



May
2014

Newsletter

Mass Media and Communication Technology Statistics

50% of all Afghans (or an estimated around 15 million people) are said to have access to television .

According to H.E. Minister of Communications and Information Technology Sangin, 90% of Afghans have access to communication services.

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Latest News



H.E. President Karzai Opens 2nd Round of Anti-Polio Campaign Held

H.E. President Hamid Karzai officially opened the 2nd round of the Spring Polio Vaccination Campaign on May 4th. A ceremony was held on this occasion at the presidential palace with the participation of H.E. Minister of Public Health Dr. Suraya Dalil and WHO chairman to Afghanistan Arshid Qudoos. The 3-day effort aimed to vaccinate 8.9 million children under the age of five and provide vitamin A to 8 million children aged 6 months to five years.

Afghanistan was held. The meeting was hosted by Japan and co-chaired by Afghanistan, Germany, and Japan. Officials from 61 countries and international organizations joined. The assembled pledged to continue support for Afghanistan.

From Afghanistan, such dignitaries participated as H.E. Mr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, Minister of Finance; H.E. Mr. Ershad Ahmadi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ms. Sima Samar, Chairperson of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission; and Mr. Nadery Ahmadi Nadery, Chairman of Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan. Ambassador Dr. Sayed M.

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ICG Meeting on Afghanistan held in Tokyo

On May 15th in Tokyo, a meeting of the International Contact Group (ICG) on



There were in addition a great number of dignified representatives from other nations and international organizations also present, prominently including H.E. co-chair Dr. Michael Koch and H.E. Ambassador James Dobbins, U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan.



Amin Fatimie as well as diplomats from the Embassy in Tokyo were also present. From Japan, H.E. Parliamentary Senior Vice Foreign Minister Nobuo Kishi; H.E. Mr. Tsukasa Uemura, who serves as

Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau; and other key figures participated.

Reception held to mark success of ICG meeting

On May 15th Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie hosted a reception at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to mark the suc-

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Message from the Ambassador

Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie



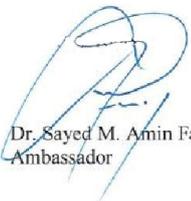
Dear friends,

As each month passes, I am consistently heartened by the warm friendship between our nations and peoples. This month we saw further evidence of this.

Early in the month, the region of Badakhshan suffered from heavy rainfall and subsequent mudslides. Sadly, many lost their lives and many more suffered in related ways. Japan was among the noble nations that quickly responded, providing aid to those in need. When NHK recently interviewed our diplomat, Mr. Yasir Mohammad Karimi, on the cooperation extended by Afghans, including our Embassy officials, following the March 11, 2011 disasters, the reporter was very gracious. Our mutual dedication to support one another has become engrained due to this close friendship.

More evidence of this can be observed through Japan's hosting of May 15th's International Contact Group (ICG) on Afghanistan. Japan was greatly influential in helping to assemble over 60 nations and international organizations. The meeting helped to reaffirm global unity in working towards even greater peace and development in the world – which will bring great developments far beyond our borders.

I am sincerely grateful for the efforts of this wonderful nation, Japan, and to its great citizens for being sincere friends and partners. I am sure that we will see this reflected throughout the coming months as well.


Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie
Ambassador



successful holding of the ICG meeting. The reception was attended by participants of the meeting as well as other related parties, including Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of missions to Japan

Opening remarks were made by Ambassador Dr. Fatimie. Remarks were also made by H.E. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Takao Makino (pictured above), H.E. Minister of Finance Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal (pictured right), and H.E. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ershad Ahmadi (also pictured right). All parties hailed the success of the meeting earlier that day and called for continued international cooperation towards a more peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, thus bringing greater benefit for the world. Attendees of the reception were treated to an Afghan dinner.

