



**SDNRP- Ministry of Mines and
Petroleum
PMU**



UP TO DATE PROGRESS REPORT

(August/ 2015)

Project & Support	Report
Mes Aynak Archeology	<p>Base on the recent updates all the archaeological features and material remains ; (layers, deposits, cuts, masonry and structures) Are recorded on site and later introduced in a data base that will help future archaeologist, glue together the complete puzzle of Mes Aynak.</p> <p>The documentation process has encountered difficulties in its standardization, the Central Asian and Afghan archaeologist follow a different methodology than the Western educated; and though this might not be an impediment to achieve the final objective of the excavation, additional post-excavation work will be needed to create a uniform documentation that can join all efforts together.</p> <p>Monthly reports are being prepared covering the regular progress of the project. Nevertheless, these are of little academic value; and for this reason, an archaeological</p> <p>Commission will prepare the proper archaeological material for the preparation of a comprehensive publication on the work and findings of this project.</p> <p>Moreover, a newly appointed task force between UNESCO and DAFA will complement the proper divulgation of the results from this project.</p> <p>On a regular basis, the archaeological and architectural features being exposed are mapped into the master plan of Mes Aynak. Moreover, many of these are hand drawn so as to present cross-sections and stratigraphic correlations.</p> <p>Other techniques to identify the spatial distribution of the archaeological material are being implemented in the project, or in the process of doing so:</p> <p>Aerial Photography: In coordination with DAFA, certain</p>

excavation areas have been captured on ortho-photometry and rectified with the Master Plan.

3D Scanning: Certain sites (monasteries, stupas and special areas) have been selected for digitalization using this technique. We expect the work to be concluded before the first snowfalls of this year.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR): In the coming months, DAFA will acquire equipment that can do GPR. This technology, though not precise, could facilitate the identification of unexcavated structures.

Currently there have been three conservators from Tajikistan in joint forces with four others Afghans from MoIC. They have a large inventory of work (both ongoing and pending) ranging from mural paintings and sculptures to pottery and metal objects.

Work is normally carried in-situ to ensure the stability of the object prior to its removal. Smaller objects are taken to any of the three conservation laboratories on camp where normally metal (mostly coins) and ceramics (assembling pottery) is carried out.

This a slow process that doesn't match the incoming of finds as the excavation project develops. Moreover, the procurement of adequate chemicals for the restoration and conservation of the objects has been challenging. Important efforts in the last months have been done to ensure the availability of these resources in the coming days.

A series of lectures and courses on archaeological methodology, history of Central Asia, and progress development on site, are carried regularly after working hours.

The courses include both theory and practice and a simulation site was created on the south east of the camp to help Afghan graduates interact with practical problems.

Capacity building is also aimed at the developing of proper recording and documentation. Every month, all archaeologists are requested to submit a personal report on their field performance.

Additionally, off-site courses have been attended by a few Afghan archaeologists and the number of courses and attendees will increase with a joint collaboration program

with DAFA (upcoming course is on CadCam operation).

There has been a plan in place since March 2014 where a series of stupas and sculptures were chosen to be removed. Nevertheless, as the excavation project continues, new material remains are joining the list and the task is becoming both complex and costly.

Prior to their removal, it has been agreed that 3D scanning will take place in order to ensure the complete documentation of the remains being transferred.

The removal of material will depend on the state of conservation of the remains and this could be done either by moving the object as a block, in partial segments or disassembled. Already quotes have been received from interested parties for the execution of this task.

Mes Aynak Compliance Monitoring

Ministry of Mines and Petroleum is reviewing the Aynak Mining contract. A team of senior officials led by His Excellency the Deputy Minister for Regulation and Co-ordination, Eng. Abdul Qodos Hamidi, is conducting the review in consultation with international advisors. .

MOMP is engaged in discussions with MJAM to agree on a firm schedule with fixed dates for completing the Bankable Feasibility Study (BFS), for the start and finish of construction of the mine and associated infrastructure, and for the commencement of commercial production of copper. In addition, MOMP will seek to further strengthen safeguards in the contract for protection of the environment and of affected communities.

Archaeological work for the recovery of cultural relics continues at the site. Landmine clearing activities also continue and are close to completion. MOMP has revised the Resettlement Action Plan for the mine site, in line with World Bank guidelines, and continues with implementation of this exercise.

