



THE GOAL OF
ACSF IS TO
PROMOTE THE
DEVELOPMENT
OF CIVIL SOCIETY
IN AFGHANISTAN.

NEWSLETTER

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To the Readers:

Welcome to the ACSF newsletter. We look forward to meeting you all here bi-weekly. In addition to this newsletter, ACSF publishes the magazine Jamea-e Madani and you can also visit our webpage: (www.acsf.af)

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you updated on civil society related issues.

This E-newsletter is sent to you free of charge. If you are interested in receiving it, please subscribe at the ACSF webpage. We look forward to receiving your comments:

E-mail: newsletter@acsf.af
www.acsf.af

ACSF represents the Afghan Civil Society in Paris Talks

Aziz-ur-Rahman Rafiee, Managing Director of Afghan Civil Society Forum (ACSF), participated in the "International Conference on Civil Society and Private Sector" convened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris on 24th May.

The conference was host to almost 90 active countries who support the peace and democratic processes of Afghanistan. 40 civil society and Government representatives was invited to the conference. The aim of the conference was to seek ways to solve the recent growing concerns in Afghanistan after almost six years of Karzai's elected government. "The conference was focused to bring coordination between three major actors i.e. Government, civil society and private sector to act as complementation" says Mr. Rafiee. The core suggestions which was put to the top of the desk by the civil society are:

- Security concerns in Afghanistan
- Eradication of hostile competition between Government and civil society "the relation between the Government and civil society has to be complementary and supplementary rather than to be hostile"
- The funding allocation by donor community to civil society, "because the grounds we are working are the same with the Government" said Mr. Rafiee
- Capacity building programs to be conducted for the Government in order to become more supportive in recognition of civil society's importance.

Call on Donors

Following the first conference, Aziz-ur-Rahman Rafiee participated in another conference on Afghanistan on 12th June. In addition to Rafiee two other figures represented Afghanistan: Sima Samar, Director of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and Hasanzada representing the private sector.



This conference was too convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France in Paris. Mr. Rafiee in his speech about the role of civil society stressed that "we believe the road to development, democracy, Peace and prosperity in Afghanistan is nei-

ther smooth nor straight. But for sure we also believe that all roads are passing from the bridge of justice, good governance, rule of law, transparency and accountability."

He called on donors to consider the development of a sustainable civil society as a priority, and urged them to allocate funds to ensure a vital and viable non-government sector.

"Do no Harm" a Conference in ACSF

Do No Harm was the title of a scholarly conference arranged by ACSF's Civic Education Dept. in which Fahim Hakim, Deputy Director of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, presented the lecture. "Do no Harm is a new and at the same time a very important issue for NGOs and individuals living in Afghanistan" says Mr. Hakim.

In the lecture he introduced the history and the concept of Do no Harm and urged the NGOs to consider the issue in their strategies and projects. The political parties, partner NGOs and ACSF staff were among the participants of this event. ACSF Civic Education Dept. has convened many other conferences and lectures on crucial issues pertaining to Afghanistan.



Students Cultural Committee Meets in Takhar

The cultural committee meeting was convened in Takhar province by Civic Education Department on 30th June. The meeting was the first civic education gathering with the students, teachers, media, Head of Takhar University and human right's activists in North-eastern region of Afghanistan.



Pro. Labib The General Director of Takhar University

Partaw Naderi, ACSF Civic Education Department's Manager, represented ACSF in the gathering. Talking about the importance of information boxes in schools and universities he stated that "these boxes are the bridge of information between students and ACSF Civic Education Dept. sharing knowledge on the concept of civil society and related issues".

Partaw Naderi has installed 13 new information boxes in schools of Kabul, Takhar and Badakhshan, and installed two large size boxes in Takhar university. In addition to information boxes, training manuals, other written materials and magazines were distributed to schools and individuals in the gathering.

Civic Education Department has frequently convened such meetings as part of its information sharing mechanism about civil society topics which included: human rights, citizenry rights, women's rights, constitution, democracy, advocacy, environment etc. The major object of this initiative is to raise the knowledge of people in remote areas about civil society.



Installation of Information Boxes in Universities

In pursuance of installing boxes in schools across the country, Civic Education Dept has recently started the installation of Information Boxes in Universities of Afghanistan.

A large in size and exclusive design of information boxes to match the University requirements were designed by Civic Education on March 2008. Holding an agreement from Ministry of Higher Education, the civic education dept installed the boxes in many universities of Afghanistan started from April of 2008.

Kabul Pole Technique University was the inception for the initiative; Civic Education has installed two Information Boxes in the Pole Technique, two of them in Education University and four in Medical University.

The process of installation is not limited to boundaries of Kabul, Civic Education carried out the initiative to the Universities in the provinces. Consequently, two information boxes have been installed in Gardez University based in Paktya Province and two boxes have been installed in Takhar province.



The Installation of information boxes simply follows the overall aim of civic education dept which is to deliver information on civil society and civic education purposes.

Workshop on project skills

ACSF's IPACS section, successfully completed a five day capacity building workshop on project design and proposal writing to partner Civil Society Support Centers (CSSC) who were invited from provinces of Herrat, Kandahar, kondo, Mazar e Sharif, Ghazni and Kabul on Sunday 20th July. Dr.Sarwar Ahadi IPACS manager said in his interview to the newsletter that

"All 19 trainers who have participated in this workshop are now able to design projects and write their proposals"

Sayed Assadullah Husaini, a trainer in Women Activities Social Services Association (WASSA), has told ACSF newsletter that they are pledged to transfer the skills they learn from workshop to districts levels in provinces.

Frozan Sadat training officer in IPACS section has said that the training delivered to almost 8 CSSCs, with the total of 19 trainers, including 9 women participants.

IPACS covers more than 200 CSOs all over the country and aims to improve their role and viability as part of civil society in Afghanistan.

