



August 2010



Afghan News

Highlighted Achievements

- 7.5 million children are attending schools.
- 12,000 schools are open to children.
- Two members of the National Cricket Team were nominated for 2010 LG ICC Awards

Inside this issue:

Latest News	1-3
Upcoming Events & Important Dates	4
Special! Restaurant Review	5
Language Lesson	6

Latest News



Photo: Campaign Posters cover the streets.

Country Prepares For Parliamentary Election

Preparations are underway for the upcoming Parliamentary Election on September 18. All 249 seats are at stake in the lower House.

A total of 2,447 candidates, including 386 women, are standing for the election. The number of seats given to each district depends on population size. Kabul is the largest district with 3 million people. Of its 33 seats, nine are reserved for women.

Infectious disease ward opens At Indra Ghandi Hospital

A new ward dealing with infectious diseases in children has been inaugurated in the Indra Ghandi Hospital in Kabul.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Public Health Minister Dr. Surriya Dali along with the ambassadors of Japan and India. The hospital can house up to 40 patients and is equipped with isolation rooms, new beds, incubators, oxygen machines, and other equipment and facilities.

The project was supported by the Japanese embassy in Kabul and the World Bank.

Japan to train Afghan police in Turkey

Afghan officers will begin training with Japanese police in Turkey as early as this Autumn. The project will be carried out in cooperation with the Turkish government, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and others, using police training facilities in Turkey.

Afghan officers are expected to learn crime lab work and drug trafficking fighting, as well as receive assistance in setting up a koban system.

Gas pipeline from Central Asia to South Asia to be built

The Ministry of Mines and Industries has announced that an agreement to extend a gas pipeline from Central Asia to South Asia through Afghanistan will soon be signed... (continued on Page 2)



Photo: Afghan geologists work alongside the international community to uncover natural resources hidden in the Balkh province.

(Continued) ...Once the 1680km pipeline has been built, it will bring in \$3 billion in tax revenue annually and create thousands of job opportunities.

Huge oil deposit discovered

The government has officially announced that it has discovered a field with an estimated 1.8 billion barrels of oil in the north, between the provinces of Balkh and Jowzjan. The survey was conducted by Afghan and international geologists.

International flights to Herat by November

The Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation plans to increase the length of Herat Airport's runway from 2,500 meters to 3,000 over the next 3 months.

The new runway will allow for operations of international passenger and cargo flights out of Herat. The transit improvement is expected to foster more economic growth in western Afghanistan.

Currently, international flights operate out of Kabul, Kandahar, and Mazhar-e Sharif.



Photo: Herat International Airport .

42 million textbooks published

The Ministry of Education has received 41.6 million newly published textbooks for primary and middle schools in accordance with the new academic syllabus for primary schools, beginning over the next two

years. The publication was supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Denmark.

The Ministry is considering further curriculum revision for the 10th to 12th grades. New books for upper schools could begin to be published and distributed as soon as next year.



Photo: According to the Ministry of Education, 7.5 million Afghan children are studying at 12,000 schools.

Maternity hospital inaugurated In Paktia Province

Gawhar Taj Bayat maternity hospital was officially inaugurated recently in Gardez, Paktia in a ceremony attended by Governor Juma Khan Hamdard, parliamentary members, and local officials.

The new hospital has 20 beds, a delivery room, pre-operating and operating rooms, a recovery room, a pharmacy, a laboratory, modern equipment and other facilities.



Photo: Ehsanullah Bayat, founder of the Bayat Foundation, receiving a token of gratitude at the inauguration ceremony.

The hospital was made with the support of the Bayat Foundation, which owns the Afghan Wireless Communication Company and the Ariana Radio and Television Network.

New schools opened in Faryab

On August 4th, Minister of Education Farooq Wardak and the Norwegian ambassador officially inaugurated 68 schools in Faryab province.

Construction of the schools was supported by Norway's government. There are plans to construct another 144 more schools in the province.

