

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Norway contributes USD 2.2 million to the operational support of the Afghan Civil Service Institute

Kabul, 28 June 2007: The Royal Government of Norway has donated USD 2.2 million to support of the operation and set-up of the Afghan Civil Service Institute. It is expected that the Afghan Civil Service Institute will become the centerpiece for the capacity development of the Afghan Civil Service.

In 2005, the Independent Administration Reform & Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) entered into a partnership with the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to design and build the physical structure for an Afghan Civil Service Training Institute. The Afghan Civil Service Institute was inaugurated in January 2007.

The Afghan Civil Service Institute has developed an ambitious plan of training activities. The preparation of the various training modules is currently on-going and a number of local Afghan trainers have been hired by the IARCSC to start implement training activities.

The Norwegian contribution will be critical to provide the needed technical assistance in support of the set-up and operation of the Institute. UNDP will support the Afghan Civil Service Institute by closely twinning international experts and Afghan counterparts to promote transfer of knowledge and exchange of experience. This will help the Afghan Civil Service Institute to take on the responsibility of the management of the training programme, in order to ensure the ownership and sustainability of the Institute. Specifically, UNDP will provide technical support in human resources development, policy and evaluation.

The physical structure of the Afghan Civil Service Institute can host a high number of participants, by making use of two dormitories, a large cafeteria building, a large auditorium and a mosque. UNDP will support the set-up of an Operations and Administration Department to administer the complete Institute.

A Training and Management Group will be responsible for the planning of the delivery of training and coaching. This will include training planning, financial and human resources planning, training needs assessments, development of training material, and certification of participants. UNDP will support the set-up and establishment of a Design and Production Unit for learning and training material. The Training Management Group will also ensure the outreach to central and provincial administrations. A core support facility of the Institute will be the library. UNDP will support the Institute to set-up a library in the area of Public Administration and Governance. The will include the purchase of up to 3000 books, journal and newspapers, the implementation of a library management system by a small team of library staff supported by an international advisor.

UNDP will collaborate with other UNDP projects operating at sub-national level to ensure the outreach of the Institute at provincial level. UNDP will also foster partnership with the European Commission in the area of curriculum design and development.

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Should you require more information about this press release, please contact:

Mr. Michael Schaadt
Programme Officer
UNDP-Afghanistan
Email: Michael.schaadt@undp.org
Or visit: www.undp.org.af