

NEWSLETTER

Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan

Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan
Reviews Law Reform Proposals



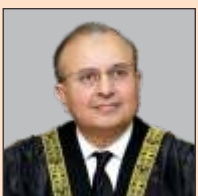
National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee
meets to discuss Judicial Policy Issues



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Chairman
National Judicial Automation Committee to oversee
establishment of National Judicial Automation Unit



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial to head the
LJCP Restructuring Committee



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to review the
Law Reforms Proposals of LJCP Secretariat

LJCP – Singapore Judicial
College collaborate for
*Training on Technology
and Courts of the Future*

*Provincial Justice
Committees*
with a new judicial
vision

Artificial Intelligence & the
Idea of Legal Singularity

Judicial Leadership and
International Experts
evaluate impact of *Covid-19*
on *Judicial Services*

Funding released to High
Courts for *Infrastructure*
and *Litigant-oriented*
facilities in districts

LJCP, UNDP and EU agree
on new initiatives under
Rule of Law Programme for
Pakistan:
*Focus on Legal Research,
ADR and Free Legal Aid*

Establishment of NJAU:
*The Federal Minister for
Law and Justice vows to
support the project*



Law & Justice Commission
of Pakistan

Newsletter Contents



Law & Justice Commission
of Pakistan

Law and Justice
Commission of Pakistan:
an introduction

4



Composition of Law and
Justice Commission of
Pakistan

4



The Hon'ble Chief Justice
of Pakistan Chairs the
meeting of Commission
to review Law Reform
Proposals

7



Highlights of preparatory
meeting of Commission:
Registrars' Committee
contemplates upon
Reform Proposals

9



The Hon'ble Chief Justice
of Pakistan appreciates
the judges during NJPMC
meeting for remaining
firm despite COVID

11



Technology and Courts of
the Future:
LJCP Secretariat and
Singapore Judicial
College organize training
programme

13



Artificial Intelligence and
the Idea of Legal
Singularity

20



The Judicial Leadership
and the international
experts evaluate the
impact of COVID-19 on
Judicial Services

23



Focus on ADR and Legal
Aid: Online workshop under
EU-Technical Assistance
Information Exchange
(TAIEX) Programme

24

Contents



Senate's Standing Committee on Law & Justice briefed on Legislative Reforms Recommendations

26



Secretary LJCP briefs National Assembly's Standing Committee on Police Reforms

26



The Hon'ble Chief Justice High Court of Sindh Chairs PJC Meeting: Vows for coordinated response

27



Hon'ble Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Chairs PJC Meeting: Secretary LJCP also briefs on AJDF Projects

30



Hon'ble Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Mr. Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan chairs PJC Meeting

33



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan Chairs the preparatory meeting on research commercialization

34



Hon'ble Chief Justice High Court of Balochistan Chairs PJC Meeting at Quetta

36



Azerbaijan Judges share their Judicial Automation experience with Pakistan Judiciary

39



UNDP Amn-o-Insaf Programme to encourage women in the legal Profession

41

Contents



UNDP protects frontline officers of Balochistan Police against the COVID

43



Upon directions of Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, follow-up meeting with UNDP held online

44



Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF) at a Glance: Major projects executed

46



The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan approves funding for District Judiciary in Islamabad

49



AJDF funding released to Peshawar High Court for additional Court Rooms in Districts

50



PJC Sindh meets again at the High Court of Sindh: The need for Forensic Science Lab reiterated

51



Federal Minister for Law and Justice meets Chairman NJAC to discuss project for establishment of NJAU

52

Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan: an Introduction

The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) is a Federal Government institution established under the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan Ordinance 1979. It is mandated for the systematic development and reform of laws, and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, with the core statutory function to suggest legislative reforms.

The Secretariat since its inception has been working on legislative reforms and has suggested various remarkable reforms, and made efforts for arranging the codification and unification of laws in order to eliminate multiplicity of laws on same subjects, and removing the anomalies in the laws.

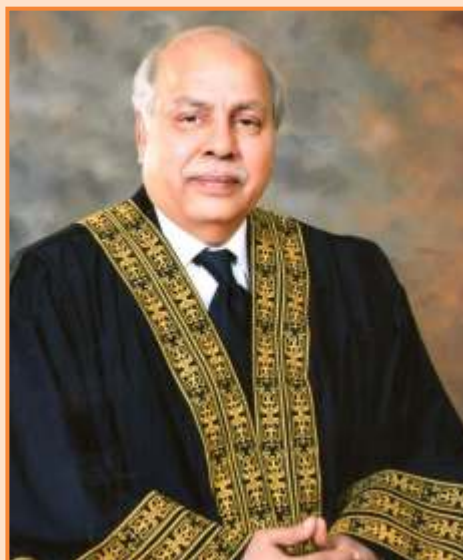
The LJCP Secretariat is a research organization and is entrusted with the responsibility of introducing reforms in administration of justice. Moreover, it works as a bridge between the executive and the judiciary in a multidimensional manner.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan chairs the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. Since, 21st December 2019, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed is the Chairman of the Commission.

Composition of Commission



Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan



Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan

Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed
Chairman LJCP

Ex-Officio Members



Mr. Khalid Javed Khan
The Attorney-General
for Pakistan



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Ahmed Ali M. Sheikh**
Chief Justice
High Court of Sindh



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Muhammad Noor Meskanzai**
Chief Justice
Federal Shariat Court



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Qaiser Rashid Khan**
Chief Justice
Peshawar High Court



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Athar Minallah**
Chief Justice
Islamabad High Court



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Jamal Khan Mandokhail**
Chief Justice,
High Court of Balochistan



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Muhammad Qasim Khan**
Chief Justice,
Lahore High Court



Raja Naeem Akbar
Secretary
Ministry of Law & Justice



Chairperson
National Commission
on the Status of Women

Notified Members



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice (R)
Mian Shakirullah Jan**
Former Judge,
Supreme Court of Pakistan



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice (R)
Khilji Arif Hussain**
Former Judge,
Supreme Court of Pakistan



Mian Abdul Rauf
Advocate
Supreme Court of Pakistan



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice (R)
Sair Ali**
Former Judge
Supreme Court of Pakistan



Syed Ayaz Zahoor
Advocate
Supreme Court of Pakistan



Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan
Secretary LJCP

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan chairs the meeting of the Commission to review law reform proposals



The Hon'ble Chairman LJCP chaired the meeting of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan on 24th December 2020 to review Law Reform Proposals. The Secretary Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan with the permission of Chair presented the agenda.

The Commission expresses concern over implementation status of Law Reform Reports; Attorney General for Pakistan tasked to follow up.

While discussing the status of Law Reform Proposals forwarded to the Government, the Commission emphasized that the Attorney General for Pakistan would take up the matter with the Government to expedite the process of implementation of reports.

Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary LJCP briefed the forum that the LJCP Secretariat had actively contributed towards legislative, administrative and policy reforms while assisting the Supreme Court of Pakistan in various public interest cases, with active consultation of relevant stakeholders, as a result of which, 14 legislative reform recommendations, 105 administrative reform recommendations and 22 policies were shared with the relevant Government

Departments.

The LJCP Secretariat succeeded in arranging the 8th Judicial Conference on key thematic areas in 2018, as well as in holding various conferences and seminars to formulate recommendations on various human rights issues, which included seminars on the issues of transgender community, population symposium for devising population policy, Police Reforms Report, recommendations for curbing the issues in transplantation of human organs, comprehensive reports on covering the issues of water scarcity in Pakistan.

It was highlighted that Secretariat also provided its technical, secretarial and research-based support to various committees working in liaison with Supreme Court of Pakistan i.e. Police Reform Committee and National Judicial Automation Committee. The august house was appraised that the Secretariat of LJCP also collects the data from Prisons, Courts, Special Courts, Juvenile Courts, Public Complaint Redressal Centers and District Assessment Committees of Police, and District Legal Empowerment Committees for the purpose of policy analysis, as well as for future references and research.

The Secretary briefed the house that LJCP is also providing secretarial support to Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF) having seven Windows for funding including; infrastructure support for district judiciary in all the provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory; funding for under-developed regions, Judicial Academies, funding for projects relating to legal awareness, legal education, judicial research, and free legal aid.

The Secretary LJCP apprised that funding to all High Courts was released for improvement in court facilities, District Legal Empowerment Committees for free legal aid across the country, and Judicial Academies for training activities. LJCP also assisted all the High Courts and Judicial Academies in finalization of project proposals for efficient utilization of funds.

