German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Germany's regional infrastructure development fund extends activities to Samangan province

Aybak (Samangan), 26th October 2015, - Today, the German government's regional infrastructure development fund (RIDF) officially launched operations in Samangan and also opened a new office in Aybak. The move comes after the fund's introduction to the Samangan Provincial Development Committee and a two-day workshop for provincial departments directors and engineers

The RIDF is proud to start its collaboration with Samangan's technical departments for electricity, rural development, the Kholm-Aybak river basin, education, public works and water supply. The objective of the funding programme is to improve the infrastructure, e.g. roads, hospitals ans schools, in Samangan province and to better living standards for the rural and urban population.

RIDF implements projects by following a series of steps, from initial drafts and seeking political approval to detailed planning and finally implementation. Technical experts provide close support for the process, and together with technical training, this practice helps the local government departments involved increase their technical capacity.

RIDF started in 2010 in the provinces Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Kunduz, Takhar and has since then completed 32 infrastructure projects, including asphalted city roads, rural roads, river bank protection and reconstruction of irrigation canals.

Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funds the programme through KfW Development Bank. The contract for rolling out the programme was awarded to the joint venture Grontmij-GOPA-INTEGRATION. The idea behind the RIDF programme is to let Provincial Development Committees allocate financial resources in the provinces to put the provincial line departments' proposals into action

As Mr. Florian Smitmans, German Development Commissioner for Balkh and Samangan, said at the start of the new activities in the province, "The beginning of RIDF activities in Samangan marks an opportunity to allocate provincial budgets transparently in line with rational development considerations. The aim of the programme is therefore also to contribute to sound development through its selection of projects."

Released by the PR-Unit of the German Cooperation with Afghanistan.
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