German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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New laboratory equipment for science and mathematics classes in the north

Taloqan, Takhar, March 16th 2016 – In the past three weeks, 50 teaching institutions in Takhar, Balkh, Badakhshan and Samangan received a wide range of lab materials and furnishing for science and mathematics classes. The inventory and materials handed over by the Afghan-German cooperation programme for basic and secondary education in Afghanistan included full lab rooms, lab furniture and equipment to conduct experiments in mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology classes.

The laboratories offer practical learning conditions for both pupils and student teachers and can contribute to improving the quality of science and mathematics teaching in Afghanistan. With the new equipment, student teachers and pupils will be able to apply theory to real-life practice in more student-centered and participatory science classes. More than 32,500 student teachers and children will be able to use and benefit from the equipment in the four provinces.

The equipment and furniture were paid for by Switzerland and Germany at a total sum of US$991,738 (over AFN 67.6 million). As a co-financing partner in the programme for basic and secondary education, the Swiss government funded 44 of the 50 labs that went to 34 schools and 16 Teacher Development Centres.

Speaking at the handover ceremony in Takhar province, Dr. Mohammad Yasin Zia, Provincial Governor of Takhar, stressed the importance of these laboratories for the education sector, saying, “With these resources we can now provide opportunities to students to learn in a practical way. I myself studied in Afghanistan and other countries and have seen that the best teaching method is to take students into the lab where they can exercise and apply their knowledge.”

He was joined by officials from the Provincial Education Directorate of the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE), education sector stakeholders, directors of Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) and representatives from schools and district Teacher Development Centres.

In the provinces Balkh, Takhar, Badakhshan and Samangan, the Afghan-German cooperation programme for basic and secondary education (BEPA) supports mathematics and science education by both funding equipment and offering systematic training for lecturers and teachers, to help ensure a higher quality of education for Afghan schoolchildren. In total, the co-funded programme has supplied more than 180 laboratories and equipment to teacher education institutions, experimental schools, PEDs and Islamic schools in northern Afghanistan.

Since 2005, BEPA has operated as a joint programme of German Cooperation with Afghanistan implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Swiss Development Cooperation (DEZA). Together with the MoE in Kabul, and with teacher training institutions and education departments in the provinces, BEPA aims to establish a sound foundation for teacher training in Afghanistan.

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