Alongside, LJCP through amendment in the ordinance included provincial judicial academies and Islamabad High Court in AJDF allocation of funding. The Secretary LJCP briefed the house regarding the Law Reform Proposals placed before the Commission and also highlighted the constraints faced by the Secretariat in conducting legal research.

The Hon'ble Chairman considering the response of Secretary LJCP directed to approach Dr. Ishrat Hussain, the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Institutional

Reforms for restructuring of LJCP Secretariat. After thorough deliberation, the house constituted a committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan to review the process of restructuring.

Likewise, to review the rules of AJDF, the house constituted a committee under the supervision of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umer Ata Bandial, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, with the direction that the Secretary LJCP would assist the Hon'ble Committee in this regard.

While discussing the Law Reform Proposals, the house unanimously resolved that the research proposals on legislative reforms be referred to a committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan for further review; the said committee would submit its report before next meeting of LJCP whereas, Hon'ble Chairman resolved that next meeting of LJCP be held tentatively after three months. Upon recommendation of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan the house also resolved to invite the Chief Justices of Supreme Court and High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Justice of Gilgit Baltistan Chief Court and Supreme Appellate Court on special invitation in the upcoming meetings.



Highlights of Preparatory Meeting of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan



Highlights of Preparatory Meeting of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan



The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan appreciates the role of judicial leadership during NJPMC meeting for remaining firm despite COVID-Challenge



On 23rd of December, 2020, a meeting of the National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC) was held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Chief Justice of Pakistan in the Committee Room of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad.

On special invitation, the meeting was attended online by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Members of the NJPMC including Hon'ble Chief Justice, Federal Shariat Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Noor Meskanzai, Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Ali M. Shaikh, Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Athar Minallah, Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan, Chief Justice, Lahore High Court and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Qaisar Rashid Khan, Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court. The Secretary, LJCP/ National Judicial Policy

Making Committee, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, convened the meeting.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan appreciating the role of judicial leadership said that the coronavirus pandemic had affected all spheres of life, however, the judiciary stood firm and took preventive measures for safeguarding judges, lawyers and litigants. Moreover, the Hon'ble Chair lauded the judicial resilience expressed by the judiciary which continued to hear important and urgent cases during the pandemic despite potential health hazards.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan / Chairman, NJPMC pointed out that in order to curtail backlog of cases, all the High Courts must take necessary steps for timely disposal of cases.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan appreciates the judges for expressing resilience and making arrangements for hearing of important and urgent cases during the pandemic, despite potential health hazards.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan informed the Committee that as per NJPMC directions, the LJCP Secretariat had prepared PC-I for establishment of National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU) in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, especially, the Ministry of Law and Justice that would extend full cooperation in finalization of PC-II and PC-I of the project

The Committee also vowed that living conditions in jails must be improved including health and hygiene facilities for the prisoners. The Secretary, LJCP/NJPMC briefed the Committee about the issues related to construction of Islamabad Model Jail, and informed that the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the PC-I for construction of Islamabad Model Jail.

The Secretary, LJCP/NJPMC also briefed the Committee that upon NJPMC direction, the

LJCP Secretariat arranged two phases of training in 2019 of 118 Judicial Officers and Prosecutors at the Punjab Judicial Academy, Lahore and thereafter a total of 193 Courts throughout Pakistan had been designated to adjudicate GBV cases. Moreover, as per NJPMC direction, for capacity building to enforce Child Justice in Pakistan, training of 188 stakeholders including Judges and Prosecutors was coordinated at the Judicial Academies throughout Pakistan and till then seven Child Courts were operational.

The Committee appreciates Secretary, LJCP/NJPMC for coordinating and arranging two phases of training of 118 Judicial Officers and Prosecutors at the Punjab Judicial Academy, Lahore

The Director General, Monitoring Cell Model Courts, briefed the Committee about the performance of Model Courts and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan directed that the MITs of all the respective High Courts should submit a comprehensive report regarding the Model Courts within two months.

Technology and Courts of the Future: LJCP Secretariat organizes training programme under the aegis of Singapore Judicial College

LJCP is mandated to take appropriate measures for developing and augmenting human resources for efficient court administration and case management.

Accordingly, LJCP Secretariat requested Singapore Judicial College (SJC) to arrange training courses for Pakistan Judiciary under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) which was established in 1992 to bring together, under one framework, the various technical assistance programmes offered by Singapore.

Learning from SJC, the LJCP Secretariat

believes that human resource development is vital for institutional progress.

Resultantly, the LJCP, with the support of the Pakistan High Commission in Singapore, arranged a training programme on 'Technology and Courts of the Future'. The programme was held online from 14th to 18th September 2020. *The training was conducted by Singapore Judicial College and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. Amongst other international participants, 15 participants from Pakistan's Judiciary, including Hon'ble Judges from High Courts, and officers from LJCP, attended this course.*



Mr. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi



Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar



Mr. Justice Rooh-ul-Amin



Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan



Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan



Mr. Justice Omar Sial



Hon'ble Judges from Pakistan among other international participants during the course

Established under the auspices of the Supreme Court of Singapore, the SJC is dedicated to the training and development of Judges and Judicial Officers.

Singapore Judicial College is a forum of judicial training that encompasses induction training, core competencies development (such as judging, judicial ethics, case management, use of technology and judicial administration), recent developments in areas of legal interest and useful interdisciplinary studies. The SJC also serves as an Empirical Judicial Research laboratory with the aim of serving as a test bed for innovation in judicial studies and practices.

The application of technology in Singapore Judiciary has brought enhancements in court processes reducing time and cost for all parties involved.

This course incorporates the shared experiences of the Singapore Judiciary in conceptualizing and implementing technology to build a future ready judicial system.

The said training course, being very relevant

for the Pakistani Judiciary, has provided an opportunity for the Hon'ble Judges of High Courts, judicial officers, research officers from Judiciary and officers of LJCP Secretariat to learn from the experience, research and innovation of Singapore Judiciary, providing a roadmap on how Singapore has been successful in transforming its justice sector and justice service delivery.

Further, LJCP is working on a proposal with Singapore Judicial College (SJC) for arrangement of other relevant training programmes, as per human resource requirements of Pakistan's Judiciary, under Singapore Cooperation Programme Technical Award (SCPTA) for which course fee will be borne by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore also funded the full course fee for applicants recommended by LJCP

***The Participants of the training course on
“Technology and Courts of the Future”
held from 14-18 September, 2020
under the auspices of Singapore Judicial College,
Singapore:***

High Court of Balochistan

Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Senior Puisne Judge

Lahore High Court

Mr. Justice Ali Baqir Najafi, Judge High Court
Mr. Justice Jawad Hassan, Judge High Court
Mr. Mahtab Ahmad, District & Sessions Judge
Mr. Shahbaz Ahmad Khagga, AD&SJ

Peshawar High Court

Mr. Justice Rooh-ul-Amin Khan, Judge High Court

High Court of Sindh

Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge High Court
Mr. Justice Omar Sial, Judge High Court

Islamabad High Court

Raja Asif Mahmood, AD&SJ
Mr. Muhammad Atta Rabbani, AD&SJ

LJCP Secretariat

Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary
Ms. Nadia Ikram Malik, Joint Secretary (Research)
Mr. Muhammad Tanveer, MIS Manager
Mr. Abdul Basit Jasra, DS
Ms. Sanam Bokhari, Research Officer

LJCP Secretariat acknowledges the contribution of Ms. Farhana Asif, Deputy High Commissioner, Pakistan High Commission, Singapore for endorsement and coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, and the Economic Affairs Division Islamabad.

The participants have received certificates from MFA Singapore and Singapore Judicial College and highly appreciated the training program. It is expected that officers from Pakistan's Judiciary will be able to attend similar programs in future under the

Singapore Cooperation Program or any other similar arrangements through collaborative partnerships. The participants thanked SJC Dean, Mr. Foo Chee Hock; Executive Director, Judge Mr. Paul Quan; Coordinator Ms Rebecca Thaver and others at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore for arranging this useful activity under Singapore Cooperation Programme.

LJCP Secretariat is working with UNDP under Rule of Law Programme for Pakistan to find possibilities of arranging similar programmes under the aegis of Singapore Judicial College and inking an MoU with SJC.

