

AFGHAN LINKS

ISSUE – 6 – 11th February 2005 (TOTAL NO. 15)

Afghan Links is a free newsletter for readers who have a keen interest in Afghanistan, its history, people and culture. It invites news and articles from anyone who wishes to create and maintain constructive links between Afghanistan and other countries by sharing their expertise, information and ideas in any field.

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AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF (ACBAR)

ACBAR'S Website for Bulletins, the Directory of Organisations and Links to ANSO and ARIC

Welcome To ACBAR - Afghanistan Umbrella Organization Representing Over Eighty NGO Members From The National & International Humanitarian Community In Afghanistan. ACBAR Was Formed In 1988 In Response To The Need For NGOs To Coordinate Their Activities In Order To Maximize Their Efficiency And Resources.

The Core Functions of ACBAR Currently Are:

Coordination - to Avoid Duplication of Work and To Identify Gaps To Filled.

- Planning NGO Strategy to Meet Humanitarian Aims.
- Collection & Dissemination of Information Relevant To humanitarian Assistance & Development.
- Facilitation of Research through ACBAR Resources & Information Center ARIC
- Advocacy & Policy.
- Provision of Information Recourses & Technology Centers.

<http://www.acbar.org/>

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ASCHIANA

Hot Soup for Cold Children

I thought Afghan Links Readers might like to see the message below and ATTACHED PHOTOGRAPHS. It might inspire people outside Afghanistan to assist Aschiana too. If you would like to help, please contact Jeanne at Afghanlinks@aol.com

Rula Ghani would like to get some much needed support to Aschiana to help them run a soup kitchen for the next two months until the cold subsides a little. When she told me she thought they could run it for \$2,000, I said I thought it would be no problem to get together from folks in Kabul (right?). They need the funding quickly though. If you can send me cash in an envelope with your name on the front and how much is in there, I'll send it on to Rula when we hit \$2,000. My home or work is fine.

Anything you can afford is great.

I won't be publishing the names by e-mail, but if we don't hit this within 48 hours, I'll give you an update on how we are doing.

If you have any doubt about whether this will be well used, see the photos that Rula sent, or ask about Aschiana.

And this was the response!

We have reached our target [message from Paul O'Brien]

Thanks [to Nick Downie and the ANSO team] for forwarding on the Soup Kitchen Fundraiser note to your e-mail list. We reached the target of \$2,000 in 48 hours. In fact, partly because of your effort, we hit \$5,200.

They now have more than enough to set up and keep the kitchen going through the winter. If more funds come in, they will go to Aschiana's work more generally. See attached brochure for Ashiana.

Any additional funding for Aschiana should be sent to me during office hours at the work address below . I will forward extra funds received to Rula Ghani at the end of the week.

Please send this note out on your listserv,

Thanks to those who gave or asked to give.

Paul O'Brien, Ministry of Finance, Government of Afghanistan, Sedarat (Prime Minister's Compound) Main building. Main Tel: +93 (0)70 285690 or
Alt Tel: +93 (0)79 406066 paul@paulobrien.info [home](#)

BUDDHAS OF BAMIIYAN

'Waking the Buddha' by David Bosco - After decades of exile, an Afghan archaeologist returns to an excavation charged with symbolism and hope

Zemaryalai Tarzi was director of Afghanistan's Institute of Archaeology when he was forced to flee the country a few months before the 1979 Soviet invasion. Tarzi returned to his homeland in 2002 to find the elusive "sleeping" or "reclining" Buddha of Bamiyan, described by a seventh-century Chinese monk visiting the valley.

Afghanistan's most notorious crime scene is now marked by a blue wooden sign that warns people to keep out, and the remains of Bamiyan's monumental standing Buddhas have been collected and cataloged. The huge stone niches cut into the hillside that once sheltered the enormous 1,500-year-old figures are empty. A few intrepid tourists wander by to stare mutely at their absence. The cultural destruction that visited this town in February and March 2001 appears complete.

About a mile from the hillside, outside a low-slung house, 65-year-old Zemaryalai Tarzi is hunched over a small, unidentifiable clay figurine. His white hair and deeply tanned face bob up and down in measured concentration as he deftly scrapes away mud from the object while discussing its recent recovery from a dig only a hundred yards from where the monumental Buddhas stood. Every few minutes, he interrupts our interview to allow an assistant to step in and remove the dirt. A bit later, he leads me to a small, dark room in the house where a dozen softball-size terra-cotta Buddha heads look up serenely from plastic bins on the floor. They remained safely underground when the Taliban destroyed the large Buddhas with explosives and artillery.

