



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Construction of new engineering college starts in Balkh with German funding – Parliamentary State Secretary in Germany's Ministry Economic Cooperation and Development lays cornerstone together with Balkh's deputy governor

Mazar-e Sharif, 15th February 2015 – Today, the Parliamentary State Secretary in Germany's Ministry Economic Cooperation and Development, Thomas Silberhorn, laid the cornerstone for the new Engineering College for the Province of Balkh together with Mr. Muhammad Zahir Wahdat, Deputy Governor of Balkh province. The new college was funded by the German Government through KfW Development Bank.

At the ceremony the Mr. Muhammad Zahir Wahdat said, "An investment in education is an investment in Afghanistan's future. This will help us achieve the greatest goal we can reach: our self-sufficiency." Thomas Silberhorn, in his address, underlined that the project will help create new prospects for the future, especially for young Afghans. He said, "A solid education and vocational training, which is directed towards the needs of the labour market and the needs of the people are the best basis for future generations to contribute to a sustainable development of the country and to generate income for their families."

The Engineering College now under construction at an estimated cost of EUR 3.4 million (AFN 220 million) will complete the German investment on site, totaling EUR 11.0 million (AFN 708 million). The facility will accommodate 720 students of the faculties of masonry, road construction, railway construction, plumbing and electricity (electricians).

The college shares a campus with the Technical Teacher Training Academy (TTTA) and the Agricultural Regional Institute (ARI), recently completed and expected to open their doors this summer. The TTTA will serve as a modern, well-equipped teaching and practical training facility for some 500 vocational teachers in technical/mechanical subjects. ARI has a capacity of 720 students for agricultural studies. All three colleges have spacious and well-lit student halls, with kitchens and leisure facilities.

The infrastructure built at Taktha-Pul campus is part of the Technical, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) programme funded by the German Government.

The infrastructure component implemented by KfW Development Bank includes the construction of modern and functional training facilities in Kabul and the six northern provinces of Afghanistan, providing modern equipment and training for the maintenance of these investments. The institutional and capacity development component implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports curricular development and establishment of a certified final examination system, besides several teacher training programmes. The TTTAs receive help to improve their organisational structure and management. The headmaster of Mazar-e Sharif TTTA will receive individual support and consulting, and development workers will be available on-site support for vocational teachers in the field of practical training for TTTA students.

After completion the campus will be handed over to and maintained by the Deputy Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DM TVET), with assistance from German Cooperation.