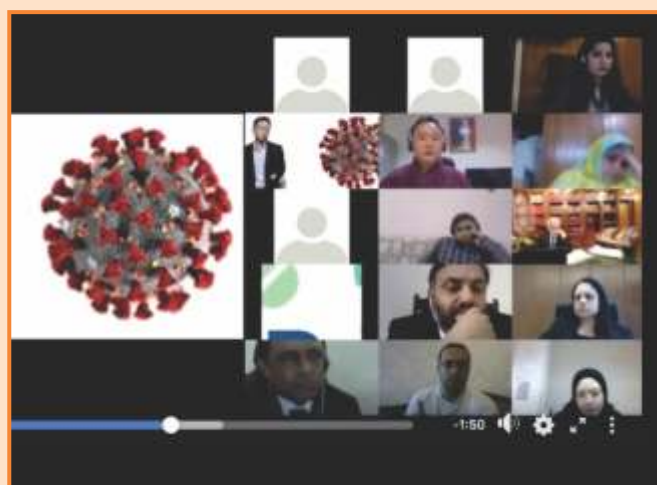
FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS SINGAPORE

iFAMS Integrated Family Application Management System

Our Digitalization and Transformation journey



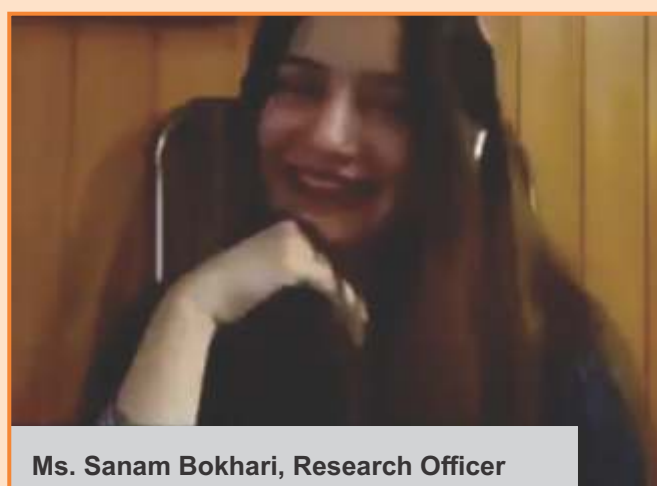
Participants' Reflections



Participants' Reflections



Participants' Reflections



Online webinar held on 'Artificial Intelligence and the Idea of a Legal Singularity' under the aegis of Centre for Cross Border Commercial Law in Asia, Singapore

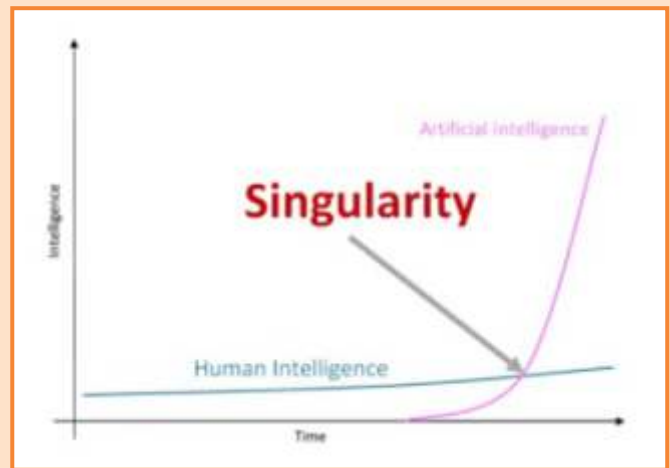
The Centre for Cross-Border Commercial Law in Asia, Singapore arranged a live Webinar on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Idea of a Legal Singularity" on 18th November 2020 at 9:00 AM Singapore Time.

Artificial Intelligence AI, as an idea, has captured the legal imagination, with visions of a future populated by machines simulating legal advisers and even judges.



The legal singularity is the point where the legal system turns into a 'self-referential system' that is able to generate its own answers to certain legal questions on demand. In the legal singularity, uncertainty in the law is eliminated and the legal system becomes 'more transparent, more accessible, more fair, and more just. The future of the law belongs to computing; this changing legal sphere will usher in dramatic changes for every aspect of practice in every area of law. These changes have the potential to dramatically reshape how lawyers interact with the law on a fundamental level,

ultimately pushing the legal system to function extraordinarily well, virtually automatically.



While progress is being made in a variety of areas including partial automation of discovery, due diligence, compliance, information retrieval, and drafting functions, the limits are often hard to articulate.



The Webinar highlighted that 'super intelligence' would play a big role in the future of law and human lawyers.

The talk explained how countries can measure progress towards a legal singularity evolving in three dimensions:-

- *Availability of useful tools*
- *Capability in terms of affordances and limitations of different techniques*
- *Legitimacy and appropriateness.*

Of these, the third dimension has and will likely continue to present the most significant barrier remarked the Guest of Honour, Mr. Justice Lee Siu Kin, Judge, Supreme Court of



Singapore. During his opening address the Justice expressed his views on the future of legal profession in the context of emerging technologies. He remarked that this would take judicial professionals beyond potentially fixable design problems to fundamental questions about the importance of humanity in law.

The Hon'ble Justice Lee Siu Kin; Professor Lyria Bennett Moses, UNSW Sydney; and Mr. Samir C. Jain, Partner, Jones Day (Washington Office) participated in the panel discussion moderated by Professor Goh Yihan, Dean of SMU School of Law. Mr. Justice Lee Siu Kin also chaired the panel discussion. MIS Manager, Mr. Muhammad Tanveer, from LJCP Secretariat attended the webinar, and no cost was involved on the part of Government of Pakistan.



Guest of Honour

The Hon'ble Justice Lee Siu Kin
Supreme Court Singapore

The address by the guest of honor highlighted recent emerging technologies - such as AI, Robotics, Autonomous Systems, 3D printing, blockchain technology, 5G, augmented reality, virtual reality, and the Internet of Things – as well as their promotion and adoption through concepts such as E-government, platform economy, E-

commerce, E-health, E-learning, Fintech and Smart cities. He highlighted that these technologies have triggered changes that are threatening existing markets, social and political orders.

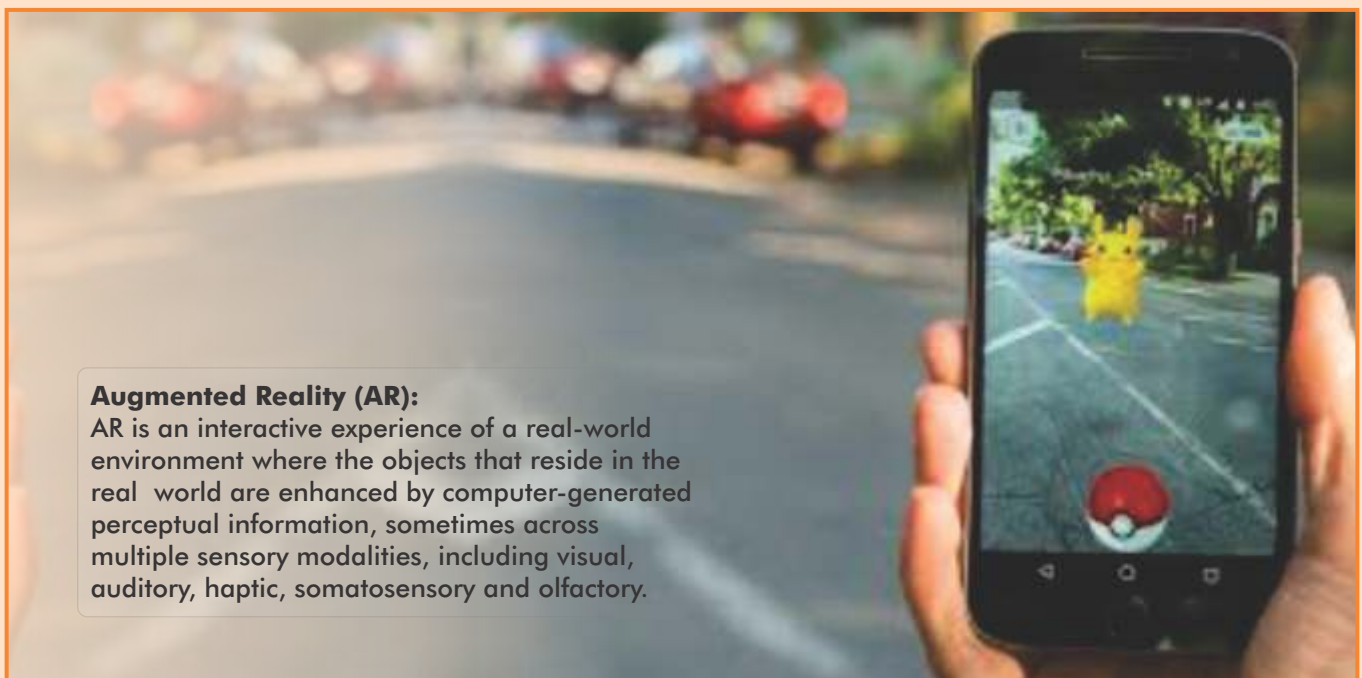
The Justice remarked that the heightened pace of these emerging technological innovation combined with the challenges of COVID -19 poses severe challenges to governments, which must cope with the disruptive speed and scope of the transformations occurring in many areas of social life as well as facing the social and economic uncertainties due to the global pandemic.

