



July 2011

Embassy of Afghanistan: Tokyo, Japan



Afghan News

Select Health Indicators

(all facts from the Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010 (AMS) implemented by the Afghan Public Health Institute of the Ministry of Health with technical support from ICF-Macro-USA, the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) of Afghanistan, and funded by USAID, WHO/EMRO, UNICEF, and UNFPA)

The Maternal Mortality Ratio has decreased from 1,600 per every 100,000 live births in 2001 to 327 per every 100,000 live births in 2010.

The child mortality rate has decreased from 165 per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 66 per 1,000 live births in 2010.

The under-five mortality rate, which decreased from 257 per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 84 per 1,000 in 2010.

The national life expectancy has risen to about 64 years, an increase from a 2008 WHO estimation of 40 years for men and 44 years for women.

Inside this issue:

Latest News	Pg.1-4
Upcoming Events	Pg. 4
Recipe Corner	Pg. 5

Latest News



H.M. Emperor Akihito Sends Appreciation Message to H.E. President Karzai

On July 18th, His Majesty Emperor Akihito sent a letter to H.E. President Hamid Karzai expressing appreciation for H.E. the President and Afghanistan's support following the devastating earthquake and tsunami of March 11th.

Translated, His Majesty's message reads, "I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your sympathy and condolence message that you sent after March's calamity that inflicted heavy losses on our country. The rehabilitation of what we lost as a result will require the hard work of all Japanese people. In a visit with the Empress to the affected areas and the localities that the displaced people are living, we were reassured that with bravery, they are determined to make every effort for the rehabilitation of their lives. Your country's very noble cooperation provided assurance and encouragement to the suffering people."

(photo taken from H.E. President Karzai's previous visit to Japan)

Ambassador Fatimie attends breakfast hosted by H.E. Ambassador Yamamoto

Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie attended a breakfast hosted by H.E. Ambassador Tadamichi Yamamoto, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also in attendance were Mr. Tsukasa Uemura, Deputy Director General of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (J-MoFA); Mr. Yasuo Kitano of J-MoFA's Second Middle East Division; Madam Sadako Ogata, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Director General Masataka Nakahara of JICA's South Asia Department; Mr. Thomas Pickering and Mr. Jeffery Laurenti of the Century Foundation; and President Yoshiji Nogami of the Japan Institute of International Affairs.

The breakfast was organized in order to discuss the political process towards reconciliation. The members invited included those who have directly been involved with, or represent parties who have been involved with, Afghanistan's development and peace process, as well as intellectuals with perspectives and insights valuable to the topic.

Ambassador Fatimie offered sincerest gratitude to all of the participants for their roles in supporting Afghanistan and the Afghan people before enjoying a fruitful discussion.

Ambassador Fatimie visits Gifu Prefecture



Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie and Dr. Bashir Mohabbat, Deputy Head of Mission, visited Gifu Prefecture in order to attend July 9th's Afghan Photo Exhibition & Children's Charity event hosted by NPO ASCA.

Upon arriving in Gifu on July 8th, Ambassador Fatimie and Dr. Mohabbat made a courtesy call to Hon. Mayor Shigemitsu Hosoe of Gifu city. Also in attendance at the meeting were Hon. Assembly Member Mr. Matsuoka as well as the Director General of the Citizen Participation Department and the Director of International Division. Following the meeting with the Hon. Mayor, the Ambassador and Dr. Mohabbat met with Hon. Governor Hajime Furuta. Ambassador Fatimie and Dr. Mohabbat were received warmly in both meetings and the Ambassador took the opportunity to express sincerest condolences and utmost solidarity in the wake of the March 11th disasters, as well as to express deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Gifu for their support to Afghanistan.

That evening, Ambassador Fatimie and Dr. Mohabbat were invited to attend a

traditional Japanese tea ceremony by Grand Master Mrs. Mori.

On July 9th, Ambassador Fatimie and Dr. Mohabbat attended the opening of NPO ASCA's Afghan Photo Exhibition and Charity event in support of Afghan children, where the Ambassador delivered a speech, hailing the efforts. ASCA is the first NPO to be organized in Gifu in support of Afghanistan. The event was attended by President Yasuko Yanagihara of ASCA, Hon. Mayor Hosoe, Hon. Representative Seiko Noda, Hon. members of the Prefectural and City Assemblies, and a number of supporters.

Following the successful event, Ambassador Fatimie and Dr. Mohabbat had lunch with the Hon. Mayor, Hon. Representative Noda, and Hon. Mr. Matsuoka of the local assembly.

On the return to Tokyo, Ambassador Fatimie and Dr. Mohabbat visited Takayama City and the World Heritage Site of Shirakawa Village.

