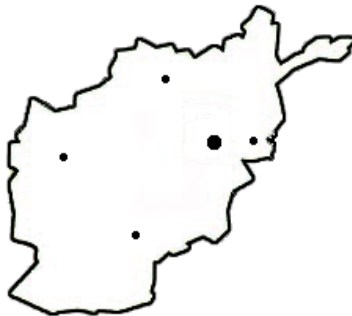


Ziik-Report Nr. 12

Activities in Afghanistan

December 2001 - February 2009

Nazir Peroz



Introduction

Since 2002, the Center for international and intercultural Communication (ZiiK) at the Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin), financially supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), is committed to rebuilding and reconstructing academic structures in the area of Information Technology (IT) in Afghanistan. The objectives are:

- To establish sustainable and secure IT supply systems for Afghan institutions of higher education,
- To support computer sciences in teaching and research,
- To provide IT as means of work in the area of science at Afghan universities, and
- To modernise the administration in the area of higher education

Since then, the ZiiK team has put its heart and soul in this work, dedicated to achieve the envisioned goals. We want to show that one can achieve great success, applicable solutions and sustainable structures for education, infrastructure and management, if backed by a consistent and well thought-out concept.

During my first visit to Afghanistan, together with a delegation of the DAAD in March 2002, the curiosity and eagerness for progress among all Afghan students deeply impressed me, as well did the thoughts of innovation among the lecturers; both strengthening my wish and will to support the country by providing my technical expertise and supporting the opportunities for communication.

As prominent and first achievement, we established a modern IT Center at Kabul University (ITCK). In addition, we opened a specialised library for computer sciences and equipped all 14 faculties at Kabul University with IT networks. Until now, more than 2000 university members have been trained and educated at the ITCK.

An IT Department was founded at the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), where a national IT strategy for higher education was then drafted. Furthermore, the German Departments of both Kabul University and Herat University were equipped with PC Labs. As one great project and success, the establishment of a Computer Science Faculty at Herat University was supported and advised with technical expertise. A demand-oriented curriculum was developed for the students, and the faculty was supplied with sufficient modern hardware and a PC Lab. Due to the lack of qualified lecturers, team members of the ZiiK support the teaching on site.

Also funded by the DAAD, many winter and summer academies took place at the TU Berlin, to which students, lecturers and other university members have been invited for intensive training courses; they are taught and equipped with all necessary skills to work as network administrators and hence to become multipliers at their home university.

Many conferences and workshops have been organised as well, during which the situation of IT has been discussed with international representatives and partners, the necessity of further support and future action plans have been decided upon, new ideas gathered and their implementation considered.

This success would not have been possible without the ZiiK team, the leadership of the TU Berlin, and especially Prof. Dr. Bernd Mahr. In addition, there is tremendous help by the DAAD and the German Embassy in Kabul, who have always supported the ZiiK team on site. The MoHE as well has always been very supportive.

In the following sections, all hitherto existing projects, all workshops, conferences and symposia that took place as well as all concepts drafted and implemented shall be presented, and all visitors to the TU Berlin introduced.

Projects

Since March 2002, the Ziik, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), is conducting several IT projects to support and develop academic structures in Afghanistan. Funded by the World Bank, the Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin) and Herat University signed a partnership contract in 2007. Within the frame of this contract, a functional IT concept for teaching and administration is being implemented at Herat University as well as at Kabul University, Kabul Polytechnicum, Balkh University, Kandahar University and Nangahar University.

The objective of all these projects is to establish and implement a sustainable and secure IT supply system for all Afghan institutions of higher education in the areas of teaching, research and administration. In addition to an applicable realisation and implementation of all IT systems, the TU Berlin also supports the development of a national IT strategy that covers planning steps, acquisitions, implementation, operation, administration and help services, education as well as coordination.

All these projects will be shortly described in chronological order in the next section. Some of the projects are still running.

Development of an Internet Portal for Afghan Experts

Period: March - May 2002

Content:

The DAAD aimed to support all Afghan lecturers at institutions of higher education, who have been abroad during the years of war and who were committed to supporting the reconstruction of the academic landscape in Afghanistan, by means of an Internet portal. Related information was to be displayed, and in addition a database containing interested and participating people was to be realised and maintained.

In summer term 2002, within the frame of the teaching course “Computer Sciences and Developing Countries“ at the TU Berlin, students developed and implemented this Internet platform, supporting the DAAD in appointing short-term or long-term lecturers in Afghanistan.

Project donor: DAAD

Summer and Winter Academies

Period: September 2002 - January 2009

Content:

During all summer and winter academies in Germany, students, lecturers from Afghan universities and MoHE affiliates are given the opportunity to learn and examine the development of modern technology, as well as to experience and look into the cultural environment of Germany. Until now, these intensified training courses took place at the TU Berlin every year.

