

PROMOTION OF IDEASS INNOVATIONS IN THE GOVERNORATE OF HERAT (AFGHANISTAN)



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On 10th March 2011, at the lecture room of the University of Herat, Governor Daud Saba, opened the Seminar on the Provincial Governance in Herat. The session was started by the Chancellor of the University, Professor Bariz Hossain, who stressed the importance of the role played by the University in the organization of the meeting.

This Seminar marked the start of an advanced process of re-appropriation, reflection and territorial management by Afghan institutions, carried out in a democratic, participatory and broad way. The University is identified as a key player in the future of the Province for a long-term reflection and also for the training

and continuous education of civil servants of the provincial public administration.

This meeting was attended by 80 representatives of the decentralized administrative structure and the district advisory bodies. In particular the Heads of the 15 Districts of Herat (Injil, Guzara, Karokh, Zinda Jan, Adraskan, Obeh, Pashtun Zarghun, Kohsan, Kuskh, Kushki Kuhna; Ghorian, Farsi, Chest-i-Sharif, Shindand e Gulran), representatives of the Department Development Council and five representatives of village councils (known as Shura or assemblies) and the Municipality of Herat, represented by the major Taraki, participated in the meeting.



At the provincial level intervened Mr. Sultan Ahmad Taraki, Head of the Technical Service of the Governorate, Mr. Aswadi, Director of Economic Department and representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Education.



The objective of the Seminar was to obtain a complete overview of the current operating structures on management of funds flow and on the existing procedures for the collection and processing of the statistic data in order to provide public services to the communities in the Province. In particular, a very important goal in the Province is to identify the actual way of information and communication among Villages, Districts and Central Province Offices as well as efficiency of communication and cash flow between the central ministries and provincial departments.

The provincial Director of the National Solidarity Program (NSP) submitted a participatory methodology to identify development priorities expressed by each village. The NSP is an important national development program that reaches communities, interacting with them in a timely manner and responding to the urgent needs expressed.



In the afternoon session, a collective exercise was carried out that saw an extraordinary participation of the participants. During the Plenary assembly a debate on Institutional capacity in delivering essential service to the community was carried out, followed by discussions on how to improve quality of service delivery and how to improve the system at the central and provincial districts. Four working groups were formed on the following topics: Local Economy; Infrastructure (roads, water, and electricity); Health; Education and Training. From these groups came out significant prompts, which will be integrated in the document of local governance carried out by the Governorate with the technical assistance of the Herat University after the seminar. These orientations will also guide next pilot exercises on need assessment planned in the Districts of Ingil and Karokh.



The most important result of the Seminar was to enhance capability of local authorities in analyzing priorities of their communities; to identify needs of communities in order to formulate specific development projects; to enhance service delivery to population so as to monitor and evaluate of projects' execution.

This process is followed by the Italian Cooperation Programme in support to the governance of the Herat Governorate. In this framework, during the Seminar, another need was expressed by participants in order to improve methodological innovations able to enhance skills, knowledge and resources to develop the undoubted potential of the territory. In particular, the possibility of creating a tool for Local Economic Development was analyzed as well as drawing up a provincial catalogue of traditional arts and crafts.