The GAF team continues to work closely with MOMP officials, providing technical and strategic advice and support in its discussions with MJAM.

Consultancy Services for Cadaster

The following activities were delivered during the month;

- Draft Procedural Manual was developed for each department on the DoC
- The cadaster procedures were consolidated into a Draft Procedural Manual
- The Draft Procedural Manual was translated into Dari
- Draft CMCS+ Operating Manual completed and being translated into Dari
- DoC was networked to facilitate the installation of the AMCS+
- Departments were equipped with the necessary HW
- Training on the use of AMCS+ was conducted with all department staff

AGS Capacity Building (CBAGS)

- CBAGS supported the tenders preparation and technical specifications of AGS laboratory new modular buildings, technical support and training. The tender will be launch by PMU next month.
- GMT Business English Language courses continued as usual.
- Geo-scientific support for the AGS Geo-hazard team continued in land slide risk mapping for greater Kabul area, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces with in cooperation with a team from University of Potsdam.
- Due to the 3 to 6 months engagement of the AGS, technical staff in the field, CBAGS suggested AGS and APA to introduce a new batch of staff for GIS training.
- The AGS spectrometer has been repaired.
- CBAGS is providing 5 days training on Analytical XRF method to Germany for two AGS laboratory staff members.

Reform of the Afghan Gas State Enterprise

During August several workshops were carried on with professionals of Afghan Gas to explain the main results of the project.

These workshops were divided in 2 groups, the first one was with his Excellency Director of AGE and main professionals of the company, in this opportunity the gas group discussed the general aspect of the project.

Reform of North Coal Enterprise

During the month the following activities were delivered;

Valuable data were collected by the Project team pertaining to the social and IT aspects of NCE operations.

These data will set base for the upcoming activities as well as production of recommendations to MoMP on IT development and social mitigation measures;

- UNICON coordinated with H.E. DM Hamidi's office to establish working relationship and obtain clearance to conduct the 'Mine Design' workshop for NCE engineering staff. As a result UNICON received guidance from H.E. DM Hamidi and commitment of full cooperation and collaboration.

-The Project Team continued to discuss the best-value approaches to restructuring of the Northern Coal Enterprise along with the Project Team Leader, the technical expert/mining engineers conducted consultations with numerous international experts ,currently employed by other project and companies in Kabul in order to share experience and receive potentially valuable information as well as exchange findings of each other.

-The Environmental Analysis is well underway with both international and national environmental experts engaged in consultations with relevant departments within NCE MoMP and NEPA.

-The Financial Management team submitted, in accordance with the previously agreed upon work plan, the deliverables 'Balance Sheet Reconciliation' and 'Proposed Financial Structure' for NCE. These reports can be used by MoMP leadership once there is political will to introduce changes on structural level.

	<p>-UNICON team continued to elaborate on Recommendations/Strategic Directions for NCE to use in order to transform into a modern coal mining operations in addition to its existing functions;</p>
<p>Consultancy Services for ASM Mining</p>	<p>Formalization and Cadaster</p> <p>Further progress has been made in understanding constraints on formalization. More examples have been found of ASM gem mines being too deep or too extensive to allow ASM Mining Licenses to be issued. Intensified fieldwork confirmed this for Panjshir emerald mines.</p> <p>Our remote sensing studies had already shown 1,200+ Afghan clay quarries to be too large to be classed as Quarries, preventing Quarry Authorizations being issued. Renewed study in May and June failed to find a single Afghan clay quarry fits the hectare grid of the national mineral cadaster. In June the study was expanded to cover a combined data-set of more than 7,000 clay quarries in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh that mine clay for BTK-MCK and FCK brick kilns typical of Afghanistan. None of the clay quarries were small enough to fit inside the 1-hectare to 2-hectare blocks envisioned in the Afghan mineral cadaster for Quarry Authorizations. Instead the clay quarries use a simple field-by-field cadaster system.</p> <p>Formalization and Price Signals from Cut Gemstones</p> <p>In a welcome development, in June the Team Leader identified a simple procedure for estimating the retail price for cut colored gems, taking into account carat, color, clarity, inclusions and quality of cut. In July, training of trainers will take place in this procedure and if successful the monthly price signals will empower Afghan miners, Afghan cutters and international buyers to have confidence in international retail price for a particular cut gem, and so enable deals to be struck in a rational transparent manner. This is expected to become an important step towards transparency and formalization of the value chain, and is expected to start squeezing cross-border trade in which price gouging is a key driver. A Discussion Paper on the subject of Price Signals was submitted as a Deliverable in late June.</p>

Ministry Extension Services

Further progress has been made in a search for appropriate technologies to offer in MoMP Extension Services as aids towards formalization. Earlier we had identified three promising 'appropriate technologies' (better use of blasting; rock cracking chemicals; and simple methods of 3-D mapping of underground mines). Now have developed several more appropriate technologies for Extension Services, notably automatic safety windlasses.