Project donor: DAAD

Summer and Winter Academies



Establishing an IT Center at Kabul University (ITCK)

Period: December 2002 - March 2003

Content:

In only four months time, an IT Center was build on site at Kabul University, with support of the THW (German Federal Agency Technisches Hilfswerk). Premises already existing could be used, which nevertheless had to be renovated, equipped and furnished: power cables and network cables were laid out, desks and chairs arranged. In addition, some rebuilding measures were necessary to account for the security.

In March 2003, Kabul University was given a modern IT Center (ITCK) with up-to-date PC working places, Internet access, language labs, seminar rooms and a special women's room.

Project donor: DAAD



January 2nd, 2003



February 5th, 2003



March 14th, 2003

Official Opening of the ITCK

Period: March 2003

Content:

With a total of 55 PC workstations, an area-wide interconnection of all clients within a computer network, a professional and high-capacity server equipment as well as broad range of standardised software applications, and an overall and coherent pedagogical education the ITCK is well equipped with modern technology since March 26th, 2003. As of this date, Kabul University and all members were able to communicate with the international (scientific) community. The ITCK is well equipped for all demands of newly established curricula and educational programmes. In his greeting notes, Prof. Mahr has pointed out the importance of the ITCK as a central IT service unit of the university.

Project donor: DAAD





Education and Training at the ITCK

Period: May 2003 - February 2009

Content:

In the beginning, the ZiiK team from TU Berlin conducted education and training for all university members (students, lecturers, employees), and managed the administration of the ITCK. At first, team members were on site for two months each and trained Afghan administrators; additional intensive courses at the TU Berlin were offered as well. Since 2006, Afghan lecturers and students have taken over the whole teaching and administration. So until now, more than 2000 university members have been trained. Currently the main focus is on educating IT experts for the faculties of Kabul University, who will serve as multipliers and take their acquired IT skills back to their respective faculties. This is a core prerequisite to interconnect all faculties and plan a comprehensive network for the whole university campus.

Since 2006, the TU Berlin is supporting the Afghan colleagues online and on site, the project will be supported further on.

Project donor: DAAD





Creating and Maintaining Web Sites

for the Afghan Embassy in Berlin, the Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul and 9 universities in Afghanistan

Period: September 2004

Content:

Without financial funding, all web sites were developed by students within the frame of a project course “Computer Sciences and Developing Countries“ at the TU Berlin in winter term 2003/ 2004. After that, one person from the Afghan Embassy in Berlin was trained for four months in editing and maintaining the web site.

<http://www.afghanische-botschaft.de>



In September 2004, four persons (from the MoHE, Kabul University, Kabul Polytechnicum and Herat University) were invited to the TU Berlin, with funding from the DAAD, to be trained in developing and maintaining these web sites during three weeks of intensive teaching.

<http://www.mohe.gov.af>

Project donor: DAAD

Establishing a Computer Science Faculty at Herat University

Period: November 2004 - December 2006

Content:

At the request of the Ministry of Higher Education and the president of Herat University, the TU Berlin has been conducting the teaching and education of more than 200 students of computer sciences at Herat University.

In November 2004, the TU Berlin has sent three team members to Herat, to conduct the teaching there. In summer term 2005, seven team members were on site. In addition to the education in computer sciences, they also set up a PC Lab with more than 40 workstations, and they developed and established network solutions for the faculty.

Project donor: DAAD

Computer Science Faculty at Herat University





Establishing the IT Department at the Ministry of Higher Education

Period: November 2004 - February 2009

Content:

To coordinate a consistent IT structure in the area of higher education in Afghanistan, for all universities, the MoHE was in need of a specialised department bearing the necessary competence in the area of IT. Hence, an IT Department was founded at the MoHE in November 2004. The main task is to advise and support all Afghan universities in IT equipment and procurements for the IT infrastructure, to define curricula for different target groups, to modernise the universities' administration and to coordinate all IT projects conducted and funded by international project organisations.

Since being appointed, the IT Department has organised several conferences and workshops in Kabul.

Project donor: DAAD





Establishing a PC Lab for the German Department at Kabul University



Period: November 2004 - February 2009

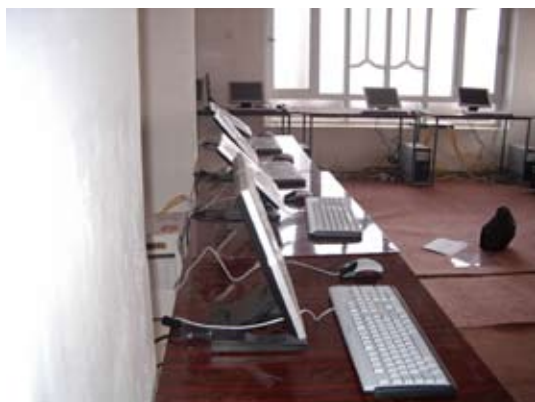
Content:

At the request of the German Department at Kabul University, a PC Lab was opened and Internet access provided. Specialised software to learn the German language was procured and is offered. The concept for the PC Lab was developed by members

of the ZiiK at the TU Berlin, and the realisation was supported by Afghan team members from the ITCK.