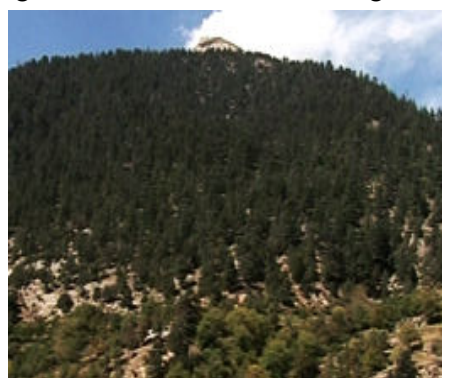
Construction also started on a Teachers Training Institute in the province with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Construction should be completed by next year.

Pistachio Crop Increases by 98%

The pistachio crop of Samangan province has increased by 98% over the past season.

The pistachios are being sold internationally at competitive prices after export to India for processing by Indian companies. Samangan's residents say their pistachios are sold at a very low prices locally, meaning that there is potential for even better consumer savings.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock is making



efforts to attract foreign investment in establishing pistachio processing factories locally.

More than 900 million square meters of land nationally are covered with pistachio trees, cumulatively producing an annual crop of hundreds of tons of nuts.

Female recruits begin Army training

29 women have joined a program as the first national female recruits to train as officers in the Afghan National Army (ANA). There were originally 100 applicants.

At the military college near Kabul where the women are training, they are provided with religiously appropriate classrooms and an accommodation block.

The women are currently undertaking 20 weeks of basic training which involves drill, weapons, first aid and physical training, as well as a specialist trade, such as finance or logistics. They are taught by a team of female Afghan instructors with the help of 9 American women soldiers. Once they qualify they will work in combat support units.

The goal is that one day women will make up at least 10% of the Afghanistan army.



Youth festivals launched

Three youth festivals took place nationwide during the first two weeks of August, sponsored by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education.

The National Youth Conference was held in Kabul between August 7th and 9th.

The event focused on practical interventions to support youth development from the national to the district level.

Afghanistan's first Youth Voices Festival was launched in 16 provinces around the same time. The Youth Voices Festival is part of an ongoing internet-based project with an emphasis on skill development and working with young people and news media.

1,300 young Afghans were trained in blogging, video, photography and digital storytelling.

International Youth Day was celebrated on August 12th, and many of its activities were held in conjunction with the Youth Voices Festival website.

Women's Farm Service Center Opened in Kabul

A Farm Service Center tailored specifically to women farmers officially opened in Kabul in mid-August.

There are 6 other Farm Service Centers operating nationally. The centers offer such products as seed, fertilizer, animal feed, tools, machinery, and greenhouse supplies. The new women's center will also function as an outlet for other female head of household enterprises, such as jams, pickles, honey, and handicrafts, potentially benefiting more than 10,000 women.

The existing Farm Service Centers have thus far created more than 235 jobs, trained more than 15,000 people, and achieved \$24 million in sales from March 2008 to June 2010.

The project is being supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Kabul University's modern art program impacts women

For one week in June, Kabul University hosted a modern art exhibition on the themes of pollution and the environment.

All 18 participating artists were women.

Art studies are growing nationally. Professor Farhad of Kabul University has said that in 2001, the university had seven professors and eight students in the department, but he now has 700 students, and close to 20% of them are girls. He says that there are not adequate facilities to accommodate all the new applicants.

Over the past three years, Professor Farhad has initiated two new majors in the fine arts department: digital graphic and cinema. In digital graphic, 94 students are enrolled, 53 of them women, the highest percentage in any of the faculties.



Photo: "Area Pollution," by Arezo Wasseq, part of a summer exhibition .

National swimming team chosen

A national swimming competition was held at the Tasadi Khana Sazi swimming pool in Kabul on August 9th, allowing the best performers to qualify for the national swimming team. The Afghanistan Olympic Committee chose 30 swimmers out of the 300 participants for the national team and 30 more for the youth team.

Excerpts from an Interview with Maki Hiroshi of Maki Denki Co, LTD.

