Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society (AICS) certifies civil society organizations.

Nine Afghan Civil Society Organizations receive AICS certificates
Kabul, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 25 May 2016

At a ceremony today at the Kabul Serena Hotel nine civil society organizations were awarded certificates marking completion of a rigorous certification program.

In his message to the over 150 attendees in the audience His Excellency Mr. Abdul Sattar Murad, Minister of Economy, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recognized the important contributions of the Afghan civil society to the development of the country and applauded AICS for initiating the CSO certification program in Afghanistan.

After a thorough assessment by AICS the first batch of civil society organizations (CSOs) were awarded certificates. Certificates were awarded to: the Empowerment Centre for Women (ECW), the Development and Ability Organization (DAO), Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR), Training Human Rights Association for Afghan Women (THRA), Shuhada Organization (SO), Help the Afghan Children (HTAC), and Coordination of Rehabilitation and Development Services for Afghanistan (CRDSA), Afghanistan Civil Society Forum (ACSFo) and Women Activities & Social Services Association (WASSA).

AICS strives to create a pool of vibrant, robust and credible civil society organizations in Afghanistan that are trusted partners for the private sector, Afghan government and the international community. AICS follows stringent and rigorous standards derived from local laws and international best practices for civil society organizations' certification.

AICS-certified CSOs will operate efficiently, transparently and effectively, and will comply with culturally appropriate, locally determined and internationally recognized governance, management and operational standards.

"AICS is committed to its cause of nurturing just, accountable, transparent, legitimate, efficient and effective civil society institutions in Afghanistan. The first batch of certified CSOs is a realization of that commitment," observed the Chair of the AICS Board of Directors, Dr, Habiba Sarabi.

Speaking at the occasion, Mrs. Nurjehan Mawani, Aga Khan Development Network Diplomatic Representative congratulated AICS as well as the nine accredited civil society organizations for their determination in "upholding the standards of excellence for quality, competence and merit to complement government efforts in advancing the public good." She commended these CSOs for their initiative towards strengthening Afghanistan's civil society.

"The certification process has indeed resulted in building our institutional and organizational strength. This has helped us identify gaps that we had never realized in the past and suggested to us the ways and means to build them up," said Mrs. Roshan Siran, Executive Director, Training Human Rights Association for Afghan Women, sharing her views on certification.

The AICS establishment process is facilitated by the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in partnership with Counterpart International. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing financial support through its Afghanistan Civic Engagement Program (ACEP) project.

For further information contact: Nazila Attaiee at: Phone: 0729829122 Email: info@aicsafg.org
www.facebook.com/AICSafghanistan https://twitter.com/AICSaf