Project donor: DAAD

Establishing a PC Lab for the German Department at Herat University



Period: November 2005 - February 2009

Content:

At the request of the German Department at Kabul University, a PC Lab was opened and Internet access provided. Specialised software to learn the German language was procured and is offered. The concept for the PC

Lab was developed by members of the ZiiK at the TU Berlin, and the realisation was supported by the Computer Science Faculty at Herat University.

Project donor: DAAD

Building Specialised Libraries for Computer Sciences at Kabul University and Herat University

Period: September 2004 - February 2005

Content:

Until then, there were no specialised libraries for computer sciences anywhere in Afghanistan. Hence, international standard books in this area were purchased, and premises were furnished with appropriate shelves and tables. All books were indexed with the help of Afghan students, and a lending system was introduced.

Project donor: DAAD



Kabul University

Herat University



Establishing a PC Workshop at Kabul University

Period: September 2007 - February 2009

Content:

At all universities, old hardware and PCs are piling up, equipment that is either outdated or not working any more. Hence this project aims to educate and train Afghan personnel to repair these PCs, to equip old computer with new components and to restore them for further usage. As a side effect, all old hardware and computers can be recycled environmental-friendly, re-usable components will be removed for future usage; and the personnel will gain further insight in all components of computer technology as well as their range of functions.

Project donor: DAAD



old equipment



Education of all IT Advisors at Afghan Universities

Period: January 5th, 2007 - February 26th, 2007

Content:

In timely connection to all IT conferences in Afghanistan, educational programmes for all the MoHE affiliates and IT advisors at Afghan universities are taking place. Special IT needs and demands came into notice, hence, specialised further training programmes are offered. Intensive training for IT advisors at Afghan universities and MoHE affiliates are taking place.

Project donor: DAAD





Establishing IT Structures at Herat University integrating lecturers from five additional universities

Period: November 2007 - July 2010

Content: This project is divided in three sub-projects:

a) Bachelor study course at Herat University:

Lecturers from the TU Berlin have conducted the education of about 250 students at Herat University for two years. Preliminary, a curriculum following international standards was developed.

b) Master study course in computer sciences at the TU Berlin:

Several applicants from six different Afghan universities were selected, and first trained and tested in a preliminary course in Kabul by team members of the TU Berlin. From these 40 applicants, 25 were selected who then entered the first phase of their education at the TU Berlin. There are 10 participants from Kabul University, 2 participants from Kabul Polytechnicum, 6 participants from Herat University, 3 participants from Nangahar University, 2 participants from Kandahar University and 2 participants from Balkh University. The project schedules education at the TU Berlin for 2 semesters, after which all participants will return to their home university and will be integrated in the teaching and education there, and they will start preparing their master thesis. The fourth and last semester will take place at the TU Berlin again, where all participants will write their master thesis and will eliminate all possible knowledge deficits that might have been showing up during their third semester in Afghanistan.

c) Establishment of an IT Center at Herat University (ITCH):

With the help of an IT center, the core IT unit at Herat University will be established, which will then later interconnect the whole university. All hardware equipment was configured and installed at the TU Berlin. In total, this IT center will provide 70 PC workstations.

Project donor: World Bank

a) Bachelor education



c) Master education





b) IT Center (ITCH)



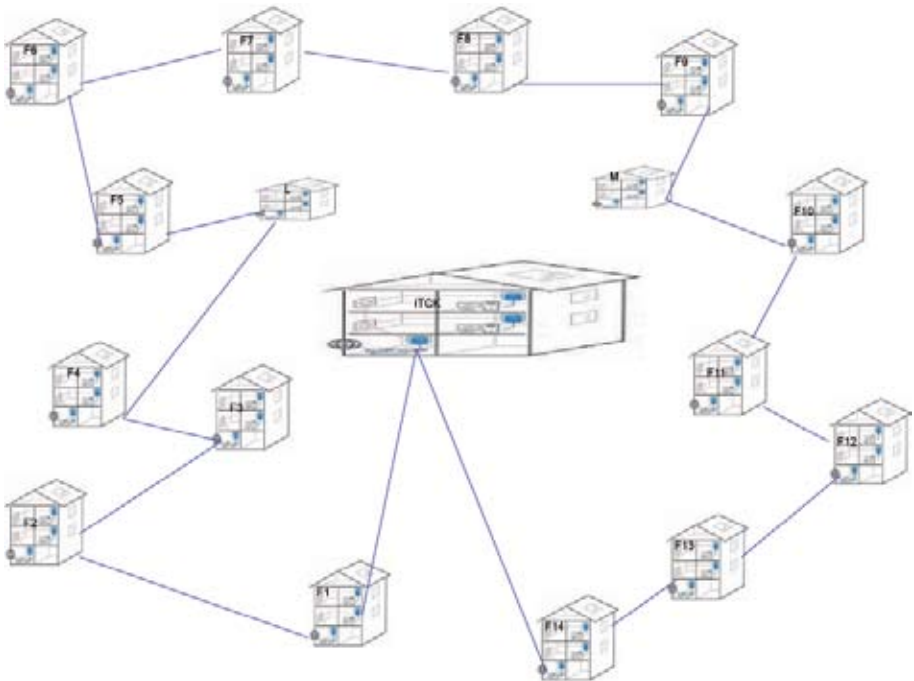
Interconnecting the Faculties at Kabul University

