



# SDNRP- Ministry of Mines and Petroleum PMU



## UP TO DATE PROGRESS REPORT

(June / 2014)

### Mes Aynak Archeological Progress

Staffing: by **resignation of Paul Murray the international team** number has been reduced to **11 specialists**: 9 archaeologists (including 1 architect-archaeologist), 1 geomantic officer and 1 conservator, however due to Nawroz break followed by presidential elections several team members (Amanda Watts, Rahmatjon Salomov, Roberta Marziani, Firuza Abdulwakhidova) were still staying this month on annual leave. Farrukh Safoyev returned to the project on 02APR2014.

Of **10 Afghan trainee-archaeologists** working on the project at the beginning of month only three or four were present in the camp while some other were not able to get back due to several reasons (closed roads in Ghazi province, avalanches on Salang Pass etc.). Their number returned to normal in the second half of April.

Only 14 days of April were accessible for fieldwork. Mostly due to **weather conditions** (heavy rainfalls) and **presidential elections period** the site as well as some public holidays (ex. 28APR2014), as per decision undertaken by the MoIC, was remaining completely closed for excavation for several days, particularly between 02APR2014 and 10APR2014 completely no activities were conducted. Thereupon April is the next month of a **very moderate progress of fieldwork**.

Absence of the most staff resulted in **temporary suspending weekly strategy meetings** however we held **two informal meetings to discuss objectives of our new work schedule**. Essential supervision on the staff through **individual written reporting** on the monthly basis is still continued. PMU management is reported on the weekly basis (**MAAP Weekly Reports**) and "**Monthly Brief Report on March 2014 Activities**" was submitted to the Institute of Archaeology.

On 20APR2014 Dr. Farhad Yavazi and Marek Lemiesz (MAAP) **met with HE DM Sayed M. Khalili** to discuss preparing the documentation required for formal approval of the monuments removing from Mes Aynak.

MDC team is sustaining **demining operation on the western slope of the Aynak mountain**. Accomplishing has been re-scheduled for early May and that significantly delays timelines for walking survey in this area.

Several **visits of journalists** to Mes Aynak: Sean Callens with CCTV crew preparing documentary on copper mining (01APR2014) and Valerie Plesch (19APR2014). A tour on the archaeological site was given, moreover the journalists got a brief written information on current state of archaeological work.

**No weekly teams' meetings** were held this month mostly as a consequence of suspended on-site work. Nonetheless we are going to resume them in May.

This month we were facing repeatedly with situation when **the international team is not informed** in advance by the MoICs **about either suspending or resuming work** on the site, as it was previously agreed. As a result the team members had to be ready to go to the field even those days when weather conditions were not conducive to any activities on the ground. Some efforts were undertaken to set better communication line between the teams in the future.

On 27APR2014, during visiting an area of Gol Hamid the archaeologists (Marek Lemiesz, Agnieszka Dolatowska and Aziz Addi) accompanied a group of workers were subjected to personal search by ANP/AFFP policemen. One of the soldiers was trying to touch Mrs. Dolatowska explaining this as 'talashi' procedure. When stopped by M. Lemiesz, some other ANP officers started a serious quarrel with Mr. Addin that soon after turned into a very serious incident that resulted in Aziz Addin being punched by a few soldiers and (probably) an NDS officer before leaving the place. Potentially this incident could result in far more fatal consequences.

Our **female colleague was almost a subject of an abuse** what is a reprehensible and punishable action either in Afghanistan or in Europe. And yet, **the MoIC employee became a victim of act of violence from the side of ANP/AFFP** officers who are assigned to protect the archaeological team. A relevant report was submitted to the PMU Management with request to undertake prompt action.

### **Fieldwork**

Due to absence of the baulk of archaeological staff **regular excavation is currently ongoing on 7 sites** under the direct supervision of the MAAP: Mes004, Mes038, Mes045, Mes046, Mes052W, Mes058 and Mes059. At the end of April the team was preparing for suspending presently ongoing field activities within the Lower Town and moving to the Aynak mountain area (as the first phase of 2014 work program). Up to now unexcavated features had to be accomplished and all archaeologists have been requested to update the majority of current field record or to complete producing missing documentation.

- **Site Mes004** (temporarily supervised by Agnieszka Dolatowska and Sayed Ali Shah Payez, 6 workers): machinery supported removal of topsoil baulk in the western part of the site followed by handy excavation extended down to the '*karez*' area. This work revealed presence of another trench/canal (used to collect water?) that seems to be of earlier date than the *karez* masonry framework. Moreover, in one of sondage slots set up to determine stratigraphic sequence a full layout of a circular stone wall structure (ctx. no. 069) with an open 'mouth' from the south-west was registered, presumably a part of a feature connected with some water accumulation (a sort of pool?).
- **Site Mes038** (supervised by Farukh Safoev assisted by Sayed Hussain Rajabi, 12 workers): excavation was conducted near Room 29 in the southern part of the complex, as well as in steep area between Rooms 28 and 31, where on 29APR2014 remains of a rectangular wooden box (1.08x0.45x0.45m) containing some human bones were registered (probably an infant burial or *ossuarium*-type secondary deposit of pre-Islamic date). Significant artifacts recovered this month: a terracotta figurine of goddess Ardohshe (Room 28) and a silver coin

of a Sassanid king Shapur II (Room31).