The panel proposed ideas such as anticipatory and adaptive governance, responsive regulation, stakeholder engagement, inclusive decision-making, regional and international cooperation and capacity building as some of the key approaches to addressing these issues.



In the technology panel, the speakers discussed issues such as:

- Digital transformation, how it creates value and prosperity for the economy and society, and how to promote it;
- Risks, uncertainties, and unintended consequences of novel technologies for the economy and society;
- Examination of the relations between new technologies with incumbent industries;
- The opportunities and challenges of digitalization in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The hypes and realities of smart city developments, and the pros and cons of the heavy involvement of the private sector in smart city developments;
- The impact of rapid technological adoptions in terms of inequality, discrimination, bias, accountability, transparency, responsibility, and liability;
- The way forward for effective governance of disruptive technologies considering the aspects of legal profession.



Augmented Reality (AR):

AR is an interactive experience of a real-world environment where the objects that reside in the real world are enhanced by computer-generated perceptual information, sometimes across multiple sensory modalities, including visual, auditory, haptic, somatosensory and olfactory.

The Judicial Leadership and the international experts evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on Judicial Services



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan with International Experts during the session

A meeting was held between Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Secretary LJCP Dr. Raheem Awan, senior civil bureaucrats and international experts from the United States and Italy. The meeting, held in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, reviewed the procedures countries around the world had implemented upon the disruption of judicial services due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam proposed that a hybrid, multi-tier conflict resolution platform be established where any litigant may enter an incubation center and work on settlement of disputes with the opposing party. If a litigant is unable to resolve an issue through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), there is always an option to go for adjudication.

Ms. Sofia Shakil, Country Representative of The Asia Foundation in Pakistan, also expressed her gratitude for the support the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan and the LJCP Secretariat provided in promoting ADR in Pakistan.

The meeting also discussed the need for technology in the judicial sector, where success stories of the United States, Italy, China and Singapore were shared. There was a consensus that ADR needed further integration in the judicial sector of Pakistan and online platforms in the form of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) could provide a viable and efficient opportunity for cheaper services.

European Union- LJCP to organize online workshop under Technical Assistance Information Exchange Programme (TAIEX): Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan to chair the panel of experts



The new Ambassador European Union, Her Excellency Mrs. Androulla Kaminara during meeting with Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed, exchanged views on justice sector in Pakistan and proposed certain initiatives under Rule of Law Programme for Pakistan.

Ms. Ingeborg Zorn, First Secretary, EU Delegation in Pakistan, and Mr. Nikos Gamouras, Focal Person for TAIEX, later on coordinated with Secretary LJCP and experts from Pakistan and EU member states for arrangement of a series of events.

Mr Nikos is in contact with Five (5) pre-identified experts working in the judiciaries of Germany, Italy and Sweden who would share their experiences and expertise on mediation, arbitration, alternate dispute resolution and free legal aid, with their public peers from Pakistan led by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan.

On Day-1, after the welcome part, 25-minute



session would cover the presentation by Pakistani experts on "the state of play in Pakistan" on informal settlement of disputes, arbitration, mediation and legal aid. As online audience, 80-100 participants from the public authorities from Pakistan would attend the webinar.

Webinar to focus mediation, legal aid and informal dispute settlement:

LJCP and EU would hold webinar on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd of March 2021.



Ms. Ingeborg Zorn
First Secretary
EU Delegation in Pakistan

The New EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Mrs. Androulla Kaminara

Mrs. Androulla Kaminara took up her duties as Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan in September 2019.

Prior to her appointment, Mrs Kaminara was the Director for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific in the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) of the European Commission since July 2016.

Mrs Kaminara was Principal Adviser and Head of the Task Force "Knowledge, Performance

and Results" in the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission from 2014 to 2016.

Mrs Kaminara also worked as Head of the European Commission Representation in Cyprus and, from 2006 to 2008, she was the Director for Quality of all Operations in the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development.

She has also been the Head of Unit for the coordination of development cooperation projects and programs of the European Commission in 44 West & Central African and Caribbean countries.



Secretary LJCP shared the legislative reforms recommendations with Senate's Standing Committee on Law & Justice.



The LJCP Secretariat compiled various legislative recommendations and shared the same with Senate's Standing Committee on Law & Justice for consideration of the

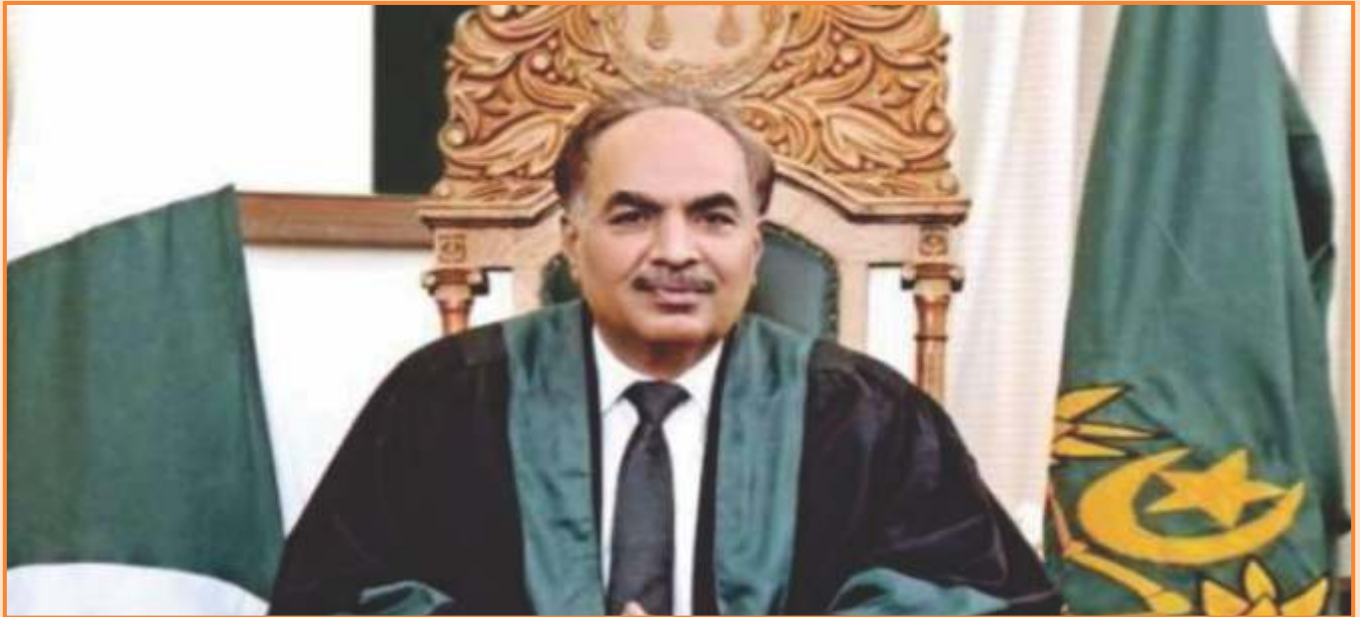
Legislature. The Secretary LJCP, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan briefed the Committee on various proposals and their implementation status.

Secretary Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan briefs National Assembly's Standing Committee on Police Reforms

The Secretary LJCP, along with Joint Secretary (Research), on 24th September, 2020, briefed the Standing Committee of National Assembly on Law and Justice regarding Police Reforms. Dr. Shoaib Suddle, Former IGP, Member Police Reforms Committee and Mr. Afzal Shigri, Former IGP, Convener Police

Reforms Committee, were also present during the briefing. The Secretary, LJCP, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, highlighted the constitutionality of Police related Laws and explained the need for uniform and comprehensive Police Laws for all the provinces.





The Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh, Chairs PJC-Sindh: The Committee reviews measures for effective coordination amongst justice sector stakeholders:

The second meeting of Provincial Justice Committee- (PJC) Sindh was held at the High Court of Sindh on 3rd October, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Justice, to ensure policy, planning, implementation and the effective coordination amongst stakeholders with a view to improve the quality of justice service delivery.

