



SDNRP- Ministry of Mines and Petroleum PMU



UP TO DATE PROGRESS REPORT

(October/ 2014)

Mes Aynak Archeological Progress

The recent progress made at the Mes Aynak Archeology project on different sites are as follows:

Site Mes041N During the work carried out in September, remains of a building have been unearthed in the north-eastern part of the site (square J2). However, due to the very poor condition of the feature an original outline of the architectural complex cannot be determined. Up to now, only remains of western part of the building have been preserved (two rooms).

In October, work concentrated mainly in the southern part of the site. The work carried out in squares A3, B3 and C3 helped reveal two other rooms (Room 14 and Room 15). The exposed remains of buildings are part of the same complex, which was unveiled in the northern part of the site Mes041S.

Site Mes041S In the last two months works carried out at the site covered area of approx. 100 m² (ie. squares A3, B3, C3, A4, B4 and C4). In the course of research three new rooms (Room 12, Room 13 and Room 14) have been exposed, as well as a fragment of corridor associated with one of the rooms (Room 13). In a preparation for the further excavation heavy machinery removed deposited spoil heaps and a layer of topsoil and subsoil situated in the eastern part of the site.

Site Mes045 Excavations which have been conducted in the north-east side of the monastery exposed a large stone platform (length about 15 meters, width 1-1.5 m, preserved height 3-4 m). Below this structure an entrance to the mining shaft (or shafts) has been found. So far it has not been possible to carry out thorough research there. However, small set of the pottery

and other artifacts which were found within the shaft fill suggested that object is older than entire monastery complex (III-I c. BC). In the south-eastern part of the site small excavations have been carried out. As a result, two new rooms have been exposed (Room 18 and Room 19). In both rooms remains of next clay sculptures have been found.

Site Mes046 In order to preserve and secure 4 large storage jars found at the site Mes046, they have been cleaned, extracted, pre-secured and transported to the MoIC camp. The task was carried out by a team of conservators.

Site Mes049E In the last two months excavations at the site were carried out on the area of approx. 12 x 17 meters (about 200 sq m). During that period heavy machinery removed approx. 4000 cubic meters of soil).

After the removal of topsoil and subsoil layers in the southern part of the site next fragment of a massive stone wall has been unearthed (kind of fortification ?). This is the same wall that runs along the top of the Kuh-e-Aynak (from the site Mes005 in the north to the site Mes049 in the south), and then turns down the slope in the direction of the site Mes052.

Site Mes050 The work carried out in the last two months focused on the eastern part of the site. During excavations four new rooms (Room 3, Room 4, Room 5 and Room 6) have been exposed and researched

Site Mes052W In September and October the work was conducted mostly within five rooms: Room 402, Room 403, Room 404, Room 405 and Room 410. In addition, minor works were carried out on edges of the site (except the western part where research has already been finished). These works consisted mainly on stone wall cleaning and removing spoil heaps. Research carried out in Room 403 has produced some interesting results. During excavations more than 140 different kinds of small finds

have been found there. According to archaeologist supervising the work type of artifact which were found there may suggest sacred character of the room. The most interesting results have brought work conducted in Room 404. It appears that in this part of the site there was a building of at least two stories. Most probably, below Room 404 there was another room with a kind of tunnel vault made of specially formed, large mud bricks. Excavations in this room have not been completed yet.

Site Mes052W Up to now several rooms have been completely cleaned. In one of them - in Room 13 – a hoard of 167 copper alloy coins minted by Shapur II (309 - 379 AC) have been found. It seems that the stone building where works are currently carried out is associated with a structures exposed at the site 052S. Simultaneously, at the site worked the conservators team. A ceramic vessels found during excavations have been taken out and secured.

Site Mes052S During the work two massive walls have been exposed, which are probably the outer walls of the building (perhaps a stone foundation). The first of them is built from the east to west (sections E1-7), the second from south to north (Sections C3-4, D3-4, E3-4, F3-4). Within a excavated complex 8 rooms have been separated. In last month research took place in all of them. During the work conducted there artifacts such as pottery, bones (not too many) and working stones have been collected. Simultaneously, at the site worked the conservators team. A ceramic vessels found during excavations have been taken out and secured.

Site Mes053 In September and October work area has been expanded of approx. 250 sq m which led to the exposing a remains of 9 new rooms have been uncovered.

Site Mes091NE Works at the site were carried out within 12 squares of size 4x4 m. In total, excavations covered area of approx. 200 sq m. So far, research conducted in the western and central part of the site

have not yielded significant results. Up to now, no architectural structures have been found there. It is possible, that in one of test-pits located in the NE part of the site a floor has been found . However, at this stage of research it cannot be said if it is floor of a room or a kind of external (outdoor) surfaces created during the site occupation. In the eastern part of the site several stone walls have been exposed. One of unearthed stone walls is a part of a larger structure which has been built from south to north. The wall extends to neighboring sites. Its full range and function have not yet been discovered.