HIROSHI MAKI is president of MAKI DENKI Co., LTD., established on March 1st, 2002. MAKI DENKI works on electrical, water, and air-conditioning systems. It is presently involved in supplying materials to Thailand and other countries such as Mozambique, Laos, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. He works as a subcontractor for HARIROD Construction Company in Afghanistan.

MAKI: I became involved in Afghanistan after the Lehman shock in 2008, when the need for construction work in Japan decreased sharply. At that time, it was suggested that I take MAKI DENKI's materials to Afghanistan.

I think there is potential in almost everything in Afghanistan's market, as long as the infrastructure is maintained. I am recently thinking about breaking into the market myself.

In addition to my subcontracting for HARIROD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, I plan to build a branch of our corporate company in Afghanistan called "MAKI DENKI (Afghanistan) Co., LTD."

As an electric specialist, I'd like to work on aid projects in many countries by engaging in constructions of power plants, transmission lines, and other areas which are involved in infrastructure maintenance.

Of course, I'd like to use Afghan people in our projects. The ideal is to use a combination of Japanese, Thai, and others to train Afghan workers. In the future, I hope our projects will be accomplished entirely by Afghans.

As for Afghan materials, it is already possible to use Afghan materials like ready-mixed concrete and PVC pipes in our projects. The following are my recent observations of construction materials in Afghanistan:

A) Concrete. Ready mixed concrete made for HARIROD CC, I believe, fits to the international standards.

B) Marble. The marble which you can get in Afghanistan is beautiful in color, and I especially like the white variety. So, if the polishing technique is improved, the marble would be a wonderful product.

C) Wood. Wood in Afghanistan is similar to that in Japan, and the quality is very good.

I would like to talk about security in Afghanistan, as many people in Japan might think that Afghanistan is a dangerous country.

I first went to Kabul, Afghanistan last June. Before I went, my friends and clients in Bangkok were very worried about me making the trip.

However, once I arrived at Kabul, I found that most of parts in the city of Kabul looked like Myanmar or Laos did about 20 years ago. Only the U.N.'s armed cars sometimes patrolled the city and rich people hired guards.

For the past one year, I have contacted various Japanese companies for business about materials. However, they stopped listening to me as soon as I mentioned the name "Afghanistan," because they could not get approval for business in Afghanistan from their companies.

I understand such Japanese companies' concerns about security in Afghanistan, but I also believe that it is possible to avoid danger just by not going out at night or not going to places where many people, especially Westerners, gather.

I would like to encourage companies and firms having skills for rebuilding Afghanistan to visit Kabul and see the situation of Afghanistan through their own eyes.



Map: HARIROD Construction Company currently operates in 10 sites across Afghanistan. Mr. Maki has been involved with them by subcontracting.

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

10/30-31
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL 2010
Tachikawa National Park Entrance

10/2-10/3
GLOBAL FESTA JAPAN 2010

10:00—17:00, Hibiya Park.
Free admission!

Global Festa Japan 2010 is a festival dedicated to improving public understanding and support for International Cooperation, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the activities of NGOs.

Booths are operated by many nations and organizations, teaching culture, providing goods from the nations, and selling foods. The Embassy of Afghanistan's booth is often one of the most popular!

Intern's Review

For this newsletter, the Embassy's interns will be bringing you a special feature for our culinary section. We will be reviewing an authentic Afghan restaurant in Tokyo.

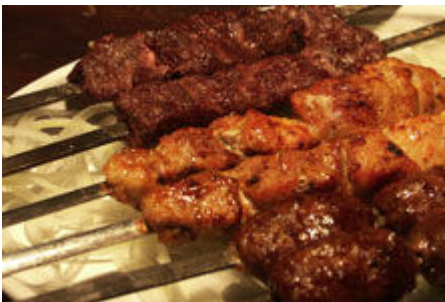
PAO Caravan Sarai



Outside of the restaurant, a man was cooking kebabs over an open grill. At first we nearly thought we had found a yakitori restaurant by accident, but as soon as we got inside we knew better. We walked into the restaurant, and immediately took off our shoes, as Afghans do, before going to our seats that had been reserved for us.