The Secretary LJCP convened the meeting which was attended by the Prosecutor General Sindh, Senior Most District and Sessions Judge, of Karachi, Secretary Law, Secretary Home, Chairman Inquires and Anti-Corruption, IG Police and IG Prisons among other participants. The Advocate General Sindh was represented by the Additional Advocate General Sindh.

The Registrar and Member Inspection Team-II, High Court of Sindh, Additional Inspector General of Police, Presiding Officer, Banking Court-III, Karachi, and Secretary Social

Welfare Department also attended the meeting on Special Invitation. The Hon'ble Chief Justice said that the Provincial Justice Committee - Sindh being the provincial apex body strives for effective administration of justice and rule of law.

The committee discussed the recommendation of the Internal Affairs Branch regarding strict departmental action to be taken against those involved in fake encounters.

Street Crimes to be tackled through real time data sharing:

The AIGP Karachi apprised the Committee that the police are facing impediments due to the lack of mechanisms regarding sharing of data by NADRA and suggested that the police department should be given access to CNIC data by NADRA to facilitate crime tracking.

The Home Secretary assured that the Safe City Project would be effectively implemented in collaboration with police and other relevant stakeholders.

The AIGP informed that 11 Crime Scene Units (CSUs) had been created since 2019 for quick response and action in specific crimes including terrorism, murder, rape, house robbery, bank robbery and kidnapping for ransom.

The Committee also discussed that Investigation Officers should be adequately trained to equip them with advanced investigation tools and techniques particularly in offences relating to street crimes.

Street Begging:

The AIGP informed the Committee that 21471 beggars were apprehended and handed over to Edhi Foundations, while 160 beggars were arrested and 49 cases were registered under the Vagrancy Act 2020. It was resolved that the Police Department shall take strict action against the rackets involved in promoting and controlling the begging networks.

Jail Reforms:

The IG Prisons apprised the Committee that due to non-availability of funds, the progress in the on-going project of expansion of the Malir Prison was hampered. He further added that the Prison department was working with the Government of Sindh for extending the capacity in the prisons of Dadu, Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah. The Hon'ble Chair expressed concern over non-completion of the pending projects. The Committee resolved that the Prisons and Home Department would take necessary action for early completion.

PJC directs to control False Police Encounters:

The Additional Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Karachi informed the Committee that

in order to fairly investigate fake encounters, the cases of investigation against such police officials were transferred to other districts to maintain impartiality.

Mediation Centers & Juvenile Courts:

The Committee was apprised of the status of Mediation Centers to impart Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) which were established throughout the province with the Assistance of The Asia Foundation. It was deliberated that Court Annexed Mediation Centers with Judicial Officers posted therein, would be established in the province of Sindh to further and implement the functioning of the ADR mechanism, which could greatly reduce the pendency of cases. The Committee was also apprised that infrastructure for dedicated Child Courts had been materialized in Districts East-Karachi, Malir and Hyderabad and that Juvenile Courts had also been established and made functional throughout the province to prosecute cases under the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018.

Pendency, institution and disposal of cases in the District Courts and Ex-Cadre Courts during the calendar years of 2019 and 2020.

The Secretary PJC / LJCP presented the data in respect of pendency, institution and disposal of cases in District and Ex-Cadre Courts. It was apprised that 115370 cases were pending in the District Judiciary while 46723 cases were pending in Ex-Cadre Courts at the end of August 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, courts were hearing only urgent matters for nearly three months. The Committee considered the need for expeditious disposal of cases and, resolved that timelines for disposal of cases defined in the National Judicial Policy be followed in spirit.

PJC explores possibilities for organizational setup of PJC in the Provincial Headquarters, for ensuring effective and timely implementation of decisions at PJC level.

The Secretary LJCP apprised the Committee that NJPMC was briefed in its meeting dated 29.02.2020 regarding activities of the Justice Committees in the provinces and its mandate; and pressed for the need of an organizational setup of the PJC at the Provincial level. This would address issues taken up at the PJC level; and, improve the action of the District Judiciary and Ex- Cadre Courts.

The Hon'ble Chair, in the first instance, directed the committee to ensure that meaningful meetings of the District Criminal Justice Coordination Committees (DCJCCs) are regularly held and, that all the stakeholders play their role for the swift delivery of justice in the criminal justice system. The Committee also resolved that a better liaison be established and maintained

between the Prosecution and the Police so that the prosecution system delivers its best towards administration of the criminal justice system.

The AIGP Karachi deliberated upon the adoption of modern investigation strategies and apprised the committee that the police department is moving from conventional to modern & scientific methods of investigation.

He stated that the concept of modern investigation not only necessitates well-trained investigators but also requires the availability of scientific and technological support viz-a-viz CCTV cameras, DNA testing facilities, collection of digital and forensic evidence, CDR, geo-fencing and other digital footprints to support investigation on scientific patterns. The AIGP shared that the Karachi Police deposited 245 samples of DNA, out of which 187 related to rape cases while 58 samples pertained to other categories of crime.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Mr. Justice Waqar Ahmed Seth, chairs PJC meeting at Peshawar: AJDF projects also discussed during the meeting



The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court (PHC), Mr. Justice Waqar Ahmed Seth chaired the 4th meeting of the Provincial Justice Committee. Earlier, the forum held extensive deliberations on 28th August, 2020, on the implementation of the committee's past decisions including; nomination of the focal persons by the member departments, development of IT infrastructure, liaison of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department with the Human Rights cell of Peshawar High Court, revamping of criminal justice system, mechanism for effective implementation of the Probation & Parole laws, co-ordination between prosecution and police, digitization of court record, procedure for appointment of

law officers, and preparation of draft laws.

The forum also deliberated upon infrastructure and human resource requirements of district judiciary in the province and the establishment of a Provincial Office of LJCP. The Registrar Peshawar High Court, during formal presentation emphasized upon the need for expediting the Justice Sector stake-holders legislation, including enactment of Draft Judicial Services Act. He informed that Peshawar High Court, learning from its experience of the past two performance years, devised a five-year plan for clearance of backlog and management of future docket.



Secretary LJCP, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan calls on Hon'ble Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Mr. Justice Waqar Ahmed Seth and briefs on projects under AJDF

The Additional IG Investigation briefed that District Police was keeping its pace with the working criteria of the Model Courts to ensure fast track processing of cases. He added that Police Stations had been established within the territorial jurisdiction of the Newly Merged Districts and 24,357 Levis' officials & Khasadars had been absorbed in KP Police.

While discussing the problems faced in the missing person cases, the Hon'ble chair urged that it was the duty of the focal person appointed by Home Department in the missing persons cases to submit report. Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs informed the Committee that the draft amendments in the Prosecution Act, Probation and Parole Laws and Draft Sentencing Bill were also under process. The issue of establishment of Courts of District Khyber at Shah Kas and District South Waziristan at Wana were also discussed and it was decided that Courts

would be established in the Sub Divisions of District Khyber and South Waziristan. Forum also decided that the records of Criminal cases would be digitized to maintain data of the criminals, and Draft laws/ amendments would be sent to the KPJA for deliberations.

The DG Prosecution informed the Committee about working of CMMS (Case Management and Monitoring System) Software. *It was proposed that the CMMS software be integrated with the software used by the Police and Peshawar High Court in order to ensure swift tracking of criminal cases.*

The Chair directed that delay in the submission of Challan should not be attributed to the process of scrutiny and in any case complete Challan shall be submitted in the court within 24 hours of when the same reaches the prosecution from the police.

The AIG Prison shared the situation of prisons in the aftermath of covid-19 and stated that SOPs were followed very strictly hence there was no outbreak of Corona virus in the jails of the Province.

He highlighted the problems in establishment of video link facilities in the prisons. Secretary Home also shared that the Annual Development Plan for the establishment of video links in prisons was in process.

The Chair directed that judgment of Peshawar High Court (Cr. A. No 1143-P/2019) be circulated for implementation and guidance in devising SOPs regarding video links.

The Advocate General discussed the issue of access to the data of Peshawar High Court and online information regarding cases filed against the Government. He proposed integration of data of Peshawar High Court with Provincial Government.

The Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan elaborated that the European Union considered the forum of PJC as one of the most significant fora in revamping the criminal justice system. He divulged that EU was working with the LJCP for establishment of offices of LJCP in the Province.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Mr. Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan, Chairs PJC meeting at Peshawar



The 5th Provincial Justice Committee (PJC) meeting was held at Peshawar High Court on 18th December 2020 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan, Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court. The meeting was attended by all the members of PJC, and Secretary Health was invited as a co-opted member.