Site Mes091SW It is one of the newly opened sites. Works here began in early September. At the beginning of excavation entire area has been cleaned of stones and loose soil (spoil heaps). Regular excavation started after finishing this work.

Aynak Compliance Monitoring Project

After MOMP completed its review of the draft feasibility study (DFS) submitted by MJAM in March. assisted by external consultants and advisors, formal meetings between MOMP and MJAM senior officials took place in Beijing in September. The MOMP delegation was led by His Excellency Minister M. Akbar Barekzai, accompanied by His Excellency the Deputy Minister of Mines & Petroleum, Eng. N.A. Durrani, who led the technical discussions. The delegation was accompanied and assisted by its technical advisors including GAF.

The MJAM delegation included a technical team from ENFI, the Chinese engineering company which prepared the DFS.

The discussions focused on how to improve the financial outcomes of the Aynak Copper Project. The MOMP team identified and reported a number of perceived technical opportunities to enhance performance of the project. These proposals include several different aspects of the DFS, primarily mining methods and processing technology to be employed.

At the conclusion of the meetings, the two technical teams,

	<p>i.e. ENFI and MOMP's technical advisors agreed to further review the work done in the development of the DFS, in preparation for further meetings. Exchange of information has continued in October. Further discussions are planned and it envisaged that some additional test work may be required.</p> <p>Landmine clearing activities continue at the mine site. Archaeological work has been disrupted by staffing issues and continues to make slow progress.</p> <p>The GAF Aynak Compliance Monitoring project was extended from 09 September to 09 December. The GAF team continues to work closely with MOMP officials and other experts and provides technical and legal advice and support in respect of the ACP.</p> <p>The GAF team continues to play a substantial role in the development of draft Mining Regulations by a committee chaired by the Ministry's Director of Legal Services and including representatives of other donor organisations. The draft Regulations are currently divided into four parts:</p> <p>1) Technical; 2) Financial; 3) Health & Safety and 4) Explosives.</p> <p>GAF has completed a first draft of the Technical Regulations, which cover all cadastral aspects, i.e. issuance and ownership of mining rights. Following review by the committee, GAF is now preparing an amended draft incorporating the suggestions of the committee. GAF has previously submitted drafts in respect of Parts 3) & 4) of the Regulations. It is intended that a further part, 5) Social & Environmental Protection, will be added later.</p>
<p>Support to AGS Capacity Building (CBAGS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project presented the Annual Work Program Year 2 on October 14, 2014 to AGS management (approval pending). • The much delayed Annual Report Year 1 was submitted on October 19, 2014. • With assistance from another GIZ project, CBAGS II arranged funding for field expenses for two AGS teams, which eventually departed for Panjshir (Oct 13) and

	<p>Samangan (Oct 15), respectively. PMU purchased urgently needed field equipment and personal gear. A temporary travel ban imposed by PMU on international CBAGS II experts is likely to delay activities in the coming months.</p>
<p>Support to Reform of the Afghan Gas State Enterprise</p>	<p>Activities: 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>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BN3: Final paper “Case for Corporatization” ○ BN4: Comments on Draft Natural Gas Pricing Policy ○ BN5: Summary of Proposed Interim Gas Pricing Policy • Presentations prepared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P5: Potential Natural Gas Market Preliminary Results ○ P6: Corporatization of Afghan Gas (for IMC) ○ P7: Interim Gas Pricing Policy (for IMC) ○ P8: Gas Development Directorate Organ gram <p>Training: Introduction to double entry bookkeeping for AGE staff</p>
<p>Support to IMC</p>	<p>The IMC achieved the following performances during the month of August:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating at video conference with Mayer Brown regarding to the Jabul Seraj Cement contract • Providing of the technical information about the small scale mining

	<p>bid evaluation reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating at the Investment High Commission mee in the MoCI • Negotiations with preferred bidder of Totimaidan Ten • Responding to all the emails received from for companies and advisors • All other duties as per the HE Minister instruction
<p>Support to Gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over viewed Law on Elimination of Violence against Woman. • Evaluation of proposals which Received from institutes. • Meeting with Midas employee regarding the presentation under the name of (Program and Joint Plan of SDNRP/PMU and Ministry of Mines about Gender). • Had meeting with head of human resource department at MoMP. • Had meeting with gender directorate at MoMP regarding need assessment form for all staff at MoMP. • Had meeting with advisor of Deputy at Deputy of Admin and Finance regarding need assessment at MoMP. • Collected statistics of female and male staff from province and center.