Tarzi hopes that the small Buddha heads he has unearthed are only the beginning; he is hunting something far larger. According to an account by a Chinese pilgrim who visited in the seventh century, Bamiyan hosts another Buddha that has been buried for centuries. Perhaps 1,000 feet in length, this "reclining" or "sleeping" Buddha represents the deity passing into Nirvana. The search for the reclining Buddha is also a homecoming for Tarzi, Afghanistan's most famous archaeologist. He left in 1979 as the country stumbled toward a quarter century of bloodshed. Tarzi has now devoted himself to locating the figure and is heading up a small excavation team funded by the French government. In so doing, he has taken on a project fraught with symbolic meaning. Uncovering the hidden Buddha, he believes, would signal the country's cultural resilience and possible resurgence. But Tarzi is discovering that the search's symbolism may be as much a burden as a benefit.

Source: Archaeology - Volume 58 Number 1, [January/February 2005](#) **David Bosco** is staff editor at *Foreign Policy* magazine. [home](#)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES

Call for Submissions for John Hopkins School Of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Perspectives

The editors of Perspectives are soliciting submissions for the Spring 2005 issue: **The Business of Development**.

Perspectives is an annual publication of the International Development program at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC. The magazine provides a forum for discussion and debate of critical, cutting-edge topics with the goal of proposing new and innovative ways of thinking about the practice of international development.

Development is big business. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), total development aid dispersed in 2003 reached \$68.5 billion, the highest ever in both nominal and real terms. The aid business is a huge, unregulated global industry whose key players are as interested in market share as any Fortune 500 company. This year's issue of Perspectives will look at development from a business perspective, debating issues such as management, accountability, efficiency, marketing, and political economy.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

NGO Mis-management - How inefficient management or poor communication causes problems both at headquarters and in the field.

- For-profits vs. Non-profits - Which are more effective in a development context, and why?
- Grants vs. Loans - Do loans drive the poor further into poverty? Do grants contribute to dependency?
- Externalities of Aid - A synopsis of the negative externalities caused by a sudden influx of foreign aid. Examples are price increases in conflict zones such as East Timor, Afghanistan, and Sudan.
- Where the Money Goes - How much money actually reaches the target countries? How much money is spent on salaries and administrative costs?
- Political Economy and Foreign Aid - How do strategic considerations affect aid allocation?
- The Impact of Aid - Do funded projects have a long-term sustainable impact?

We welcome both shorter, op-ed style pieces (approximately 500-1,000 words) and articles with more in-depth analysis (1,000-1,800 words). If you are interested in submitting an article for publication, please send a brief e-mail to perspectives@jhu.edu expressing interest as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Grossman, Anne Knight, Erik Pacific, Olga Petryniak
Editors, *Perspectives*

[Perspectives, Spring 2004](#)

[Perspectives, Spring 2003](#)

[Perspectives, Spring 2002](#)

Source: <http://www.sais-jhu.edu/programs/i-dev/newsletter.html>

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COUNTER NARCOTICS

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – Ministry of Counter Narcotics – Action Plans

Key Afghan Stakeholders: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Afghan Radio, Local Press, Counter Narcotics Department.

Key International Stakeholders: BBC World Service, ISAF/Coalition, IRAN Radio, Inter-News Agency, UK (as lead nation on counter narcotics), US, UNODC, GTZ

Afghan National Drug Control Strategy

The Afghan National Drug Control Strategy calls for the citizens of Afghanistan to be aware of the internal consequences of poppy cultivation. Public awareness projects should be carefully designed to complement initiatives, which address supply and demand, particularly in poppy cultivation areas. Opium poppy cultivation, which has now become the cultural norm in many parts of Afghanistan, needs to be combated in national education and treatment programmes. Women in particular should be educated, so they may act as agents of change in the household. Use should be made of tribal and religious structures, as well as modern media channels, to get the message across.

Please use the links below or go straight to

<http://www.cnd.gov.af/actionplan.html>

- [Public Awareness Action Plan](#)
- [Drug Demand Reduction action plan](#)
- [Law Enforcement Action Plan](#)
- [Judicial Reform Action Plan](#)
- [Alternative Livelihood Action Plan](#)
- [Public Awareness Action Plan](#)

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DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

- **[Striking a New Balance Donor Policy Coherence and Development Cooperation in Difficult Environments](#)**

A background paper commissioned by the Learning and Advisory Process on Difficult Partnerships of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD By Robert Picciotto, Charles Alao, Eka Ikpe, Martin Kimani, and Roger Slade for distribution to participants of the Senior Forum on Development Effectiveness in Fragile States Hosted by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom London (Lancaster House) January 13-14, 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (extract)

This report examines the challenges of policy coherence and development effectiveness in fragile states. It is based on a literature review, responses to structured questionnaires and interviews in donor countries and developing countries¹.

