tool to improve tax withholding. It is expected that the SWAPS will also eliminate the need of periodic reporting by withholding agents and their audit of withholding transactions. Further action regarding SWAPS will be taken by FBR/SBP.

□ Draft Conventional and Islamic Foreign Exchange Master Agreement

The final draft of the Conventional and Islamic FX Master Agreements have been reviewed and finalized by Mandviwalla & Zafar (M&Z). PBA office will now discuss the draft agreements with SBP.

□ Cooperation with UN on reducing the gender gap in Financial Inclusion

Representatives from 'UN Women' – a UN agency and global champion for gender equality – visited the PBA office and met PBA CEO/SG, Mr Tawfiq Hussain and other PBA team members, to exchange views on women's participation in the financial sector.

UN Women's Capital Markets expert in New York – Mr. Nobuyuki Imamura – was the visiting representative who explained that gender sensitization is an essential need in the banking ecosystem for which awareness must be spread.

Mr Tawfiq Hussain suggested that for the UN efforts in 'Reducing the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion', PBA could act as a platform for spreading awareness to member banks and to promote financial inclusiveness – through webinars/seminars and awareness sessions.

□ Climate Smart Agriculture Financing (CSAF)

On SBP's request, in March, '22, PBA had recommended a strategy/action plan for CSAF products based on input given by the PBA Agriculture Finance Sub Committee.

A presentation titled, 'Strategy to promote Climate Smart Agriculture Finance (CSAF),' with sub-actions/ key activities planned, proposed action points and timelines, was prepared by PBA's Agriculture Finance Sub Committee and forwarded to SBP after PBA EC's concurrence. Subsequently, PBA was asked to give an update on the CSAF strategy with recommendations for its implementation process to be shared by SBP in its Agricultural Credit Advisory Committee (ACAC) meeting to be held under the chair of Deputy Governor, Ms. Sima Kamil.

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