Period: March 2008 - February 1009

Content:

After the cabling of the whole campus at Kabul University with fibre optic cables, which was done by the NATO, the network for all faculties and their access to the campus network and the ITCK network was planned and released. For a well-regulated operation throughout the whole university, a continuously interconnection of all premises and faculties in a timely manner was essential. Following the request of the president of Kabul University, this project was initialised. Two faculties were already connected to the university network; the other 12 faculties were connected subsequently, Each faculty was first connected internally by an authorised company and then connected to the campus network.

Project donor: DAAD



Establishing an IT Training Center at the Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan

Period: November 2008 - February 2009

Content:

Since 2004, the IT Department at the MoHE is supported by the ZiiK team. Since then, several IT training courses were offered for all IT representatives of all Afghan universities. Until now, all training courses took place at the ITCK. As of 2009, the MoHE is planning to establish its own IT Training Center, to offer specially designed educational programmes both for their own employees as well as all administrative staff at Afghan universities. The MoHE aims at modernising the administrative structures and management in the academic field. In premises sized 60 square metres, the training center is currently under construction. In addition, after interconnecting all Afghan universities, the possibility of conducting video conferences will be offered by this IT training center.

Project donor: DAAD



Workshops, Conferences, Symposia

The importance and impact of applying information technology in the area of higher education in Afghanistan was issued and discussed in the frame of various workshops, symposia and conferences both in Germany and Afghanistan. To all these events, representatives of the Afghan government, ministers, presidents of Afghan institutions of higher education, representatives of donor countries, ambassadors, representatives of donor organisations such as the World Bank, UNESCO, USAid, many foundations and other international and national representatives have been invited. All events thus offer the opportunity to talk about and discuss specific topics in the area of information technology and exchange information on a personal basis. So in addition, they introduce and strengthen the cooperative climate between all representatives from the different universities.

Within the frame of these events, the development of IT concepts and IT strategies have been discussed among international experts. In cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Afghan universities, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Heinrich Böll Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI e.V.) the following events were organised and realised.

Event: Cultural and Dialogue Week

The World Grows Together. Public Welfare, Justice, Solidarity.

Date: December 10th - 14th, 2001



Subject:

Within the frame of the cultural and dialogue week topics like globalisation, democratisation processes, human rights, influences of technology on society, the Afghan wars and the media as well as the role of the Taliban were discussed. On the last day a discussion on the topic of

Reconstruction the Educational System in Afghanistan“ took place.

Summary:

All attending experts and guests pointed out education and training as one of the core components within the reconstruction processes in Afghanistan. The discussion resulted in the following conclusion:

Afghanistan is in need of an educational concept that is elaborated in legal and political terms. The impact of 20 years of war in the area of education should be surveyed and analysed, and all deficits shall be eliminated by both ad hoc measures and long-term planned projects. Both approaches shall include women and men in Afghanistan that bear the necessary prerequisites, and the commitment of Afghans living in exile shall be integrated as well. The awareness within the population for all problems regarding the low literacy rate is to be sharpened. A long-term planning covering the next 5 to 10 years should be developed and discussed with the Minister for Reconstruction.

Organiser:

Heinrich Böll Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Section Computer Sciences and Society of the GI e.V.
Center for international and intercultural Communication (ZiiK) at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin

Event: Symposium

Digital Media: An Opportunity for Education in Afghanistan?

Date: February 16th - 17th, 2002

Summary:

In ten different presentations the various aspects regarding the reconstruction of the educational system in Afghanistan were addressed and concrete planning schemes were agreed upon, how to take the next steps. As main speaker, Prof. Akbal Popal, president of Kabul University, attended the symposium. There



were discussions about the opportunities regarding the educational situation in Afghanistan, how to assess them and how to develop supporting programmes, furthermore discussions about exchange programmes for German and Afghan students and lecturers, about the organisation of workshops in Germany or Afghanistan respectively, as well as about specialised training programmes to educate and further train lecturers in cooperation with the universities.