- **Site Mes045** (supervisor: Dr. Usmon Eshonzoda, assistant: Mohammad Ali Amiri, 7 workers): site cleaning, minor works at the top of the steep southern escarpment and along Rooms 17, 36 and Courtyard 32 in the northern site limit.
- **Site Mes046** (supervised by Sultan Masoud Muradi, between 10 and 6 workers): continuation of work in the Central Building's Room 18, final cleaning rooms in the southern and eastern premises for total station survey.
- **Site Mes052** (supervised by Hussain Ali Haidari, 6 workers): small scale excavation was run within Room 4/02 (removal of fill ctx no. 294), Rooms 4/03 (backfill ctx no. 267) and 4/05 (backfill no. 286 removed). A massive retention wall ctx. no. 293 has been partially exposed to the north
- **Site Mes58** (Dr. Dowdy Davlatkhoja assisted by Mirwais Qaderyar, 11 workers): cleaning walls and rooms 15, 16 and 40, exposing a 27m long section of an outer northern complex wall no. 67 was completed. In the southern extend of the site work was continued on exposing wall no. 69 with two semi-circular towers (one still under the access road). Among numerous small finds there are fragments of iron knives as well as 18 coins.
- **Site Mes059** (Dr. Rahmatsho Mahmadshev, 10 workers): continuation of work in Room AA2 and within terrace-form structures in the central part as well as excavation in areas A4-6 and D6-7. Entrances of vertical shafts of the subterranean galleries (canals system or storages) were initially unearthed. Among numerous small finds registered in April an unique head of a terracotta female figurine can be mentioned.

**Machinery fieldwork:** removal of topsoil baulk on Site Mes004 was completed this month, moreover we began cleaning the remaining 25m long part of the eastern wall of area Mes042 (suspended due to the excavator's breakdown). In addition, disposal of spoil heaps on Site Mes063+Mes064 was continued.

With the object of preparing catalogues of stupas and sculptures for MoIC (see below), over April Agnieszka Dolatowska and Marek Lemiesz carried out **photo record of over 30 stupas and several rooms containing sculpture decoration or murals** on the following sites: Mes003,

Mes007, Mes013, Mes032N, Mes045, Mes058 and Mes060. In addition, with logistic support provided by the MoIC on 27APR2004 an access to the **Gol Hamid monastery** (within the Chinese Camp) was arranged. Photo record of current state of Main Chapel decoration was carried out as well as basic documentation of the entire complex. Also, some basic **preliminary inspection** of the surrounding area was done in order to evaluate a scope of future fieldwork.

**Geomatic survey:** this month Sayed Rahim updated survey on Sites Mes035, Mes060, Mes059 and Mes063, moreover taking levels at Kafiryat Tepe (Mes003) was accomplished.

#### **Post-ex work**

- **GIS, digitizing field plans and production of final site plans** (Sayed Rahim Hussainkhalil): digitizing site plan of area Mes033, preparing site plan printings for areas Mes058 and Mes059.
- **Reorganization of ceramic materials** from Mes046 (Agnieszka Dolatowska assisted by Sultan Massoud Muradi, Hussain Ali Haidari and Sayed Ali Shah Fayeez) was continued this month and for the time being is close to be completed. Some more small finds from Sites Mes032 (season 2013) and Mes046 were catalogued. Firuza Abdulwakhidowa after her return to Mes Aynak continued updating a catalogue of ceramics from area Mes004.
- Marek Lemiesz accomplished a **final version of the Project Work Program for 2014**. On 08APR2014 the Program was submitted to MAAP Director for further review and subsequently **the approval was signed by HE DM of MoIC Mosadiq Khalili and HE DM of MoMP Nasir Ahmad Durrani**.
- On a request of HE DM Khalili, a **catalogue of stupas proposed for removal** was prepared by Marek Lemiesz and submitted to MoIC on 20APR2014. We were also working on a **catalogue of sculptures and wall paintings** for MoIC that shall be ready by the beginning of May.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aynak Compliance Monitoring Project</b></p>	<p>The independent firm of consultants conducting a review of the draft feasibility study (DFS) for the Aynak Copper Project (ACP) submitted by MJAM at the beginning of March completed its work. The consultants held a meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and are expected to submit their full report shortly. On receipt of the formal document, MOMP will study the report in order to determine an appropriate response to the DFS.</p> <p>It is reported that eight members of the team carrying out continuing landmine clearing activities at the mine site were shot dead by insurgents. The impact of this incident on the program have not yet been fully assessed.</p> <p>The GAF Aynak Compliance Monitoring team continues to work closely with MOMP officials and other experts in providing technical and legal advice and support in respect of the ACP. A GAF Social Expert reviewed the resettlement program which has been implemented for the communities displaced by the Aynak Copper Project. His report and recommendations to the Ministry on further implementation of the program will be submitted in July.</p> <p>The GAF team is playing a substantial role in the development of draft Regulations by a committee chaired by the Ministry's Director of Legal Services and including representatives of other donor organisations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environmental Issues Support to NEPA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on State of Environment Report of NEPA to be published soon. I am leading the technical issues of the preparation of this report from the beginning, which started last year up to now. Currently the report is in its designing and about printing stages. During two last weeks we are working very hard to have its printed copies.</li> <li>• <b>(Continued from last month). It is now in printing and it will be on table in the first week of .</b></li> <li>• Participation and technical support to the Environmental Technical Committee of Standards which is in ANSA, and I am representing NEPA officially and developing various</li> </ul>

