

SBP's redesigned website not user friendly (20th August, 2016)

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has developed a new format/redesigned its website recently that is neither user friendly nor does it provide easy access to historical economic data. The SBP had originally parked the 1.5 billion dollar Saudi gift under the head Pakistan Development Fund, as revealed by Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, in 2014.

The Finance Minister was reportedly designated as the Chairman of the PDF and Waqar Masood, Secretary Finance, as the Chief Executive Officer. However after perusing the website and then invoking the search engine of SBP to try to locate PDF led to the response 'no results'.

When contacted an SBP official insisted that the redesigned website was very user friendly but did not explain to the reason for parking of historical economic data year wise - in some instances two consecutive years - that require the user of the website to go to a different webpage for comparison with another year. The official maintained that the website was not updated overnight but was done after feedback from friends in the media and other visitors of SBP website. Business Recorder's feedback, however, was not sought.

SBP Clarification

Business Recorder

This is with reference to the news item published in Business Recorder regarding the website of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). While we can not object to any user's comment that our website is not user friendly, as it is a matter of personal experience; however, the example quoted on Pakistan development fund is quite irrelevant and misleading. The information on PDF never appeared on our economic data webpage as an exclusive item and must have been referred in different documents such as our periodical reports. The news item gives the impression that something has been removed from our website deliberately, which is not correct.

Further, we also provide historical data of selected variables on our website in the form of 'archive' files, which is used by many journalists and we have never heard any complaint about it. We understand that there is always room for improvement and we continue doing that. Again the comment in this regard is uncalled for.