Organiser:

Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

Section Computer Sciences and Society of the GI e.V., Bonn

International Office at the TU Berlin

Working Group Global Learning and International Cooperation at the TU Berlin

Center for international and intercultural Communication (Ziik) at the TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin

Event: Symposium

Afghanistan 2010: Our Future, Our Vision

Date: July 12th - 17th, 2002

Summary:

The DaimlerChrysler AG¹ invited 20 Afghans living in exile to this symposium. The aim was to gather young students with Afghan background from various fields of expertise at German universities, and let them formulate and present their ideas and visions regarding the reconstruction processes in Afghanistan in the frame of this symposium. Six working groups in the following areas were formed: economy, information technology and engineering, society and culture, agriculture, politics, and judiciaries.

Organiser:

DaimlerChrysler AG

Center for international and intercultural Communication (ZiiK) at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin

¹ since 2007: Daimler AG

Event: Workshop

The State of Academic Education in Afghanistan: Accounts and Perspectives

Date: August 12th, 2002

Summary:

The current state at Afghan universities was contrasted with German academic structures, to gather insights and to project them on a new order of Afghan institutions of higher education and their work. Four main focus areas were targeted:

- Administration and organisation
- Teaching and research
- Central services
- Technical infrastructure

In addition a discussion took place with Prof. Popal, president of Kabul University, all experts, representatives of different organisations within the area of development aid, and university professors, concerning the question on how to establish sustainable academic structures. For further discussion of all these topics with Afghan lecturers, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with the TU Berlin organised a subsequent conference in Kabul.

Organiser:

Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Center for international and intercultural Communication (ZiiK) at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin

Event: Symposium

Reconstruction of Universities in Afghanistan

Date: August 28th - 29th, 2002

Summary:

On behalf of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, three members of the TU Berlin (Prof. Mahr, Dr. Jochimsen, Dr. Kathöfer) travelled to Kabul to discuss the topics raised in due course of the workshop on August 12th, 2002 at the TU Berlin with Afghan lecturers:

- Administration, organisation and central services
- Teaching and research
- Technical infrastructure

Within the discussion it was reasoned that academic structures in Afghanistan are in need of a reliable solution approach. Accordingly, such a concept was drafted by Prof. Mahr as representative of the TU Berlin and presented to Dr. Fayes, Minister for Higher Education in Afghanistan.

Organiser:

Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Kabul University

Center for international and intercultural Communication (Ziik) at TU Berlin

Venue: Kabul

Event: Workshop

Experiences of Afghan lecturers at institutions of higher education

In the frame of the Stabilising Act for Afghanistan

Date: October 11th, 2002

Summary:

16 Afghan lecturers and administrative affiliates from the Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul participated in the first winter academy at the TU Berlin. Together with them, this workshop was organised, to discuss their impressions in Afghanistan and their experiences gathered during the winter academy.

In due course it became apparent that they all regard the liberation of Afghanistan as opportunity for development. According to them, Afghanistan is in need of sustainable educational concepts. They all wish for a continuous support from Germany and the world community. Nevertheless, all projects should be discussed and coordinated with the responsible decision makers in Afghanistan.

Organiser:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication (ZiiK) at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin

Event: Workshop

Implementing Information and Communication Technology in Developing Countries by example of Afghanistan

in the frame of the FlfF annual meeting

Date: October 18th - 20th, 2002

Summary:

Prof. Popal, president of Kabul University, was invited as main speaker to the annual FlfF (Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung e.V.) meeting. The arguments he presented in favour of a consistent IT concept were discussed in depth during the workshop of the working group computer science and third world of the Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V.. Such a consistent IT concept is necessary in order to realise a secure and sustainable planning of IT supply.

Organiser:

Section Computer Sciences and Third World from the GI e.V.
Center for intercultural and international Communication (Ziik) at TU Berlin

Venue: University of Freiburg

Event: Conference

Basics for an Educational Strategy in Afghanistan

Date: June 20th - 22nd, 2003

Summary:

The conference was centred around the subject of education and reconstruction of Afghanistan, prerequisites for an educational strategy, and reports from the universities of Afghanistan. Three ministers from Afghanistan as well as the presidents from eight universities were invited.

Long-term objectives and clear strategies are necessary to transfer skills and knowledge to the people in Afghanistan enabling them to live an individual and social life.

Therefore, an educational development with regards to political and social subjects, strengthening women's education in Afghanistan, creating the infrastructural prerequisites, using the potential and functionalities at hand and for information technology and the establishment of education in Afghanistan, strategic education and management in rebuilding the academic structures.

Organiser:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Heinrich Böll Foundation

Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V.,

Center for international and intercultural Communication (Ziik) at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin



Afghanistan Week

Date: March 22nd - 26th, 2004

Subjects:

- Education and further training
- Security and agriculture
- Economy and technology
- Development and cooperation
- Culture and society

Summary:



Due to the timeliness of the subjects, important representatives of Afghan politics (Dr. Fayez, Minister for Higher Education) and education (Prof. Popal, president of Kabul University) participated in this week. In addition, employees of German governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as Afghans living in exile attended,

to discuss in detail the special problems of the reconstruction process regarding the area of higher education in Afghanistan.