MOCIT to Issue License to 3G Communication



The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has announced that it will issue a license to provide 3G communication services, allowing large-scale internet services nationwide. Bidding for the license will be opened to all mobile phone license holders and service will likely begin in August.

Improvement of the communication sector in the country is one of most important successes of the Ministry in recent years. Since 2003, mobile subscribers have risen from zero to 17 million, with 80% of the population having access to mobile services.

Schools Opened Around the Nation, Further Increasing Educational Reach

The foundation stone for the new two-storey, 16-classroom Aseia-Abad girls'

high school of Sar-i-Pul province was laid by H.E. Ambassador Basat Ozturk of Turkey and its provincial governor. The school will be completed in one year with the assistance of the local Turkish Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and will accommodate 1,600 students. This is the 4th school constructed by the Turkish PRT in Sar-i-Pul.

Three new middle school buildings were inaugurated in the center of Ghazni province, accommodating 500, 250, and 120 students respectively. Assistance was provided by the World Bank and the U.S government.

A 28-classroom building for Malalai Girls School was inaugurated in Uruzgan province. The school is also equipped with a gymnasium, a conference hall, and a water reservoir.

New 8-classroom buildings for Bebe Miriam and Abdul Rahimzia primary schools in the Sholgara district of Balkh were also inaugurated. The buildings were constructed in one year with the assistance of the Swedish Committee. 1000 students study at Bebe Miriam and 500 students at Abdul Rahimzai primary school.

A new building will be constructed for Khost Medical University with the assistance of the United Nations and the United States.

Development Projects Completed, Started Nationwide

59 two-month utility projects in have been started in Samangan province with the assistance of USAID. 42 of the projects will be in the Khoram Sarbagh district and 17 projects in the Ferooz Nakhcher district. The projects consist of the construction of 14 schools, 5 agricultural water canals, and 11 women's production projects, including creating tailoring, carpet knitting, and embroidery shops. Through these projects, work opportunities will be provided for 1,900 local women.

(Continued on page 3)



Construction work was completed on a 30-meter bridge in the Koh-i-Safi district of Parwan province with the assistance of the American forces.

Construction began in Kabul on Shaherara recreational park and Karte Ariana Park as part of Mayor Engineer Mohammad Yonus Nawandish's greenery campaign.

Khost province will receive several roads and bridges in the near future to increased connectivity with the rest of the nation.

In Jowzjan province, a new water project has been completed. Approximately 44,000 families living in 178 villages will benefit from the project, which provides eight districts with potable water.

Hundreds to get Electricity in Bamiyan province

A project will be implemented by the Agha Khan Development Network in Bamiyan province to install two generators that will produce 1200 kilowatts of electricity, providing electricity to 750 homes and 500 businesses. The project will be completed by the end of this year with the assistance of the Norwegian government and the private company Kabul Group.

Women Affairs Department of Kandahar Increases Support Reach

The Women Affairs Department of Kandahar province has expanded its support to the Dand district. In its early efforts, it provided 50 women in need with various types of support including provisions of ghee oil, flour, rice and salt.

The Women Affairs Council, now established there, will consider how to further support women in the district.

11,000 Families to Get Safer Water

The Ministry of Urban Development recently signed an agreement based on which water supply networks would be developed in parts of Kabul city in the next two years. The project will increase the number of those with safe drinking water by 20%. More than 11,000 families in Khushhal Khan, Third Parwan, Rahman Mina and Deh Naw will have access to safe drinking water after the end of the project. Germany will help fund the project.

Jalalabad To Extend According To Master-Plan

In order to address the needs of the growing population of Jalalabad, plans are underway to construct a new Jalalabad city.

In a meeting earlier this month between H.E. Dr. Sultan Hosian Hesari, acting Minister of City Construction; H.E. Mr. Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Minister of Irrigation and Agriculture; Hon. Mr. Gul Aqa Shirzou, Governor of Nangarhar; and Engineer Mohammad Yosof Pashtoon advisor to the president of Constructional and Technical Affairs, Mines and Energy, the details over the layout of the new city were discussed.

Exports of Industrial Products from Herat Increase

Exports of Herati industrial products have increased 10% within the last year. The main importers of Herati industrial products over the last year have been Belgium,

China, India, Iran, Italy, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and the UAE.

Private Sector Development to be Boosted through Afghanistan New Market Development Project



On July 3rd, the Afghanistan New Market Development Project was signed into existence. The pilot stage of the program will help enterprises in the economic centers of Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, and Herat to gain market knowledge, improve the quality of their products, boost their productive capacity, acquire new technologies, and develop and implement business plans to increase their presence in both the domestic and export markets.