The context

The policy directions of the development enterprise have always evolved in response to changes in the enabling environment (Section 1). The on-going transformation may be as significant as the reorientation that took place following the debt crisis of the 1980's when market fundamentalism held sway. Since then, the pendulum of opinion has swung back: the state is once again at the center of the development agenda.

Based on experience, decision-makers have recognized that poor countries need resilient and capable public institutions to connect safely to the mighty engine of the global economy.

By the turn of the century, all United Nations heads of states had endorsed a comprehensive development framework that substituted a battery of socio-economic indicators for economic growth as the main policy performance benchmark.

A further broadening of the development agenda is in the making. The end of the cold war has reduced the number of proxy wars but highly destructive intra-state conflicts keep erupting and development progress is hindered in large numbers of weak, failing and failed states. The "let them fight it among themselves" doctrine no longer holds: terrorist outrages have brought the turmoil of the periphery home to the industrial democracies.

As a result, security risks dominate public perceptions and state building is perceived as a critical development challenge and a recent worldwide Gallup survey discloses that almost all regions of the world visualize a less secure world for future generations

The grand project of global economic integration that animated development thinking from 11/11 (when the Berlin wall fell) to 9/11 (when the Twin Towers collapsed) is ceding ground to an evolving human security paradigm. **Please see ATTACHMENT 1.6 for the full report.** [home](#)

- **Development and Aid in 2005**

A Joint High Level Seminar of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the World Bank for Parliamentarians from Donor Countries

Location: Naples, Italy
Begins: Feb 27 2005
Ends: Feb 28 2005
Contact Person: Jean-Christophe Bas

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/PARTNERS/EXTPARLIAMENTARIANS/0,,contentMDK:20331393~menuPK:478535~pagePK:64199923~piPK:64199928~theSitePK:464534,00.html>

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EDUCATION

Master Teachers Gather in Kabul for First Phase of National Teacher Training

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Education



Teacher Training Directorate

PRESS RELEASE

Despite deep snow and freezing temperatures, nearly 150 master teachers representing almost all of Afghanistan's provinces have convened in Kabul for a two-week course to qualify as "master teacher trainers" in their respective provinces.

The workshop for Master Trainers is the beginning of a nationwide program of the Ministry of Education that has been established to raise the quality of teaching and learning in schools. It is known as the Teacher Education Program (TEP).

"Teacher quality is the highest priority of the Ministry of Education," said Deputy Minister Ishraq Hussaini, "because without qualified teachers, our children will not reach their full potential." Mr. Hussaini made his comments during opening ceremonies of the workshop at the Sayed Jamaluddin Higher Teacher Training Institute in West Kabul.

According to the Ministry of Education statistics, there are only about 100,000 teachers in the country for nearly five million pupils. Ninety percent of these teachers have no teacher qualifications, and more than half have less than a twelfth-grade education.

The teachers who have come to Kabul all have at least a twelfth grade diploma. Many are university graduates, and all have professional teacher qualifications.

"These women and men are among the best teachers in the country," stated Professor Hamiddulah Weda, Acting Director of Teacher Training in the Ministry of Education. "And they will prepare a cadre of 2200 teacher educators in all provinces," Mr. Weda continued.

Together, the provincial-level master trainers and teacher educators will be the frontline in the Ministry of Education's campaign to bring continuous education and training to all teachers in the country. In total, more than 105,000 teachers will receive the first round of training by the end of the first year. Fourteen women are participating in the current master trainers course. Approximately, one-third of all teachers in Afghanistan are women.

The curriculum for this first round of teacher training addresses the recent changes in the curriculum and teaching methods embraced by the Ministry of Education to modernize Afghanistan's educational system after nearly 30 years of conflict and negligence by past governments.

The TEP curriculum was designed and developed by a team of experienced teacher educators from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, cooperating NGOs, and institutions of higher education. This joint effort began in September 2003 with a seminar sponsored by UNICEF to coordinate teacher education in the country. TEP has been adopted by several donors as the cornerstone for increasing the quality of education in Afghanistan. Among the current sponsors for the program are, The World Bank, USAID, DANIDA, JICA, UNICEF, and the Government of Germany.