Organiser:

Heinrich Böll Foundation

Afghan Embassy in Berlin

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin

Event: Workshop

IT Strategy by example of Afghanistan

in the frame of the annual meeting of the Gesellschaft für Informatik

Date: September 29th, 2004

Summary:

All invited participants - Mr. Marjan, head of the IT Department at the Ministry of Communication in Afghanistan, Mr. Soroosh, head of the IT Department at the Ministry of Higher Education, three more representatives of Afghan institutions of higher education - joined the discussion about a national IT strategy. Such a strategy is a prerequisite for a sustain-



able and functioning IT supply for Afghan universities.



Organiser:

Working group Computer Sciences and Third World of the GI e.V.
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: University of Ulm

Event: Workshop

IT Concept for the Ministry of Higher Education

Date: February 15th - 17th, 2005

Summary:

This workshop was organised on the basis of the results of the workshop "IT strategy by example of Afghanistan" during the annual meeting of the Gesellschaft für Informatik on September 24th, 2004. Together with representatives of all Afghan universities and the Ministry of Higher Education the following fields of activities were discussed:

The Ministry of Higher Education and all universities in Afghanistan are in need of modern administrative structures including information and communication technologies. These shall supplement and replace the traditional and time-consuming procedures. In addition, each university was asked to elect an IT representative who shall be responsible for the needs and the IT supply. All these representatives shall then coordinate their plans and needs with the IT Department at the Ministry of Higher Education.

Organiser:

Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan

German Embassy in Kabul

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Kabul



Event: Conference

Academic Reconstruction in Afghanistan – Achievements and Perspectives

Date: July 1st - 3rd, 2005

Summary:

After three years of reconstruction work in the academic sector in Afghanistan, the conference aimed to draw interim results that will depict all achievements and will show the options of a continuation in the reconstruction process, with special attention to the aspect of sustainability. This balance was to be drawn in cooperation with all invited participants from Afghanistan: the Minister for Higher Education, the Afghan Ambassador and presidents from Afghan universities. At the same time, the newly appointed Afghan Minister for Higher Education and his delegation was to be informed graphically about the German contribution to the reconstruction process, to facilitate the dialogue between all parties involved and to reassure the continuation of all reconstruction measures in mutual agreement.

All participants agreed that international partnerships between universities are crucial for the further academic reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Organiser:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin



Event: Workshop

IT Infrastructure

Date: July 24th - 26th, 2005

Summary:



In due course of the workshop, all participants - representatives of Afghan universities and the Ministry of Higher Education as well as international guests - discussed the necessary measures to establish an IT infrastructure at Afghan universities. Topics addressed were

power supply, Internet access, building measures, IT centers, PC Labs for the faculties, university-wide networks, and specialised libraries for computer sciences.

Organiser:

Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Herat



Event: Workshop

IT Security

Date: November 8th - 10th, 2005



Summary:

Representatives of the most important universities in Afghanistan were invited to participate in this workshop, they were given the opportunity to inform themselves about IT security and exchange information.

Until then, any sensibility for the notion of IT security was lacking, likewise information about its importance

and exponentially increasing impact due to an increasing usage of PCs

and computer networks. One measure to limit occurring problems is to use OpenSource Software. The matter of IT security has to be included into the curriculum. On closing, CD ROMs were distributed among all participants, with samples of OpenSource Software.



Organiser:

Balkh University

Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Balkh

Event: Workshop

Berlin Dialogue: Bridge between Germany and Afghanistan

Date: February 10th - 11th, 2007

Summary:

In the frame of a winter academy, 18 Afghan students have been participating an education programme at the TU Berlin. Together with the Afghan Embassy, the ZiiK wanted them to meet Afghan Germans who are studying at German universities, to see whether these two groups can cooperate and collaborate in the future on their own. In the end, the idea to establish a platform was developed, that will intensify this cooperation.

Organiser:

Afghan Embassy in Berlin

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Balkh

Event: Conference

International IT Conference, part I: Information Technology for Higher Education in Afghanistan

Summary:



Invitations were sent to the Ministries of Education, Communication, Economy, Foreign Affairs and Urban Affairs, ambassadors or their representatives from 22 different nations, all presidents of the 19 Afghan universities, representatives of the World Bank, NATO, UNDP,

several NGOs, all IT advisors or their representatives from the 19 Afghan Universities, the heads of different departments of the Ministry of Higher Education, international universities, and the Afghan communication companies Agha Khan, Afghan Wireless, Roshan and Siemens. A collaborate drafting of a national IT strategy was stated as crucial milestone in due course, taking the Afghan culture and the economic situation into consideration. Furthermore, financial aspects of IT education and further training, infrastructure, and management were discussed. As a result of the conference, an agreement was written and signed by all decision makers.