In June a set of 34 Training Modules in Ministry Extension Services was completed and submitted to the PMU as Deliverables. The Training Modules are adapted from an authoritative technical manual by the Team Leader on *'Best Available Techniques for Placer Gold Miners'* and will be used in practical office-based training of MoMP officers of the Small Mines Directorate.

Further progress has been made in training women in Virtual Fieldwork via Google Earth Pro (GE-P). The objective is to enable trained women to assist efforts of MoMP and NEPA staff conducting Actual Fieldwork in delivering Extension Services. Initial results are very encouraging and if carefully emulated across the Ministry GE-P may transform Extension Services and enhance the role and status of female staff.

Operationalization of Afghan National Jewellery Centre ("Rock School")

Further progress has been made to extend the reach of the Afghan National Jewelry Centre (TMI) to Gemstone Training Centers (GTC) in northern Afghanistan. Several northern GTC have responded to invitations to request support from GEM-ASM, and a second Mission to Badakhshan GTCs have helped to clarify the lapis lazuli situation.

May saw security improvements underway in TMI that were complete by the end of June. These measures will enable the GEM-ASM offices to become fully operational in the TMI premises in the first week of the Next Reporting Period (July). Improvements to syllabus, training methods and quality control of the Afghan National Jewelry Centre will resume in July with the second mission of jewelry expert .

During June, the TL held more informal meetings with the National Solidarity Fund to explore the potential of NSF funding for design, construction, equipping and training of

community-owned Gemstone Training/Production Centers. Emerald miners (Panjshir) and ruby miners (Sarobi) expressed strong support and will seek support from their local communities.

Development of Lapis Storyboard

The Lapis Storyboard was strengthened in June by preparing a Discussion Paper recommending the small ancient part of the Sar-e Sang lapis mines to be safeguarded by excluding it from any license proposals, and recommend nominated as a World Heritage Site by the Government.

Selection of lapsed patents to allow wider uses of Afghan lapis lazuli was completed in the Reporting Period (June) ready for possible testing in July.

Development of Silver Storyboard

Activity resumed in June on further enhancing the storyboard for Afghan silver, spearheaded by archives on ancient Panjshir silver mines.

Development of Curricula

In June we obtained copies of the State-approved Curricula for gemstone training, as used at TMI. English translations are being reviewed by Gemstone Expert.

Training methods are being perfected on:

- a) how to conduct market research using on-line Kompass trade directories for worldwide outlets for rough and polished lapis lazuli, rough emeralds and rough rubies;
- b) how to use internet to determine world wholesale prices for cut colored gems; and
- c) how to check UK and US company registrations and records on-line free of charge

Design and Production of Jewelry with Special Emphasis on Women Employment

Progress in the design and production of jewelry in TMI will resume in July after return of the international jewelry expert. Meanwhile upgrading security arrangements at TMI will allow GEM-ASM to operate fully in TMI for the first time during the first week of July.

**Consultancy Services for
Building Regulatory Capacity
in the NEPA “National
Environmental Protection
Agency”**

During the last month the Project has delivered the following:

A five days training course on “Environmental Permitting and Compliance System” that was initiated in the last week of July was completed on 2nd August, and two more modules of the annual training plan- Module 5 (Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures for Mining & Extractive Industries and Development Activities), a two day training program; and Module 8 (Environmental Monitoring System and Technique for Development Activities) had been delivered in this month.

Works on planning the study tour in Russia is almost completed and the tour is expected to start in the third week of October.

NEPA approved deliverables on the Task 7 “Achieve ‘PC Daily User’ status for NEPA staff – Deliverable 6” and Task 8 “Enhancement and maintenance of the NEPA website – Deliverable 7” submitted in July 2015.

Works on developing reference materials for environmental and social management (Task 14) are ongoing, and also the development of the Sustainable Development Policy of Afghanistan is continued.