The Master Trainer Workshop will continue until 21 February at Sayed Jamaluddin from 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM. Press are welcome to visit with prior notification.

TEP is a multi-stakeholder, multi-dimensional, long-term comprehensive reform of teacher education and professional development (upgrading). TEP is supported by several NGOs as well as prominent donors including: The World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, DANIDA, JICA and Government of Germany. The purpose of TEP is to continuously raise the quality of teaching in all schools leading to improvements in students learning.

The first phase of the TEP which is In-Service Teacher Education Activities (INSET) is aimed to prepare 140 master trainers, 2,200 Teacher Educators (Sub-provincial Level) and to deliver INSET to 105,000 teachers in all provinces.

For more information, please contact **Dr. Richard Navarro**, TEP Manager on 070-241-466 and or email richard_navarro26@yahoo.com and **Amir Mansoor**, TEP Technical Advisor on 079-309-814.

Source: Fidai Halim, Public Relations & Communications Manager, Afghanistan Primary Education Project (APEP), USAID/Creative Associates International, Inc. Darul-Aman Road, Near Habibia High School. First Street, House 1578, Karta-e-Char Kabul, Afghanistan. Mobile Tel: 0093-70-294-911 Digital Line: 0093-20-2500434-6 Official Email: FidaiH@af.caii.com [home](#)

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Home Essentials Opens Office in Kabul, Afghanistan

Hong Kong-based Home Essentials, the largest furniture rental company outside the US, announced it has opened an office in Kabul, Afghanistan. With this move, Home Essentials becomes the first furniture leasing operation to have a direct presence in the country.

Home Essentials will offer a comprehensive turnkey service to foreign companies, embassies, non-governmental organizations, business owners, and expatriate workers to help them get situated in Afghanistan. In addition to wholesale furniture programs, Home Essentials will offer short-term and long-term leasing arrangements for office and residential furniture.

Home Essentials has already been awarded contracts for such entities as Her Majesty's Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Crown Agents (of the UK). Christopher Exline, founder and president of Home Essentials, said recently, "Entering the Kabul market not only represents a major step forward for our company, it vividly affirms the improving market conditions for business in Kabul. This investment would not have occurred unless the Afghani government had followed through on pledges to expedite reform and create a climate conducive to business."

Consistent with other new market entries, Home Essentials will invest approximately \$1,000,000 USD into Afghanistan over a two-year period, and management intends to employ 50 locals within the first year.

Afghanistan augments the growing presence of Home Essentials in the Middle East. Kabul joins other locations in Dubai and Baghdad. According to Chris Exline, "The Middle East's receptivity to the Home Essentials concept accelerated our expansion plans throughout the region. More importantly, we have a deep bench of qualified managers ready to assume the reins of new locations."

About Home Essentials

Founded in 1997, Home Essentials is the largest furniture rental company outside the US. The company has offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai and Baghdad and Kabul. Home Essentials provides furniture leasing and sales to meet the furnishing needs of expatriates, landlords, developers and service apartment operators worldwide. Visit the company Website at www.homeessentials.org.

Contact: Patricia Coate, Coate & Associates, MEDIA CONTACT FOR HOME ESSENTIALS. 415-309-2231 patricia@coateconsulting.com [home](http://www.homeessentials.org)

JOB VACANCY

World Vision Report Seeks Qualified Radio Freelancers in Afghanistan

The World Vision Report, a weekly radio news magazine that airs nationally in the United States, is looking for qualified radio freelancers in Afghanistan. The WV Report is a BBC/NPR-style program that focuses on issues of poverty and social justice around the world.

Below is a full description of the program. I invite experienced radio reporters who are interested in filing for the show to please email me, describing your background and including any audio links to samples of your work, or transcripts of stories.

The World Vision Report is a nationally broadcast half-hour weekly program that focuses on issues of poverty and social justice in the developing world.

The program is funded by World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization that is the world's largest NGO (non-governmental organization). The program does not focus on issues of faith, but highlights them where it's relevant, and seeks to cover every issue in an unbiased way that upholds the highest journalistic standards. We do not promote the World Vision organization on the program in any way. For more information on what we cover and show archives, please see our web site, www.worldvisionradio.org.

We are looking for sound-rich, character-driven features (NPR or BBC style) that are generally from 4 to 6 minutes long. We pay \$100 per broadcast minute and travel expenses, as long as they're approved in advance.

We are interested in stories that you may have already filed for other networks, and we also have no problem with you re-selling work you've done for us, as long as we get to air it first.