Organiser:

Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Kabul

Event: Conference

International IT Conference, part II: Information Technology for Higher Education in Afghanistan

Date: November 11th - 13th, 2006

Summary:



To this conference, international guests, all presidents of Afghan institutions of higher education, all IT advisors of these institutions, and employees of the Ministry of Higher Education were invited. The main aim was to analyse and evaluate the current status of IT at Afghan universities, to substantiate the needs and demands, and to propose

recommendations and solutions regarding the future IT supply at Afghan universities.

As mentioned by all representatives of Afghan universities in due course of the conference, most difficulties arise because of the lack of IT lecturers, IT experts and IT personnel. Most universities do not have any personnel at their disposal who is able to deal with the fast developments within IT applications. In addition, most universities lack of equipment regarding necessary IT infrastructure, especially a stable power supply and Internet access. The results drawn from the conference can be formulated in the following recommendations:

- All projects by the world community implemented at Afghan universities shall to be oriented at the national IT strategy,
- The world community shall immediately start specialised programmes to eliminate the lack of IT lecturers at Afghan universities,

- Computer Sciences Faculties shall be established at selected universities only, where students then will be educated in the area of computer sciences,
- IT education and further training for all university affiliates shall be established and extended,
- Internet access for all universities shall be provided,



- Alternative energies shall be used instead of fuel-based generators to secure power supply,
- Each university shall establish an IT department,
- IT advisors from all universities shall immediately be educated and trained,
- The IT Department of the MoHE shall analyse the IT supply at Afghan universities on site,
- Each university in Afghanistan shall be equipped with at least one PC Lab (including 15 - 20 workstations), and
- All funding by the World Bank shall be spent demand-oriented. Primarily those universities shall be promoted that have competent personnel at hand.

Organiser:

Ministry of Higher Education in Afghanistan
 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
 Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Kabul

Event: Conference

International IT Conference, part III: Information Technology for Higher Education in Afghanistan

Date: September 1st - 2nd, 2007

Summary:



To this conference all presidents and IT advisors of all 19 Afghan universities, representative of the German Embassy in Kabul, all international Embassies in Kabul USAid, KOICA, CISCO, and the Ministries of Communication, Finances, Economy, and Education were invited.

The conference aimed at coordinating future international IT projects, and hereby ensuring the quality, progress, sustainability, and bundling of all (sub-) projects. Therefore, considering project donors, project executors and project receivers all tasks have to be clearly stated. An IT Board is to be appointed that shall supervise all respective issues.

A Letter of Common Understanding in Information Technology Development in Higher Education in Afghanistan“ was formulated and read out at the end of the conference.



Organiser:

Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Kabul

Event: Symposium

Sustainable and Secure IT Supply for the area of Higher Education in Afghanistan

Date: August 28th, 2008

Summary:



The Afghan Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Prof. Babury, was invited to the TU Berlin to draw a balance regarding the development of IT structures at Afghan universities since 2002. The progress can be clearly identified, but there are still great deficits, especially in the areas of power supply,

Internet access and education of qualified and competent personnel. A reliable and sustainable IT supply needs to be backed by a clear IT strategy and its compliance.

Organiser:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: TU Berlin



Event: Conference

International IT Conference, part IV: Information Technology for Higher Education in Afghanistan

Date: November 3rd - 5th, 2008

Summary:

Once again international guests, representatives of several Embassies in Kabul, all presidents of Afghan universities, all IT advisors at the universities, representatives of private colleges and universities, several foundations, representatives of the World Bank and USAid were invited. The aim of the conference was to develop a consistent IT curriculum for Afghan universities.

As a result of the conference it was proposed to appoint a commission that will draft such an consistent IT curriculum in cooperation of all private and public universities in Afghanistan, supported by the TU Berlin and under the leadership of the MoHE.

Organiser:

Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Center for international and intercultural Communication at TU Berlin

Venue: Kabul



Concepts

The ZiK at the TU Berlin has longtime experiences in the area of Computer Science and Developing Countries. This competence could successfully support the drafting of concepts concerning the establishment of information technology in the area of higher education in Afghanistan. Some examples can be found in the following table:

