



# German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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## 15 Geology and Mining lecturers complete German Study Programme

Kabul, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 – 15 lecturers from four Afghan universities completed a two-month study programme at the Bergakademie Technical University at Freiberg, Germany, one activity amongst a wide range of training measures organised by the German funded programme for Academic Mining Education in Afghanistan (AMEA). Yesterday, the Minister of Higher Education (MoHE), Professor Farida Mohmand, and the German Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr Markus Potzel, welcomed back the mining academics. On this occasion, the scholars received certificates for successfully accomplishing the course.

Training participants are lecturers from Kabul Polytechnic University's Faculty of Geology and Mining, Kabul University's Faculty of Geosciences, Balkh University and Bamiyan University. During their semester break, the university teachers attended a two months training in Germany. Subjects included for instance mining economics, mining law and administration, safety, international marketing, and geological mapping. They also took part in field trips to active mining sites for coal, uranium or lignite deposits. Furthermore, the scholars visited processing plants so they were able to visualise the entire life cycle of mining products.

Mr Mohammad Tamim Ahmadi, from Kabul Polytechnic University, said: "Freiberg University has a unique training mine. In only two months I gained valuable practical experiences. Especially the drilling and the visit to open pit mining sites was very useful for me and my colleagues." The study programme was organised after the MoHE had expressed the importance to focus on practical training in the sector.

The German Ambassador, Mr Markus Potzel, underlined during yesterday's ceremony: "Well-trained mining experts and geologists are desperately needed for the sustainable development in Afghanistan; this can decrease the country's dependence on foreign expertise." Addressing the scholars directly, he said: "You are the key to your country's future."

The Deputy Minister of the MoHE, Professor Babury, further emphasised: "Mining is one of our strategic priorities and the MoHE is committed to improve the quality of higher education in this area. The cooperation with AMEA to enhance Afghan universities' capacities and to update the curriculum of mining education is highly effective."

The Minister of Higher Education (MoHE), Professor Farida Mohmand, added: „The mining sector holds great potential for sustainable economic development as an essential source of revenue for Afghanistan. For the country to gain ownership of the mining sector, graduates need more practical experience and international know-how. For this reason we are very glad that our scholars took part in this training."

Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office as part of Afghan-German Cooperation, AMEA is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) through the MoHE and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Mining and Petroleum (MoMP). The programme helps universities to modernise existing study programmes, with an emphasis on practical training and academic exchange. The goal is to help Afghanistan become less dependent on foreign expertise.