	<p>environmental standards. We have proposed a required draft to the Technical committee it is in the stage to have inception session on the effluent standard. The meetings of this committee is on monthly basis. <b>(Continued from last month).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending in Environmental Coordination meeting of NEPA which meets every month and discusses various environmental issues of the country and specially of the Kabul City. <b>(Continued from last month).</b></li> <li>• During this month, I have managed consultation meeting with ESIA International Advisor for about 40 participant in NEPA in 17 Nov, 2013 for one day. Still we are receiving the comments of the ministries and will be incorporating in the ESIA draft to finalize it. <b>(Continued from last month).</b></li> <li>• During December 2013, I was nominated by NEPA to attend the 13th Governing Council meeting of SACEP, in Islamabad, Pakistan, 2 - 7 December 2013, with H.E DG of NEPA. (New).</li> <li>• During December, I was nominated by NEPA to attend the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop in Marrakech, Morocco, from 14 to 19 December, 2013. (New).</li> <li>• Our technical support continues with all relevant divisions of NEPA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support to AGS Capacity Building ( CBAGS)</b></p>	<p><b>General comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions on engaging international experts during the presidential election period were still in place in June,so the Project operated with only a skeleton team on the ground in Kabul.</li> </ul> <p><b>Geological support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project teamchecked several quarry sites around Kabul and road outcrops in the lower Panjshir Valley with regard to their suitability for training exercises with AGS staff.</li> </ul>

- Geologists designed a comprehensive field mapping training program to be presented to AGS management in July.

#### **AGS Database Integration and Upgrade**

- Work on integrating the TFBSO scanned data files (2.4TB) into the AGS Archives is ongoing.
- Dr. Felix Hruschka is scheduled to return in Aug/Sep 2014.

#### **Technical Support – GIS Training**

- Technical support to AGS and APA in strengthening capacities in Geographical Information System (GIS) was put on hold when AGS staff went on strike demanding per diems for field work and other salary subsidies and refused to participate in training activities.

#### **Mineralogy/Petrography**

- Dr. Daliran(mineralogy expert) is scheduled to return to Kabul in September 2014 to check and evaluate field sampling and mapping results from AGS field teams and support teams in writing field reports.
- She will hold a microscopy course in Sep/Oct 2014.

#### **Support for AGS Laboratories**

- Procurement of urgently needed laboratory spare parts and new equipment is ongoing.

#### **Graduate Management Training (GMT) Program**

- MoMP HR wants to clarify funding issues ahead of releasing the names of selected candidates.
- Talks with WB and the MoMP are continuing in an effort to secure funding for the first year of the program.

#### **Support for oil & gas data capture**

CBAGS II presented a draft work plan to APA to assist in capturing historical and recent oil & gas data. The project is awaiting APA's reply.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Support to Reform of the Afghan Gas State Enterprise</b></p>	<p><b>Activities:</b> Detailed consultations with Donors, consultants, government departments, Afghan Gas, Baulk Government, companies and other organizations continued.</p> <p>Review and analysis of Afghan Gas functions continued: covering HR, organizational structure, finances and accounts, information flows. These covered Tasks 2, 3 and 6.</p> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BN3: Final paper “Case for Corporatization”</li> <li>○ BN4: Comments on Draft Natural Gas Pricing Policy</li> <li>○ BN5: Summary of Proposed Interim Gas Pricing Policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Presentations prepared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ P5: Potential Natural Gas Market Preliminary Results</li> <li>○ P6: Corporatization of Afghan Gas (for IMC)</li> <li>○ P7: Interim Gas Pricing Policy (for IMC)</li> <li>○ P8: Gas Development Directorate Organ gram</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Training: Introduction to double entry bookkeeping for AGE staff</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Support to IMC</b></p>	<p>The IMC achieved the following performances during the month of May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receiving of bids for Totimaidan Gas Tender</li> <li>• Evaluating of proposals for Totimaidan Gas Block</li> <li>• Collection of technical documents about Aynak copper mine feasibility study</li> <li>• Holding the IMC meeting</li> <li>• Participating in the Executive training of Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development in the City of New York, US</li> </ul>

<b>Support to Gender</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participated on the meeting which was regarding developing implementation plan of GMT Program At MoMP.</li><li>• Primary works on capacity building of women at MoMP.</li><li>• Communicated with higher institutes for employment of English trainers at MoMP and AGS.</li><li>• Prepared Graphic Charts for three categories of women at MoMP regarding their education level .</li><li>• Meeting with higher institutes for employment of English language trainers at MoMP and AGS.</li></ul>