Initially, the project will support approximately 750 enterprises (300 firms in Kabul, 150 firms in Jalalabad, 150 firms in Mazar-e-Sharif and 150 firms in Herat) as well as 10 business associations through a cost sharing facility to access business development services. The project is expected to create around 1,500 jobs in the short term with much higher job growth expected over the long run.

The project will be supported by a US\$22 million grant from the World Bank.

150m Revenue Expected from Mines, Railroad Network in Works to Support Mining

Work has been steadily proceeding to capitalize on the estimated US\$3 trillion in untapped domestic mineral resources. The World Bank and the Ministry of Finance have signed a grant agreement worth \$52 million to support the development of the Afghan mining sector which would support the Afghan Ministry of Mines in setting up transparent procedures regarding the call for bids of international investors.

According to H.E. Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani, Minister of Mines, the government can expect to receive US\$150 million in income from mine extraction during the current year and the revenue could reach US\$1.5 billion in the next five years and US\$3.5 billion over the next 15 years.

A planned 70% of this revenue would be spent on infrastructure development projects, creating hundreds of new jobs and contributing to economic development.

In order to facilitate interested parties' investment in untapped mineral resources, arrangements have been progressing toward a planned vast rail network.

A national railway authority will be made in order to oversee the construction of a national railway. Recently, at the May 24th G-8 forum, participants committed to provide more than \$70 billion towards the project.

SAARC Meeting in Afghanistan

The Fifth Meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children was held in Kabul July 16-17, hosted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

In her opening speech, Minister of Women's Affairs H.E. Dr. Hassan Banu Ghazanfar, emphasized the importance of SAARC in bringing together the different South Asian nations, and discussed the great strides of women in Afghanistan in recent years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4—16

Exhibition of Photographs of Afghanistan by Yoshiaki Nagashima Yakushiji Temple, Nara

An exhibition of Osaka-based photographer Yoshiaki Nagashima's photographs of Afghanistan during his trip in 1977 will be displayed at Yakushiji Temple.

Mr. Nagashima is currently in Afghanistan again now photographing a follow-up series to hopefully be displayed together, comparing 1977 to 2011.

September 13, 14, 15
ROOMS 23

Spring & Summer Fashion Exhibition Yoyogi National Stadium 1st Gymnasium

The Embassy will work with young Afghan fashion designer Zolaykha Sherzad to display Afghan fashion, traditional, historical, and modern. The Embassy is supported by leading Japanese designer Junko Koshion and Yoriyuki Suzuki, professor of fashion business at Meiji Daigaku and will be the center display.

The event brings together 300-400 brands.

Buyers and media interested in attending are kindly asked to register on Rooms' homepage at www.roomsroom.com

(image below: design conception for the Afghan display at Rooms 23)

November 5, 6

International Friendship Festival: SEKAI FUREAI MATSURI Green Culture Zone, Showa Memorial Park, Tachikawa, Tokyo



The Embassy will once again open a booth at Tachikawa's International Friendship Festival.

The Festival hosts a number of diverse booths from local foods to handicrafts, to sporting teams, and more. The Afghan Embassy booth will sell Afghan handicrafts, jewelry, and other items, and will provide activities such as name writing in Dari language.



* * Abdul Rauf Lugali's kitchen * *

The Embassy chef, who is nicknamed "Baba-jan" (or uncle) will offer an Afghan recipe from his kitchen to yours each month. This month we feature Afghan Cauliflower Curry.



Ingredients (serves 4 people)

- 3 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 medium onions, pureed in a food processor or finely chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, pureed in a food processor or finely chopped
- 1 tbsp. fresh ginger, minced (optional)
- 1 tsp. ground curry
- 1 tsp. ground coriander
- 1 tsp. ground turmeric
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ cup tomato sauce
- ½ cup vegetable or chicken broth
- ½ tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 head cauliflower, washed, stem removed, cut into large pieces

Preparation

1. Heat the olive oil over medium-high heat in a large, heavy-bottom pot. Add the onions and brown for about 10 minutes until golden brown. Add the garlic and ginger, cook for an additional 2 minutes. Add all the remaining ingredients except the cauliflower. Stir well and simmer for about 8 minutes until the liquid reduces and you have a thick, oniony sauce.
2. Add the cauliflower and stir until the sauce covers all the pieces of the cauliflower. If you feel you don't have enough sauce to coat the cauliflower, add another ¼ cup of broth.
3. Put the lid on the pot, cook on low for 20 to 30 minutes until the gulpea can be easily pierced by a fork, stirring every 5 minutes. Remove the lid and cook uncovered for another 5 minutes to allow the sauce to reduce. The cooking time will vary but you want the result to be fork-tender, but not mushy.
4. Serve with nan, pita bread, or challaw rice, the Afghan white rice. A dollop of plain yogurt goes well.

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