The PJC Forum Vows to Establish Forensic Science Lab in Peshawar; Integrate Data for Justice Sector Stakeholders

The Committee reiterated the need for the establishment of a well-equipped Forensic Science Laboratories at a regional level. Automated registration of FIR, introducing a Offender Management System, data integration of justice sector stakeholders, medical facilities in prisons, performance benchmarks for the next year, appointment of law officers and enactment of the draft Judicial Service Act were also discussed.

The Committee also reviewed the infrastructure requirements of district courts in the province particularly focusing on efficient justice service delivery as a target for this activity. The Chair directed the members to ensure data integration and directed the participants to submit progress reports within three months. However, to meet the requirements in the meantime, it was decided that existing forensic labs be properly equipped and operationalized, preferably within three months.



The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chairs meeting to devise mechanism on research commercialization

The Research Wing of LJCP in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan, organized a preparatory meeting on 19th October, 2020 at LJCP Secretariat to review the progress made by the relevant stakeholders for implementation of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Drug Regulatory Authority and Human Organ Transplant Authority. The participants met again on 21st October, 2020 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan in the Committee Room of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which was attended by the representatives of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Science and Technology, DRAP, HOTA, National Institute of Health and University of Health Sciences, Lahore, Pharmacy College, University of Punjab, Lahore and Jinnah Burn Centre, Jinnah Hospital, Lahore.



Turkish Professor Murat Erturk, an expert in human cells and tissues, briefing the Chair.

Professor Murat briefed the meeting and shared his knowledge and expertise with the participants and expressed that human cells can be used for treatment of various diseases. Later, a follow up meeting was held on 29th October, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Vice Chancellor of University of Health Sciences, Lahore to finalize the National



Biosafety Regulations for Research, Development and Production of Human Stem Cells and allied matters which was attended by Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary LJCP and Ms. Nadia Ikram Malik, Joint Secretary (Research) to deliberate upon the matter.

Professor Murat, informed that the Turkish Ministry of Health had developed the guidelines and regulations in line with European Union regulatory framework regarding human cells and tissues which covered donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution. He suggested that Pakistan may

also consider these factors while drafting the regulatory framework. His Lordship expressed special thanks to Professor Murat and added that the main stakeholders i.e. Ministry of Health, DRAP and HOTA should play their active role in making this happen as per timelines. DRAP was directed to notify the Clinical Studies Committee by including Vice Chancellors of University of Health Sciences, and University of the Punjab, and Head of CEMB.

Similarly, Ministry of Health would notify the Ethical Study Guidelines for addressing the ethical issues involved in stem cells research within a week.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan, Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail Chairs PJC-Balochistan at Quetta: AJDF projects also discussed

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan chaired the meeting of the Provincial Justice Committee-Balochistan held on 3rd of September, 2020.

Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan , Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) convened the meeting and presented the agenda items for deliberations. The PJC reviewed the implementation status of the decisions taken in the previous meeting of the Committee held in March, 2019. The Committee discussed and took decisions on the following:

- Improvement in Investigation and Prosecution practices.
- Establishment of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Balochistan.
- Training of Investigating Officers of Police and Levies.
- Conditions of Prisons in Balochistan and Security Measures.

Process Serving Through Modern Means.

The Committee observed that the overall performance of investigating agencies and prosecution required improvement as defects in the same caused impediments in the fair administration of justice.

The Committee also observed that, besides police, the Balochistan Levies Force (Levies) was also involved in the aforesaid processes and due to lack of appropriate training and coordination the cases initiated by Levies were not properly investigated and hence affected the smooth administration of justice.

The Committee urged the need for establishment of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Balochistan.

The Committee decided that relevant Technical Experts should be consulted before initiating the process of establishment of a modern Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) with all required facilities.

The Secretary, Prosecution Department informed that the work on the physical



structure of the lab was complete and in the next phase, experts would be hired for the said laboratory.

The Committee also deliberated upon the condition of jails in Balochistan and it was pointed out that there was overcrowding in certain prisons and low number of inmates in others which required rationalization.

The Chief Justice emphasized upon the need for frequent meetings of the P J C .

The Hon'ble chair asked the provincial government to devise a policy on the basis of prison population, *and directed that there was need for blood screening of all the prison inmates and segregation of inmates suffering from diseases like HIV, Hepatitis, Coronavirus, TB etc.*

The Committee issued directions regarding provision of food to all the inmates in the jails, provision of health facilities, including blood screening, medicines and regular checkup by male and female doctors.; and provision of video linking facility between prisons and courts.

The Committee also took decision on:-

i) Status of submission of challans in respect of FIRs registered in Balochistan during the last 4 Quarters;

ii) Action taken against delinquent investigation officers for non-submission of challans within time during the period of 1st April to 30th June, 2020.

iii) Performance of Police Complaint Redressal Centers - Balochistan (January – July 2020).

The Secretary, LJCP proposed that the Committee should co-opt the Director General, Balochistan Levies Force as a member of the Committee.



The Committee directed that preferably the Superintendents of Police should head the Police Complaints Redressal Centers.

The Committee directed that the Police, Prosecution and Home Departments shall maintain coordination with the District Assessment Committees formed by the Police Reforms Committee under auspices of LJCP for examination of cases of bail and acquittal.

The Secretary, LJCP briefed the Committee about the need for provincial offices of *LJCP Secretariat for ensuring coordination between the justice sector stakeholders and implementation of directions of LJCP, National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) and its Sub-committees i.e. Provincial Justice Committee (PJC) and National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) and the Governing Body, Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF).*

The Committee decided that the Advocate General, Balochistan shall coordinate with the Secretary, LJCP for *examining the feasibility of provision of human and financial resources for setting-up of provincial offices of LJCP Secretariat in Balochistan.*

The Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan, Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail briefed about the projects to be executed under AJDF

On 1st September, 2020 under the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Justice Balochistan, a preliminary meeting was held in the Office of Registrar, High Court of Balochistan to discuss the utilization status of funds released under various AJDF windows. The meeting was attended by the Member Inspection Team (MIT), Additional Registrar Finance, Deputy Registrar Accounts and Joint Secretary (Admin), LJCP. Various activities and areas of utilization came under discussion for inclusion in the work plan.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice was informed that the withheld share amount of all the High Courts including High Court of Balochistan was invested in government securities and that during FY 2019-20, LJCP Secretariat managed profit of Rs.180.462 Million adding proportionately towards the share of the High

Court of Balochistan.

The Chief Justice reiterates to prioritize projects like installation of water filtration plants, waiting sheds for litigants, public washrooms, etc.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice appreciated the role and initiatives of LJCP Secretariat in Fund Management. He desired that projects like installation of water filtration plants, waiting sheds for litigants, public washrooms, etc. should be included in the envisaged work plans. While discussing performance of District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs), His Lordship directed to ensure effective and efficient utilization of funds by DLECs to extend the free legal aid benefits to the deserving litigants.



Azerbaijan Judges share their Judicial Automation Experience with Pakistan Judges: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam vows to adopt technology in Courts



The joint Judiciary-World Bank Automation Working Group organized a knowledge exchange event on Court Automation with Judicial Counterparts in Azerbaijan. Ms. Nadia Ikram Malik, Joint Secretary (Research), LJCP coordinated the event, held on 23rd September, 2020. The event provided an opportunity for Pakistani authorities to engage directly with Judges and officials from Azerbaijan on the country's e-justice journey.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan / Chairman National Judicial Automation Committee and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan also graced the event along with Hon'ble IT Judges of High Courts.

Pakistan's judicial leadership highlights the need for automation of justice sector

institutions through IT integration and case management systems for speedy justice delivery.

In His Lordship's opening remarks, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah highlighted the need for automation of justice sector institutions through IT integration and case management systems for speedy justice delivery. The initial presentation described Azerbaijan's efforts to re-engineer business processes and automate its judicial institutions with a particular focus on aspects potentially relevant for Pakistan.

The experience sharing aspect of the presentation was given by the Hon'ble Judge Ramin Gurbanov who highlighted the implementation of the World Bank supported e - justice efforts in Azerbaijan.

LJCP Secretariat commits to work and contribute in finalization of National Handbook of Investigation

In compliance to the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the National Police Bureau took up the task of compiling the National Handbook of Investigation in Pakistan. The LJCP Secretariat has committed to working with the National Police Bureau and contributing in finalization of the Handbook.