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie attends meeting between H.E. Minister Zakhilwal and H.E. Deputy Prime



Minister Aso

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie and Mrs. Orya Afzali Farima on May 14th attended a meeting between H.E. Minister of Finance Dr. Zakhilwal and H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister and



Minister of Finance for Japan, Mr. Taro Aso. They discussed areas of interest in a friendly manner. Mr. Aso was also thanked, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, for Japan's unwavering support to Afghanistan's peace and development.

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie attends meeting of H.E. Deputy Minister Ahmadi, H.E. Senior Parliamentary Vice-



Minister Kishi

On May 14th, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie joined a meeting between H.E. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmadi and H.E. Senior Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi of Japan. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for discussion on the following day's ICG meeting, as well as other areas of mutual interest.

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie visits Kagoshima, meets with Hon. Gov. Ito, Hon. Mayor Mori



On May 27th and 28th, as part of his initiative to further strengthen relations between Afghanistan and the local governments and populations of Japan, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie visited the beautiful and important prefecture of Kagoshima and its capital city. The Ambassador was impressed by the sights, as well as by the kindness and hospitality of the officials and the local citizens.

On the 28th, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie had the great pleasure of being received most hospitably by Hon. Governor Yuichiro Ito (pictured above) at his esteemed office. Following this, the Ambassador was then kindly afforded a warm welcome by Hon. Mayor Hiroyuki Mori (pictured next page).

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To both of these noble leaders, he expressed sincerest gratitude for the life-bettering partnership that Japan and its dignified citizens have extended to Afghan peace and development. Within this, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie stated that the kind efforts of the people of Kagoshima and their representatives are meaningful and appreciated. He further expressed his wish to see that the friendly relations between Afghanistan and Kagoshima be strengthened even more and diversified more.



Over 100 Youth Graduated from Breshna Vocational Center

More than 100 students graduated this month from Kabul Breshna vocational center. The students studied computers and information technology, electrical engineering, and plumbing, among other subjects.

Infrastructure continues to develop, linking Afghanistan and the world

Ariana Afghan Airlines, Afghanistan's national carrier, reported a 16% increase in revenues in the first four months of the year. Ariana Airlines currently provides domestic services and international services to

7 destinations abroad.

In related news, Flydubai announced plans operate direct flights between Kandahar and Dubai, transporting both passengers and cargo, starting in late July. In the beginning, the carrier will operate 2 flights weekly on the route, increasing gradually.

1st national satellite inaugurated

Afghanistan's first satellite has begun operations. It will provide support for communication networks, including telephone and internet service, television, and radio. The start of operations were inaugurated early this month by H.E. First Vice President Younus Qanuni. H.E. Minister for Communications and Information Technology Amirzai Sangin said he expects the satellite to also contribute positively towards the economy, good governance, and various social issues.

New mining law approved

A new law on mines was approved by the Lower House. It specifies that some revenues from mining will be put towards development in areas where mines are located.

Work underway on three greenhouses in Kabul

Foundation stones of three large greenhouses were laid in Shakar Dara, Kabul recently. H.E. Minister of Agricultural Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Hon. Governor of Kabul

Abdul Jabar Taqwa, members of parliament, and the head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries attended the ceremony. The greenhouses are to be completed within 2 years. 8 more will then be built in Balkh, Kunduz, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Herat.

Potable water projects begin in Badakhshan

On May 10th, construction began in Faizabad, Badakhshan with the support of Germany on several potable water reservoirs. More than 10,000 families will benefit after the completion two years later.

Female cyclists preparing for international competition

Four women from the Afghan National Cycling Federation are preparing to compete in the Asian Cycling Championships in Kazakhstan May 21st to June 1st. They are currently perfecting riding technique on the streets of an area just west of Kabul under the guidance of coach Abdul Sadiq.

Afghanistan wins ACC Premier League title

The Afghanistan national cricket team won the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Premier League title, which was held in Malaysia. In winning the title, the Afghan side defeated the United Arab Emirates by 70 runs and, in the final game, Nepal by 108 runs. In the tournament the team also beat Oman and lost to Malaysia. This has now qualified them to participate later this year in the Asian Cricket Council Championship.