We are interested in a wide variety of topics for features, including poverty, refugee situations, immigration, social justice, environmental justice and economic development.

We also welcome the following:

- Reporter's notebooks: a behind-the-scenes essay on life in your area, or what it took to get a particular story;
- 'The power of one' stories: profiles of individuals who are making a positive difference, on a scale large or small.
- 'A day in the life' stories: profiles of ordinary people in extraordinary situations.

If you're interested in working with us, please tell me about your experience, what you are doing now, and whether you have the ability to edit sound files on the computer and to send sound files by FTP or other means over the Internet. Please also send any links to audio samples of your work on the Internet, or story transcripts.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, and thanks for considering this query.

Contact: Leda Hartman, Assignment Editor, World Vision Report, (US) 011-919-542-0008, ledahart@mindspring.com [home](#)

NATO

NATO will Expand the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) into West Afghanistan

Statement by NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

I am pleased to announce that NATO will now proceed to further expand the International Security Assistance Force into the West of Afghanistan.

The expansion will establish a permanent ISAF presence in the form of four Provincial Reconstruction teams (PRT) and one Forward Support Base (FSB). Two existing US led PRTs at Herat and Farah will switch to ISAF and two new ISAF PRTs will be established with Lithuania in the lead at Chaghcharan, capital of Ghor province and Spain in the lead at Qal'eh-ye Now, capital of Baghdis province. Italy and Spain will provide the Forward Support Base (a logistics hub at Herat) with substantial support from other contributors. The extended ISAF mission will provide security assistance in 50% of Afghanistan's territory.

In addition to the ISAF presence in Kabul and the northern part of the country, the expansion of ISAF into the four western provinces of Afghanistan underscores NATO's long-term commitment to helping Afghanistan build a stable, prosperous and democratic future.

Tel: +32 (0)2 707 50 41

<http://www.nato.int>

B-1110 Brussels/Bruxelles

Fax: +32 (0)2 707 50 57

press@hq.nato.int

NATO Press Release – 10th February 2005.

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PEACE BUILDING

"National Reconciliation in Afghanistan: Review of the Conference and the 1st Initiatives of Peace-Building"

Status: 23rd January 2005.

International Conference

"From Dealing with the Past to Future Cooperation - Regional and Global Challenges of Reconciliation".

Berlin, Jan 31 to Feb 2, 2005

Paper written by Dr. Citha D. Maass, Head, Electoral Unit, GTZ Rule of Law Project, Kabul - mob. 070-224828, 079-310353 mail: citha.maass@gmx.de **Please see ATTACHMENT 2.6 for the complete paper.** [home](#)

SECURITY

ANSO Survey on NGO Insecurity

ANSO and CARE are preparing a series of short briefing papers on the topic of NGO insecurity – to raise awareness of the continuing attacks against NGO staff in Afghanistan, as well as the impact that such attacks have on the ability of NGOs to deliver needed humanitarian and development assistance.

To that end, we are trying to better quantify the impact of NGO insecurity in Afghanistan. The questionnaire below is merely a first step, an attempt to get a rough snapshot of the current situation.

We understand that this is a sensitive topic, especially when it comes to issues of where and under what conditions NGOs will or will not operate. All survey responses will therefore be treated as anonymous.

We ask you to take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Nick Downie (ANSO): coordinator@afgnso.org

Michael Kleinman (CARE): michael.kleinman@care.org.af

Do you believe that the overall security situation in Afghanistan has improved or deteriorated over the past year?

Improved: ___ Deteriorated: ___ Stayed the Same: ___

Has the security situation in areas where your organization works improved or deteriorated over the past year?

Improved: ___ Deteriorated: ___ Stayed the Same: ___

What factors do you believe have contributed to this change in the security situation?

Have there been any attacks against the staff of your NGO over the past year?

Yes: ___ No: ___

Has the security situation over the past year led to your organization operating in fewer districts than originally planned?

Yes: ___ No: ___

Has the security situation over the past year led to a curtailment or modification of planned projects?

Yes: ___ No: ___ [home](#)

If you want further information on any of the above subjects please email Jeanne Bryer at Afghanlinks@aol.com

NB. All information contained here identifies the source and is shared with readers in good faith. If you find any incorrect details please let me know and they will be rectified immediately. *Afghan Links* is produced by Jeanne Bryer who formerly worked for the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group and who currently works for Khorasan Orphanage in Kabul and the Kathy Evans Afghan Education Trust. If you no longer wish to receive the Afghan Links Newsletter please send an email to Jeanne Afghanlinks@aol.com and your address will be removed.