Underneath the low tables were more than a dozen Afghan carpets. We stretched out and observed the amazing room.

The walls are decorated with authentic objects from Afghanistan, including lanterns, rugs, and old cooking utensils and even dried herbs. The wooden beams on the wall added to the special ambiance that led to the illusion that we were dining in Kabul. It felt like we were in a completely new environment, yet we were all quite comfortable and relaxed.



There were many options on the menu, ranging from different regions of Afghanistan. The kebabs, for example, come in styles of both Kabul and Mazar-i-sharif. Because one of the chefs is Afghan, the food at PAO was highly authentic. The hot naan bread from the kitchen was covered in tiny little holes. The Karahii and were served in metal plates with traditional pot holders. Cilantro (commonly known as pakutchi) was used as an embellishment for many dishes.

We interns from the embassy had a great time together at PAO. So much so, in fact, that we hope to expand our relationship with the restaurant further, and hope you do too!

PAO Caravan Sarai is located 1 minute from Higashi-Nakano station on the Chuo-Sobu line. Reservations are recommended.

Address: 164-0003 東京都中野区東中野 2 - 25 - 6

Phone: 03-3366-1310, 03-5389-5573, 03-3361-0430, 03-3371-3750

Website: <http://www.paoco.jp/index.shtml>



Language & Culture

Language Lesson! Going to the Market

Of the many languages spoken in Afghanistan, Dari and Pashto are designated as Afghanistan's official languages. Let's learn how to go the market and bargain in a new language!

英語(English)	日本語 (Japanese)
パシユ トー語 (Pashto)	ダリー語 (Dari)

Excuse me, where is the closest market? <small>バクハナ ゴーラム ナズディアー マーケットウ チェルタ ダイ</small> Bakhana goram nazde market chearta day?	すみませんが、ここに近い市場はどこですか？ <small>ベバメチエイドゥ ナズディクリーン マールケットウ クジャストウ</small> Bebakshhed nazdiktareen market kujast ?
Where is a bathroom? <small>タシュ ノム チェルタデイ</small> Tash niab chertaday?	トイレはどこですか？ <small>タシュノム クジャストウ</small> Tashnab kujast ?
How much is this? <small>ダ バ ツウー ダイ</small> Da pa so day?	これはいくらですか？ <small>イン バ チヤンドウ アシュトウ</small> Iin ba chand ast ?
Can you give some discount? <small>カダイシー プネルフケー マラットウ ウクライ</small> Kadieshi pnarkhka morat wakari?	割引してもらえますか？ <small>カメ アルゾン コン</small> Kame arzan kon?
It is too expensive. <small>ダ デール グラン ダイ</small> Da deer garan day.	高すぎます。 <small>ビショール キイマットウ アストウ</small> Besiyar qeemat ast .
I am looking for <small>ゼバ エンテゾール カヤム</small> Zapa antzar kayem	私は〜を探しています。 <small>マン バ エンテゾーリ</small> Man ba entezare
I will buy it. <small>ズジョイアッドウ ドウウァハラン</small> Zashaed Dawakhlom.	買います。 <small>イン ラ ミーハラン</small> Iin ra meikharam.
I will not buy it. <small>ズダ ネ アハラン</small> Zada ne akhlam.	いいえ、結構です。 <small>イン ラ ナミハラン</small> Iin ra namekharam.

Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo
 2-2-1 Azabudai,
 Minato ward, Tokyo
 106-0041

Domestic

Tel: 03-5574-7611
 Fax: 03-5574-0195

Overseas

Tel: +81-3-5574-7611
 Fax: +81-3-5574-0195



Thank you for reading the July edition of our newsletter. Visit our frequently-updated website for even more news:
www.afghanembassyjp.org

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding this newsletter or the Embassy, please send an e-mail to the embassy's Public Affairs Officer, Jason Pratt:

pratt@afghanembassyjp.org