



July 2012



Afghan News

Tokyo Conference Special Edition

Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan successfully held

Highlighted Achievements of the Tokyo Conference

US\$16 billion— total pledges in support of Afghanistan’s next years of development, transition, transformation, and peace.

80% - amount of this support to be dedicated towards Afghanistan’s National Priority Programs.

50% - amount to be directly channeled through the Afghan government.



On July 8, representatives of roughly 80 nations and international organizations came together to participate in the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan.

In His opening remarks, H.E. President Karzai expressed His deepest gratitude for the solidarity of the International Community in the shared holy mission of supporting Afghanistan, and once again showing its resolve to stand together against terrorism and for peace and stability. These sentiments of cooperative resolve were further evident in the results of H.E. the President’s numerous key bilateral meetings on the sidelines.

H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Mr. Omar Zakhilwal, Minister of Finance, brought focus on the

facilitation of Afghanistan’s success in the years from 2012 to 2014, known as the “Transition Period,” and from 2015 to 2024, the “Transformational Decade.” These important periods will be largely defined by building upon previous achievements to strengthen the Afghan government, its ability to create revenue sources, and to complete the Afghanization of security. Nations pledged over US\$16 billion in support over 4 years, with Japan alone pledging US\$3 billion over 5 years. Those involved on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan pledged to make the investment of international partners successful, worthwhile, and a resulting symbol of worldwide resolve and power to reach peace and the betterment of lives.

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H.E. President Karzai meets with H.M. the Emperor

H.E. President Hamid Karzai was warmly received by H.M. the Emperor of Japan on July 10 at the Imperial Palace. Having had a long and friendly relationship with Afghanistan, including a visit to the nation in 1971, His Majesty has received H.E. President Karzai on multiple visits to Japan.

In this latest of meetings, both sides exchanged views on the positive outcomes of the Tokyo Conference for the people of Afghanistan, with H.M. the Emperor offering congratulations. The ties between the two countries were further shown to be deep as H.M. the Emperor expressed gratitude for the assistance of the people of Afghanistan after the tragic disasters of March 11, 2011.

H.E. President Karzai reciprocated the kind sentiment, also expressing sincerest appreciation to Japan and His Majesty for the hospitality and hosting of the conference. H.E. the President concluded by reiterating that the people of Afghanistan attach the utmost value to the friendship with the Japanese people.

(photo courtesy of Bakhtar)

H.E. President Karzai calls upon H.E. Prime Minister Noda, Honorable Japanese Government officials

H.E. President Hamid Karzai on July 9 was hospitably received by the extremely welcoming H.E. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda. In this meeting, the strong bond and historically warm friendship of the two nations was reaffirmed. H.E. President Karzai offered sincerest appreciation for the support that had been offered directly by Japan over the years as well as at the previous day's conference, and also for the facilitating role that Japan played in gathering the world's support.

During his stay in Japan, H.E. the President was also able to call upon members of the Afghan-Japanese Parliamentary Friendship League. The group which serves as a linkage between lawmakers of the two nations

expressed their interest in continuing to expand its scope and further strengthen the already solid relations between the two countries. H.E. the President encouraged this positive mindset.

Additional parties whom H.E. President Karzai had the pleasure of meeting include Madame Sadako Ogata, former JICA president and now advisor to JICA's new president as well as the Japanese Government in general, and Afghan students studying in Japan.

H.E. President Karzai engages the Japanese public

H.E. President Hamid Karzai, despite His busy schedule, found time in Japan to partake in an area which He places in high priority: engaging local publics. In the morning of July 9, H.E. was extended the opportunity to speak to an inclusive representation of Japanese media at the Japan National Press Club. In His opening comments, H.E. the President reiterated the success of the Tokyo Conference, and spoke on the important role that Japan has played in strengthening Afghanistan's democratic government since the beginning. The speech can be viewed on the JNPC's Youtube site http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=G1eEjUdC2QM

In the afternoon of the same day, H.E. President Karzai received an





with Japan.

H.E. the Foreign Minister cordially in turn expressed appreciation for the logistical support done regarding the conference and parallel events.

Embassy Hosts Heart of Asia Meeting

A meeting of nations involved in the Heart of Asia initiative was organized at the Embassy. The “Heart of Asia” is a regional grouping of nations that are working together to create a framework for addressing shared threats and capitalizing on shared opportunities.

Co-chaired by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, represented by H.E. D.M. Ludin, the Republic of Turkey, and the United Nations, assembled attendees discussed a number of issues, but in particular cooperative disaster relief.

Pictures are viewable on the top of page 4.

UPCOMING SIGNIFICANT DATES

August 19: Afghan National Day
Look for Ambassador Fatimie’s article to be published in the Japan Times on this occasion.

overwhelmingly warm welcome at Japan Sports Science University from the faculty, chief among them Chairman of the Board Kenshiro Matsunami, students, and assembled guests. After having the honor of being bestowed an honorary doctorate degree, H.E. President Karzai spoke about Afghanistan’s accomplishments, focusing largely those in the realm of sports. Furthermore, the President stated that “there is so much that Afghanistan can learn, should learn from Japan,” mentioning that not only are the Afghan students in Japan daily absorbing valuable lessons in technical skills, language and culture, and manners, H.E. President Karzai himself has taken inspiration as well. This was followed by a tree planting ceremony. Once again, the hospitality extended by Chairman Matsunami and the school cannot be praised enough, as the school made great efforts in such ways as displaying Afghan flags around the school, preparing Afghan touches in staffs’ wardrobes, and organizing a live rendition of the Afghan national anthem by a Japanese opera singer; the Chairman himself gave his remarks in Dari, one of the national languages of Afghanistan.

Ambassador Fatimie, staff welcome to the Embassy H.E. Foreign Minister Rassoul

Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie and staff welcomed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tokyo H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on July 9. Dr. Rassoul was in Tokyo as a key figure in the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan.

Ambassador Fatimie offered sincerest congratulations to H.E. Dr. Rassoul on the successful and inspiring outcome of the conference. Furthermore, Ambassador Fatimie expressed the Embassy’s conviction to remain active agents of positive relations





- Tokyo Conference Photo Gallery -



Top left: H.E. President Hamid Karzai speaks. To His right is H.E. Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul, and next to Him H.E. Finance Minister Omar Zakhilwal. In back H.E. Deputy Minister Jawed Ludin, Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie and Dr. Bashir Mohabbat, Deputy Head of Mission, are also visible.

Top right: Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Foreign Minister of Japan, cheers the successful conclusion of the Conference. In the background, Ambassador Fatimie and Mr. Basir Hamdard of the Embassy join in cheering.

Bottom left: Next to H.E. Foreign Minister Rassoul, H.E. Foreign Minister Gemba speaks. In the background, Dr. Mohabbat and Ms. Parwana Paikan of the Embassy are visible.

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