Mr. Niazullah Khan Niazi, Advocate General, Islamabad and Mr. Saqib Sultan, DIG, National Police Bureau called on the Secretary LJCP to present the National Handbook on Investigation in Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary, LJCP said that the data compiled and analyzed by the District Assessment Committees constituted by the LJCP to examine reasons of acquittal in murder and narcotics cases would play a vital role to spot the flaws in investigation and address the issue of faulty investigation.



UNDP Amn-o-Insaf Programme paves a way for enhanced representation of women in the legal profession

In an effort to increase women's representation in the legal profession in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), UNDP Amn-o-Insaf Programme has awarded scholarships to 36 women LLB and LLM students studying in different KP universities and stipends to 9 women lawyers from erstwhile FATA.

The idea is to encourage and facilitate female students from Merged Areas (MAs) to help them complete their education and pursue career in law eventually enhancing women representation in the legal profession. On the wake of this, stipends were awarded to nine women law graduates currently pursuing six-month apprenticeships with senior lawyers across KP.

Funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), this activity is a part of Amn-o-Insaf Programme and Merged Areas Governance Project of UNDP.

Further, LJCP Secretariat and UNDP have agreed to work on legal education initiatives under the aegis of Rule of Law Program for Pakistan.

UNDP Amn-o-Insaf Programme yearns to create legal awareness in the Merged Areas for easy access to justice:

Legal Aid Unit provides free legal assistance to deserving litigants

UNDP Amn-o-Insaf Programme works on both the demand and supply side of the justice system. In the past quarter, 45 cases were received by the Legal Aid Unit, KP Bar Council from different parts of the Merged Areas (MAs) and were provided free legal assistance, mostly in family and civil cases



after analysis on a case to- case basis.

Legal awareness sessions in the Merged Areas educate participants about fundamental rights

UNDP Amn-o-Insaf Programme arranged 241 legal awareness sessions in different parts of the Merged Areas (MAs) enabling 3,372 individuals including 1370 women and 2002 men to learn about legal literacy, basic rights, and the formal justice system in MAs. These individuals have been able to learn about legal rights, human rights violations and how to report them.

UNDP's legal awareness sessions educate participants about fundamental rights including right to life, property and a fair trial, criminal and civil law, family law including law pertaining to marriages and divorce, custody of children and inheritance. The awareness session also educates participants on ways to report violations. These sessions are designed in a participatory way, asking different questions from the community and encouraging them to share their challenges and find legal solutions for them. They are informed about legal assistance options including free legal assistance facility provided by LJCP.



It was informed during the awareness sessions that UNDP intended to initiate awareness campaign regarding free legal aid facility available through District Legal Empowerment Committees established by LJCP across Balochistan province. The project would focus activation of DLECs and simplification of DLEC Rules as envisaged in UNDP meeting held on 20th August 2020 as follow-up of agreed agenda points in collaboration with LJCP Secretariat.

Under the aegis of Rule of Law Programme for Pakistan, online meeting of Secretary LJCP with UNDP representatives, Mr. Arshad Jan and Mr. Jakhongir Khydarove, was held to discuss the points agreed during previous meeting held on 17th June 2020 and the meeting of EU Ambassador, Mrs. Androulla Kaminara with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed on 18th August 2020.



UNDP protects frontline officers of Balochistan Police against the COVID-19 pandemic

While various sectors of governance have managed to work remotely during the pandemic and maintained social and physical distancing, doing so has been a great challenge for police officers as they are often brought into close proximity with citizens. In an effort to protect and facilitate them, UNDP Amn-o-Insaf Programme donated Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) to the Balochistan Police at a ceremony held at the Central Police Office, Quetta.

During the ceremony, Head of UNDP Sub-Office Quetta, Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani presented washable and reusable PPEs, protective goggles, masks including N95 and KN95, hand sanitisers, and gloves, to the Balochistan Police.

At the occasion, Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Mr. Mohsin Butt expressed gratitude to UNDP for the support and

showed commitment towards working together for stronger rule of law in Balochistan. He also appreciated UNDP's support to the expansion of Police Training College, Quetta with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' support. Moreover, it is important to add here that UNDP envisages to extend support for standardization and capacity building of justice sector actors to enhance their skills and capacities according to changing needs as discussed in UNDP-LJCP meeting held on 17th June 2020 and again in online meeting as follow up on 20th August 2020 with Secretary LJCP.

Inspector General of Balochistan Police Mohsin Hasan Butt met Provincial Head of UNDP, Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani to discuss provision of protective equipment for police against Covid



Upon directions of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan follow-up meeting held with UNDP

Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) held a meeting with Ms. Ingeborg Zorn, First Secretary Development Human Rights and Gender, European Union (EU) Delegation to Pakistan on 13th August, 2020 in the Secretariat of LJCP. The discussion included a follow-up of points agreed during the meeting held with UNDP dated 17th June, 2020. Subsequently, a meeting was held between the Ambassador, European Union, Head EU Delegation to Pakistan, **Ms. Androulla Kaminara** and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan/Chairman, LJCP in His Lordship's Chamber on 18th August, 2020.



The Ambassador European Union, Ms. Androulla Kaminara calls on the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan to discuss status of initiatives under Rule of Law Programme for Pakistan

After the meeting between EU Ambassador and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Secretary, LJCP held an on-line meeting with Mr. Jakhongir Khydarove, Head UNDP Peshawar and Mr. Arshad Jan from UNDP Peshawar on 20th August, 2020 for follow-up of agreed points as directed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan.

After a brief overview of the meetings held

with the, First Secretary and EU Ambassador, the Secretary, LJCP discussed the priority areas of the LJCP and the points agreed with UNDP in June, 2020. The Secretary LJCP inquired on the future course of action and the steps to be taken, especially regarding the establishment of Forensic Science Labs in Islamabad and Karachi, as well as, the Commercial & Investment Arbitration Center (CIAC) in Karachi on the pattern of the envisaged center in Islamabad, as directed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan.

In response, UNDP team informed that the possibilities of establishing Forensic Science Labs (FSL) were discussed with relevant officials of UNDP and other UN agencies, UN Women and UNODC and with EU-Delegation.

In this regard, Mr. Jakhongir Khydarove, Head of UNDP Peshawar informed the forum that UNDP launched the Rule of Law Program in KPK and Balochistan, a major component of which was the establishment of Forensic Labs in KPK and Balochistan. Mr. Arshad Jan added that the establishment of Forensic Science Labs in Islamabad and Karachi, as well as, the Commercial and Investment Arbitration Center (CIAC) in Karachi, would be included in a separate project for which funding would be managed from other partners and that their team in liaison with UNDP Japan. The progress thereof would be shared later on.

The UNDP team was apprised that they would make all possible efforts to accommodate the agreed points of the meeting dated 17th June, 2020, as well as, the points subsequently added for provision of funding. However, considering budgetary constraints, and timelines, UNDP suggested initiating work on

priority area, such as, Legal Reforms Unit, Mediation Centre, Digitalization of Courts and establishment of Arbitration Center in Islamabad during the first phase.

The Secretary, LJCP discussed modalities and further requirements for the establishment of National Legal Reforms Unit (NLRU), Mediation Centre, and the Arbitration Center in Islamabad. Mr. Arshad Jan raised a query regarding provision of space for establishment of these units in LJCP Secretariat located in the main Supreme Court Building. The UNDP team was informed that under the directions of Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, the National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU) would be placed at the old building of the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA) and that the NJAU, along with its existing mandate, would also carry out activities to explore all the avenues of adopting digital services and technology in Courts, as well as, the establishment of E-Courts as discussed in the meeting dated 17th June, 2020.

In response, UNDP suggested that the envisaged establishment of Commercial and Investment Arbitration Center (CIAC), Mediation Centre and the National Legal Reforms Unit (NLRU) may also be accommodated at the old building of FJA for better coordination and to save the administrative and infrastructural costs.

It was further agreed that need assessment for establishment of Arbitration Center, Mediation Centre and Legal Reforms Unit would be carried out and shared with UNDP team to proceed further in the matter.

Lastly, Mr. Arshad Jan added that UNDP team would make all efforts to accommodate all the items where UNDP and LJCP could work together; however, in case of budgetary constraints regarding agreed points, funding would be explored from other partners. He further informed that their team was in liaison with UNDP Japan and some other countries to explore the opportunities of funding to meet these objectives.



Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF) at a glance

The Government of Pakistan established an endowment "Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF)" with an amount of Rs.1,421 Millions to sustain reforms in the justice sector. By establishing AJDF, the Government has provided an innovative, independent and flexible extra-budgetary support with a view to improve the service delivery of the district judiciary and access to justice through infrastructure and human resource development, legal empowerment, supporting under-developed areas and judicial reforms by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. Brief picture of the Fund is as under:

- Profit earned since inception: **Rs.4,225.5 Million**
- Current volume of investment as on 31st December 2020: **Rs.4,348.9 Million**
- Total amount released through 7-Windows

of AJDF: Rs.1,028.3 Million

- Funds released to High Courts: Rs.879.2 Million
- Funds available for release to High Courts: Rs.1,566.6 Million
- AJDF share for free legal aid: Rs.137.4 Million
- Funds released to DLECs across the country: Rs.64.2 Million
- Funding available for free legal aid: Rs.73.2 Million

Sub-ordinate Courts Window:

Main objective of the Fund is to improve the capacity and performance of the District Judiciary and provide courts related amenities to the litigants. The detail of funds released to High Courts to meet these objectives is given in the table below:

| High Court | Amount Released up to 31 Dec 2020 | Accounted For | Balance with High Court |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Lahore High Court | 197.98 | 80.07 | 161.17 |
| High Court of Sindh | 147.41 | 129.72 | 17.69 |
| Peshawar High Court | 167.65 | 117.68 | 49.97 |
| High Court of Balochistan | 105.41 | 101.23 | 71.13 |
| Islamabad High Court | 20.81 | 0 | 20.81 |
| Total Rs. In Million | 639.26 | 428.7 | 320.77 |

*As per directions of Governing Body AJDF, the allocated funds are released after scrutiny of work plans and project proposals giving cost estimates and tentative timelines.

Under-Developed Regions Window:

Funds are also being provided to High Courts for executing special projects in Under-

Developed Areas to bring them at par with other districts. The status of funds up to 31st December 2020 has been shown in the table

| High Court | Amount Released | Accounted For | Amount with High Court |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Lahore High Court | 37.23 | 36.405 | 0.825 |
| High Court of Sindh | 41.96 | 16.46 | 25.50 |
| Peshawar High Court | 29.04 | 10.18 | 18.86 |
| High Court of Balochistan | 12.03 | 8.96 | 3.07 |
| Total Rs. In Million | 120.26 | 72.005 | 48.255 |

Legal Empowerment Window

LJCP has also supported projects focusing legal empowerment of citizens through legal awareness and implemented 50 projects worth Rs.49.71 Million in different areas of the country for easy access to justice.

District Legal Empowerment Committees (DLECs):

- District Legal Empowerment Committees have been constituted in 124 districts across the country for providing free legal aid including 5 DLECs in newly established districts of Balochistan and 7 DLECs in erstwhile FATA merged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Funds amounting to Rs.64.2 million have been released and an amount of Rs.28.9 million has been utilized through Committees headed by District & Sessions

Judges in respective districts for provision of free legal aid and legal assistance to around three thousand deserving litigants.

Judicial Academies Window:

- An amount of Rs.8.7 Million was released to Federal Judicial Academy for the activities not covered by its regular budgetary allocation.
- Approved funds of Rs.120.30 Million are available under this window:
- Federal Judicial Academy: Rs.67.13million
- Punjab Judicial Academy: Rs. 27.51 million, Sindh Judicial Academy: Rs.13.06million
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy: Rs.7.77 Million
- Balochistan Judicial Academy: Rs.4.83million.



Kids Play Area , Family Courts, Larkana

Major Projects under AJDF

Sindh:

Infrastructure improvement and strengthening of Family Courts in Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana

and provision of court related amenities in various districts and tehsils as per need assessment

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

Construction of additional Court Rooms in Abbotabad, Bannu, Kohat and Mardan Districts

Islamabad

Law Site Access, laptops for judges, court related equipment and facilities, Water Filtration Plants, litigant oriented facilities like toilets, drinking water, sitting areas

Balochistan:

Purchase of furniture and equipment for district courts in Balochistan; installation of RO Water Filtration Plant in Quetta

Judicial Academies

Training Programmes through Judicial Academies not covered under their regular budget

Punjab:

Installation of Reverse-Osmosis Water Filtration Plants for districts and tehsils in Punjab

Construction of waiting areas, toilet facilities

Funding projects on Legal Empowerment

Projects relating to legal empowerment, legal awareness, judicial research, and legal education



The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed during visit to Central Courts Karachi inspecting works executed under funding from AJDF

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan approves funding for District Judiciary in Islamabad



The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan / Chairman LJCP has approved the work plan shared by Islamabad High Court and directed to release funding of Rs.20.815 million from AJDF as extra budgetary support for district courts in Islamabad. The funding will cater for various activities to be executed in Districts of Islamabad-East and West, such as video-link systems, renovation and furniture for courtrooms, waiting area for GBV Courts, security cameras, drinking water, laptops for judges, access to law sites, scanners, fiber glass sheds, file racks, visitor chairs, benches for litigants, computer systems and fire extinguishers.

Secretary LJCP, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan called on the Hon'ble Chief Justice Islamabad High Court on 18th December 2020 to share details of project execution and present the cheque. The Registrar, Islamabad High Court assured efficient utilization of the funding released.



AJDF funding released to Peshawar High Court for additional Court Rooms in Districts

The LJCP Secretariat has released funding of Rs.43.72 Million to Peshawar High Court for its establishment of new standardized court rooms in four Districts in the province identified on the basis of workload and need assessment. Prior to this, the Registrar, Peshawar High Court convened a meeting at Peshawar High Court in which the Secretary LJCP also participated to evaluate and help finalize the work plans.

During the meeting, Member Inspection Team (MIT) and the Director P&D explained that the existing infrastructure in Peshawar, Mardan, Banu, Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat and Abbottabad was not sufficient to accommodate the required judicial officers, and that it was necessary to include the construction of new court rooms in these districts from AJDF.

Considering the available share, work plan of Rs.131.160 million was shared by Peshawar High Court for four districts, and the first installment of Rs.43.72 million has been released to the Peshawar High Court for timely completion of the envisaged projects.



Through AJDF funding, new court rooms for establishment of additional courts will be constructed in Abbottabad, Banu, Kohat and Mardan districts.

The projects would also focus facilities for the lawyers and litigants i.e. library, waiting area, public toilets, water supply, E-Kiosks, Case Flow Management Information System, etc. as an integral part of the policy of the Peshawar High Court for infrastructure development.



PJC Sindh meets again at Karachi: The Hon'ble Chief Justice takes briefing on the steps taken by Justice Sector Stakeholders



The second meeting of Provincial Justice Committee- (PJC) Sindh was convened at the High Court of Sindh on 3rd October, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Justice High Court of Sindh. The meeting was convened by Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary, LJCP and attended by the Prosecutor General Sindh, Senior Most District and Sessions Judge, of Karachi, Secretary Law, Secretary Home, Chairman Inquires and Anti-Corruption, IG Police and IG Prisons whereas Advocate General Sindh was represented by the Additional Advocate General Sindh. The Registrar and the Member Inspection Team-II, High Court of Sindh, Additional Inspector General of Police, Presiding Officer, Banking Court-III, Karachi, and Secretary Social Welfare Department attended the meeting on special invitation.

The Additional Inspector General of Police Karachi informed the Committee that to control fake encounters, the cases of investigation against police officials are transferred to other districts to maintain impartiality and, upon the recommendation of Internal Affairs Branch strict departmental action is taken against the guilty police officials.

While taking decisions on other agenda points, the Hon'ble Chair reiterated upon the need to establish state-of-the-art Forensic Science Lab in Karachi with modern equipment and facilities.

Federal Minister for Law and Justice meets Chairman NJAC, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan to discuss Establishment of NJAU



A meeting was held in Supreme Court of Pakistan on 12th November 2020 to discuss PC-1 of the project for Establishment of National Judicial Automation Unit (NJAU) under the chair of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan/Chairman NJAC. The Federal Minister Law and Justice, Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem along with his team and Secretary LJCP, Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, attended the meeting.

The Federal Minister while discussing the finalization of the project PC-I and possibilities of allocation of funds, informed the Hon'ble Chairman NJAC that PC-II

document was required to be submitted before PC-I given the project cost estimates. However, the Minister assured to provide full support in finalization of PC-II document.

Accordingly the Ministry, later on, deputed Mr. Jamal Shah, Director M&E, Mr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, Financial Specialist, and Muhammad Faisal Inam, MIS Specialist to help finalize the PC-II document of the project. The NJAU establishment envisages to integrate justice justice sector related institutions and automation of Judiciary to bring efficiency and transparency while providing easy access to justice for all the citizens of Pakistan.



The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chairing the Meeting