No.	Date	Title of Concept	Author
1	January 2002	Arbeitsgruppe Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologie zum Wiederaufbau Afghanistans (AITA)	Mahr/ Peroz
2	January 2002	Konzept: Afghan-Akademie für Frauen und Männer in Afghanistn	Mahr/ Peroz
3	April 2002	Konzept für ein Rechnerzentrum an der Universitt Kabul	Peroz
4	May 2002	Vorschlag für ein Informatik-Curriculum an der Fakultät Science der Universität Kabul	Peroz
5	January 2003	Strategieplan für den Aufbau der Höheren Bildung in Afghanistan	Mahr
6	June 2003	Informationstechnologie-Strategie für Afghanistan	Peroz
7	September 2003	Vorschlag zur Deutsch-Afghanischen Gesellschaft	Peroz
8	December 2004	Concept for the future development of the Computer Centre at the University of Kabul (ITCK)	Peroz
9	December 2004	IT-Verwaltung für das Ministerium für Höhere Bildung	Peroz
10	December 2004	IT-Ausbildung für das Rechnerzentrum der Universität Kabul	Peroz
11	July 2005	Proposal for the Development and Implementation of a Nationally Standardized Bachelor's Degree Program in Computing and Information Technology in Afghanistan	Mahr/ Peroz
12	November 2005	Vorschlag für eine landes Hochschul-Informationstechnologie-Strategie für Afghanistan (HITS)	Peroz
13	December 2005	Vorschlag für eine nationale IT-Strategie (NITS) für Höhere Bildung in Afghanistan	Peroz

No.	Date	Title of Concept	Author
14	February 2006	Informationstechnologie-Rahmenkonzept für die Universität Herat	Peroz
15	October 2007	Informationstechnologie-Rahmenkonzept für die Universität Kabul	Peroz
16	October 2007	Draft for the constitution of an IT Board	Peroz
17	July 2008	National Strategic Plan for IT in Higher Education	Babury/ Saay/ Peroz
18	October 2008	Recommendations regarding the development of IT in teaching and research in Kabul	Peroz
19	November 2008	Proposal to establish an IT Working Group at Kabul University	Peroz
20	January 2009	Draft Realising IT Structures at Balkh University	Peroz

Guests

In due course of the conferences, special education programmes and Winter Academies, funded by both the DAAD and World Bank, several persons, delegations of institutions of higher education, participants and groups were invited to spend some time at the TU Berlin. In addition to technical education or invitations to discussion forums and workshops, the ZiiK also provided some cultural programme, to facilitate the cooperation and intercultural understanding of all parties involved.

2002

February 2002: Prof. Popal, president of Kabul University

May 2002: Prof. Mangal, Deputy Ministry of Higher Education

August 2002: Prof. Popal, president of Kabul University

September 2002: 16 participants from the MoHE and several Afghan universities in the frame of a Winter Academy

November 2002: 4 employees from the MoHE and Kabul University

2003

June 2003:

Prof. Dr. Sharif Fayez, Minister for Higher Education, Afghanistan

Masoom Stanekzai, Minister for Communication, Afghanistan

Muyin Marestial, Deputy Minister for Education, Afghanistan

Prof. Akbar Popal, president of Kabul University

Prof. Said Fachrudin, president of Kabul Polytechnicum

Prof. Shoja-o-Din Khoranai, president of Kabul Education University

Prof. Raihana Popalzai, head of the Women's Council at Kabul University

Prof. Dr. Rauf Muchles, president of Herat University

Prof. Dr. Habibullah, president of Balkh University

Prof. Dr. Paima Mohm. Argandabi, president of Kandahar University

Prof. Dr. Abdul Qader Fazel, president of Jalalabad University

2004

January 2004:

18 participants from the MoHE and universities in Afghanistan in the frame of a Winter Academy

March 2004:

Prof. Dr. Sharif Fayez, Minister for Higher Education, Afghanistan

Prof. Akbar Popal, president of Kabul University

August 2004:

4 guests from the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Communication, Kabul and Herat University in the frame of a webmaster education programme

2005

January 2005:

3 guests from Herat University in the frame of an administration training

Juli 2005:

Dr. Ameer Shah Hasanyar, Minister for Higher Education, Afghanistan

Prof. Said Fachrudin, president of Kabul Polytechnicum

Prof. Chiragh Ali, president of Kabul Medical University

Prof. Rahwish, president of Kabul Education University

Prof. Dr. Rauf Muchles, president of Herat University

Prof. Dr. Habibullah, president of Balkh University

Prof. Baray, president of Kandahar University

2006

October 2006:

18 participants from Kabul and Herat University in the frame of a Winter Academy

December 2006:

Dr. Azam Dadfar, Minister for Higher Education, Afghanistan

Dr. Assad, president of Herat University

Mr. Rezai, consultant to the MoHE

2008

March 2008:

25 Afghan lecturers from six Afghan universities for a Master Study Programme

August 2008:

Prof. Babury, Deputy Minister for Higher Education

December 2008:

Prof. Amin, president of Kabul University

Dr. Assad, president of Herat University

Prof. Dr. Habibullah, president of Balkh University

Mr. Sofizade, SHEP-Programme at the Ministry of Higher Education

2009

January 2009:

15 participants from the MoHE, Kabul and Herat University in the frame of a Winter Academy

Pictures

















Technology, IT, Conference for Min
Education and Higher Education Organizations



